



Dear colleagues

The Bureau of Meteorology continues to predict very high tides, damaging wind gusts and heavy to intense rainfall which may lead to dangerous and life-threatening flash flooding as Tropical Cyclone Alfred approaches and crosses the coast.

The latest modelling indicates the cyclone will cross the coast on Friday morning. Winds are expected to increase from later today.

The Premier has announced today that public transport (bus and train) across South East Queensland will cease tonight until further notice. Schools across the region will also be closed tomorrow and Friday.

Facility preparations

Facility and BEMS teams have been working to secure our infrastructure in preparation for the cyclone crossing in our location. Sandbagging has taken place where required and loose items have been secured and should not be used until further notice.

Those facilities with expansion or other construction underway have had these sites secured.

Essential health workers

Essential workers should attend work as rostered during the weather event. If you are rostered but are isolated from work, please contact your supervisor to make arrangements to attend another facility if required.

To support your attendance at work, access to on site car parking has been made free of charge for all staff from Thursday through to Sunday inclusive.

There is a risk that you may become isolated in the workplace temporarily after a shift. All major facilities have plans in place to support staff to shelter in place if this occurs. Where possible, please consider bringing essential items with you in case this happens. For example, essential medication, a change of clothes, toiletries and/or a 'swag' / pillow / sleeping bag as whilst facilities have some equipment and supplies, these may be limited in some circumstances.

If the severe weather events impacts your capacity to attend work as rostered in the coming days, you must inform your line manager immediately to discuss options including work from home or leave. You may be eligible for [special flood, cyclone and storm leave](#) at the discretion of your line manager. More information will be provided in the short term on the Emergency and Disaster response [intranet](#) site.

As essential healthcare workers, we all have a role to play in helping our vulnerable patients and the community during this time. Please make every effort to get to work, where it is safe to do so.

As a reminder, essential workers are those in patient facing roles, including clinical staff. However, clinical support and operational staff who are essential to the running of our facilities are also essential.

Staff shelter in place

If you need to remain on site to shelter in place or between shifts you may need to respond to services if required. As such you will be deemed to be 'on call' and receive an on-call allowance in accordance with your respective award conditions. This applies to medical officers, nurses, allied health, operational and administrative staff.

Arrangements to record this and have the relevant disaster management delegate to approve this allowance will be in place locally. Any requirement to respond to provide additional services will be remunerated in accordance with award conditions.

At all times however, I urge you to be mindful of taking adequate rest between shifts to manage the risks of fatigue.

Non-frontline workers

Non-frontline workers should work from home where possible on Thursday and Friday. Please advise your line manager if power outages or any other issues means you cannot work on these days.

Before leaving facilities, please unplug any computers and other appliances not in use and move them away from windows.

Postponement of non-essential services

Non-essential planned care for Thursday 6 March and Friday 7 March has been postponed, including surgery, outpatients and endoscopy.

Please prioritise making alternate arrangements for any patients whose care can be safely continued at home by considering utilising Virtual Ward or Hospital in the Home. We should maximise utilisation of virtual outpatient appointments were possible this week.

The Virtual Emergency Care Service will be increasing its capacity from 0800 Thursday through to 2200 Monday to meet potential demand from those unable to physically attend the Emergency Department. However, our Emergency Departments remain open and ready to care for the community.

Non-essential activities

All non-essential activities across our facilities must now be cancelled. This includes training, education and meetings. Please speak to your line manager if you are unsure what is considered non-essential.

Identification and support to vulnerable patients

There has been a lot of work to identify and support vulnerable patients in our care to be prepared for this severe weather event, prioritising those known to reside in areas where

weather impact is predicted to be the highest. I would like to thank all those that have worked to ensure our renal dialysis, cancer care, palliative care, transplant, HITH/PACS and pregnant patients have modified care plans in place where required.

Places of refuge and evacuation centres with power for medical requirements have been established by councils, details are available at the below links:

Brisbane City Council: [Emergency dashboard | Brisbane City Council](#)

City of Moreton Bay: [Evacuation centres and places of refuge - City of Moreton Bay](#)

Somerset Regional Council: [Disaster Emergency Dashboard](#)

People experiencing homelessness who present at our facilities who do not require our care should be referred to the closest place of refuge.

Reminder about travel to work

Please remain safe, take extreme care on the roads and under no circumstance cross flooded waterways.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services advises that people should:

- 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.

Facility Updates

As we move through this weather event, there may be specific updates for our facilities. We will include facility updates on the [staff extranet](#) from this evening.

Where can I stay up to date on information?

We will continue to update staff via our IC Message each day. Clinical and frontline staff should be sure their personal details, including mobile number, are up to date in myHR in the event we need to send you an SMS.

Weather updates and warnings are available from <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/warnings/>

For road closures visit:

- [Moreton Bay Council area](#)
- [Somerset Council area](#)
- [Brisbane City Council](#)
- [Queensland Traffic](#)

The Queensland Government disaster webpage provides a range of information, including traffic updates and alerts, road and school closures, emergency alerts and emergency assistance. Visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/alerts>.

Please take care of yourselves and ensure you follow all warnings and advisories.

Regards,

Liz Rushbrook

Metro North Health Incident Controller



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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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