

Metro North Health

Message from the Incident Controller

Dr Elizabeth Rushbrook



Dear colleagues

Today we have activated STAND-UP of our [Severe Weather Plan](#) and our Metro North HEOC in preparation for Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

The Bureau of Meteorology predicts damaging wind gusts and heavy to locally intense rainfall which may lead to dangerous and life-threatening flash flooding as Tropical Cyclone Alfred approaches and crosses the coast. This is currently expected to be late Thursday through to at least Sunday.

As essential healthcare workers, we are all required to be available to support our vulnerable patients and community during this time. As the situation is constantly changing, we will be holding an IMT daily and providing daily Incident Controller messages to keep you up to date.

What do I need to do?

Metro North Health staff are essential workers, who play a vital role in caring for our community. Please review our plan and stay up to date with our [Extranet site](#) to monitor official messages, weather conditions and routes to work. Staff are urged to avoid parking in flood-prone areas or non-official car parks and allow extra time to travel.

We encourage you to make alternate arrangements where required for caring for yourself, your children and pets, including preparing your home for the expected wind and water and ensuring you have suitable travel plans to get to work. If you require essential medication, it is suggested you have enough on hand for at least the next week and bring some with you to work in case you are at work longer than planned. Staff who live in areas that flood should discuss arrangements with their line manager about making plans to get to work or the potential to work at another hospital that may have easier access at this time. We are also interested in hearing from people who aren't rostered but may be able to work over this period.

Remember:

- Sign up for Council Emergency Alerts.
- Never drive, walk or ride through flood waters. If it's flooded, forget it.
- Keep clear of creeks and storm drains.
- For emergency assistance contact the SES on 132 500.

What do managers need to do?

Teams should work to ensure they have adequate cover and rostering for the next seven days. Managers should be aware of any team members who may need to make alternate location work arrangements to ensure patient care is prioritised.

Once we know more about the cyclone, non-urgent patient care may need to be rescheduled. Decisions about this will be made over the next day or so. Our virtual care teams will be stepping up where they can support care to be delivered or completed at home.

What has already been done?

Metro North has activated its disaster management arrangements and Severe Weather Plans to STAND-UP in line with the activation status of Local, District and State disaster management arrangements. The activation of these plans includes actions such as:

- Restock and resupply of food, fuel, linen, clinical consumables etc across each site with holdings of at least 1 week to be secured where possible.
- Planning for potential changes and challenges in services delivery.
- Coordinating with health sector and whole of government agencies preparedness activities.
- Reviewing facilities and sites to minimise the risk of damage and disruption to critical services.
- Regular messaging to staff, patients and the local Metro North community.

Given the significant infrastructure work occurring across Metro North, the team is working with construction teams to ensure the construction sites located across our campuses are safely secured in the lead up to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. This includes removal of loose material and rubbish and ensuring safety measures are in place in readiness for this significant weather event.

If your work area needs urgent attention ahead of Tropical Cyclone Alfred, please prioritise this with our BEMS teams.

For more information:

- Get Ready Queensland [Home](#) | [Get Ready Queensland](#)
- Council disaster dashboards [Local government disaster dashboards](#) | [Community support](#) | [Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- Weather updates and warnings are available from <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/warnings/>
- For road closures in the Moreton Bay Council area visit <https://moretonbay.qld.gov.au/roadconditions/>
- For road closures in the Somerset Council area visit <https://eservices.somerset.qld.gov.au/floodcams/?cam=scrubcreek1#1>
- For road closures in these and Brisbane City Council areas visit <https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/>
- For emergency storm and flood response, phone the SES on 132 500. If you are in a life threatening emergency, always call Triple Zero (000) first.

In our time of preparation, it is important to look after yourself and your family and ensure that you are contributing to plans that will ensure we can continue to deliver safe care in our workplaces.

I thank you in advance for your help in keeping our community safe.

Regards,

Liz Rushbrook
Metro North Health Incident Controller

Please share this information with colleagues who may not have email access.



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Metro North Health acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, and pays respect to Elders, past, present and future.



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