



Dear colleagues

Thank you to those who joined the TC Alfred Vidcast earlier today. It was a great opportunity to answer your questions and provide updated information. If you missed the session, you can watch the recording on the staff [intranet](#). The next Vidcast will take place tomorrow at 12.30pm.

Please be aware, we are currently experiencing intermittent issues with access to the staff intranet. We are investigating this and hope to resolve shortly.

Forecast conditions

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) advises that TC Alfred continues to move toward the South East Queensland coast and is currently 105km east southeast of Brisbane. The BoM are now providing hourly updates, with estimated coastal crossing time between 0800 – 1200 tomorrow.

Forecasts continue to predict very high tides, damaging wind gusts and heavy to intense rainfall which may lead to dangerous and life-threatening flash flooding.

Winds in our catchment area are expected to increase tonight and significantly into the early hours of Saturday. Staff on early shifts tomorrow may wish to consider utilising the shelter in place option at their facility tonight. I am aware that there are a large number of people taking up this option. Thank you for your support and commitment to the care of Queenslanders.

Health services status

As an essential service, our emergency departments and hospitals will remain open and available to provide care throughout the weather event.

The Virtual Emergency Care Service has increased its demand until 2200 on Monday to meet potential demand from those unable to physically attend an Emergency Department.

We are considering potential impacts on planned care early next week. At this stage we anticipate changes to planned care, but not wholesale rescheduling. Changes will include moving outpatients to telehealth where possible and rescheduling patients who cannot get to the hospital due to access issues. Directorates are working on communication with affected patients, including public messaging as plans firm up.

Facility preparations and updates

Facility and BEMS teams have secured our infrastructure in preparation for the severe

weather, including sandbagging, removing loose items and ensuring all generators are operational. Secured items are not to be used until further notice.

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

Facility fact sheets are available on the [staff extranet](#) and are updated regularly. Please check these for information on staff accommodation, car parking and more.

Essential health workers

Essential workers should attend work as rostered. If you become isolated from work, contact your supervisor to notify them of your situation. Your supervisor may make arrangements for you to attend another facility if required.

Essential workers include clinical staff in patient facing roles and clinical support and operational staff who are essential to the running of our hospitals. If you are a clinician working in another area, or your clinical area is not currently operating, you may be asked to work in another area. Please lean forward to ensure we are well placed to continue to provide care.

The safety and wellbeing of staff is our primary concern during this weather event. If the weather impacts your ability to attend work, 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](#), an updated factsheet on this is now available on the staff [intranet](#).

Please make every effort to get to work where it is safe to do so. Your attendance plays an important role in caring for our vulnerable patients and community.

Staff shelter in place

Arrangements have been made at all facilities for staff who need to shelter in place at work before, after or between shifts. This will include 'austere' accommodation. Please bring essential items with you, including medications, a change of clothes, toiletries and/or a 'swag' / pillow / sleeping bag. While facilities have some equipment and supplies, these may be limited.

In limited circumstances, it may be mutually agreed for staff to be available to provide additional services while sheltering in place. This should not be automatically assumed and is not mandatory.

- If you are **not** requested to and/or **do not agree** to be available to work during your non-rostered time, you will not be paid whilst sheltering in place at work.
- If you are requested to **and** agree to be available during your non-rostered time to be 'on call' you will receive an on-call allowance in accordance with your respective award conditions. Your AVAC will need to be approved via your Incident Management Team. Additionally, you will be paid overtime for any additional work you are recalled to do.

In short, please discuss your circumstance with the staff supporting shelter in place arrangements at your facility to clarify if you are 'on call' or not when accessing these arrangements.

I urge you to prioritise adequate rest between shifts at all times to manage the risk of fatigue.

Evacuation centres

Our Emergency Departments have been provided with information about local evacuation centres and places of refuge. This information is also published on council websites:

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](#)

These locations have access to power to assist those with medical devices.

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

Where can I stay up to date on information?

There are wide range of helpful resources and links on our staff intranet page. I encourage you to visit this page regularly for updated information.

Thank you for all the work each of you have done. It is what makes working within Metro North Health so enjoyable.

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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