



Heatwave conditions and potential storms through the week

Dear staff,

Severe heatwave conditions and storms are expected to continue to affect Metro North through the week. Thank you for being alert and ready to respond. I would like to reassure you that you are safe at work.

There are still many community members in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area, including our staff, without power as a result of storms. Whilst a number of Metro North Health facilities were impacted, the majority have been restored and are operating again as normal. Bribie Island Satellite Health Clinic is on external generator power and is likely to remain so until early next week. If you have been impacted by the storms and power outages, please speak to your line manager in relation to support you may require.

Metro North Health has activated our [Heatwave Response Sub-Plan](#) to lean forward to ensure our facilities, services and staff are prepared. Each directorate also has a local sub plan.

What is happening?

South East Queensland is experiencing a severe weather event with a **severe heatwave** affecting our region. The Bureau expects severe heatwave conditions will remain until the weekend.

Further severe storms are expected throughout the week.

Metro North facilities have been prepared for any potential impacts to our services or infrastructure. We are also working with health and disaster management partners, to respond and support community health and preparedness for ongoing heatwave and severe storms, which may compound existing impacts.

Metro North provides essential services to the community and all of us, clinical, operational, support and administrative staff play a vital role in ensuring our patients receive all the care they need whatever the weather event.

Reporting damage or humidity related issues

While our facilities have not been significantly damaged by storm activity, please ensure you report any damage or water leaks to BEMS.

With the severe weather events this week, facilities may experience higher dew points within buildings due to continued high humidity. Mould is ever present in the community, however

higher moisture levels and humidity may lead to increased mould in some areas.

To minimise this, moisture levels are being monitored, and regular cleaning is being undertaken to manage this so we can maintain indoor air quality.

During continued high humidity conditions, staff may notice dew or condensation forming around air conditioning and HVAC systems as systems work to maintain usual temperatures. These conditions may result in mould beyond this week and it is important to monitor this now and report issue early so they can be quickly rectified.

Staff and facilities are encouraged to report significant dew, moisture or mould to their local teams:

- Facility Services for cleaning
- BEMS for maintenance issues

What do I need to do?

Be aware of [food safety](#) and [storm clean up precautions](#) if you have been affected by power outages or storm damage.

- Advise BEMS of any damage to facilities or any humidity related concerns so they can be addressed as soon as possible.
- Regularly check weather warnings and alerts via the [Bureau's website](#).
- If you work in the community or outside, make sure you have discussed your plan with your line manager.
- Continue to check on [patients and neighbours who may require extra support](#), including people with disabilities, children and babies, people who are pregnant or breastfeeding, people with mental health conditions, people on certain medications, older people, and people with chronic illnesses.
- Visit the [Queensland Health website](#) for more information on heatwave precautions and:
 - [Keep cool and stay hydrated](#) by drinking 2-3L of water a day
 - Stay out of the sun and in the shade
 - [Slip, slop, slap, seek and slide](#) when outside, such as walking to and from your vehicle.
 - Watch out for early signs of [heat related illness](#)
- If you have children at school, check the [Department of Education school closures](#) website to see if your children's school is affected.

Where can I find out more?

Metro North Health has created an extranet site to keep staff across our [emergency and disaster response activities](#). The site also includes links to useful resources and advice if you are unable to attend your normal place of work due to severe weather.

For updates on heatwaves, storms, and flooding in your area, download the BOM alerts app on your phone and turn on the warning notifications.

For general information about preparing your home and family for extreme weather and natural disaster events, visit [Get Ready Queensland](#).

To see where there are electricity outages, check the [Energex Outage Finder](#).

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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