



## Queensland Health

Our ref: C-ECTF-20/14304

Dear Colleagues

As you would be aware, Queensland Health continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation in Queensland and nationally to determine whether changes are required to health directions or other arrangements that may be in place to reduce the potential impact and risk of COVID-19 in Queensland. Queensland Health wishes to update your organisation regarding two recent changes. The two changes relate to the risk category assigned to geographic areas that determine Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) usage and the recent change to the Border Restrictions Direction making the use of the essential healthcare form mandatory for private health practitioners providing healthcare to people entering Queensland from declared hotspots.

Further to earlier correspondence regarding PPE guidance, I am pleased to advise that the risk assessment threshold has now reduced for a number of Local Government Areas (LGAs).

In application of the PPE guidance, the Chief Health Officer has the responsibility to determine which level of risk is applicable in each Hospital and Health Service (HHS), LGA or other specified geographic area. A decision on whether to follow the PPE protocols in the Guidance for health services will then rest with the responsible Chief Executive or equivalent for that entity.

The following LGAs have now been determined by the Chief Health Officer to be in the “low risk” category, and PPE usage can be reduced.

- City of Brisbane
- City of Ipswich
- Lockyer Valley Region
- Logan City
- Moreton Bay Region
- Redland City
- Scenic Rim Region
- Somerset Region

With this downgrade, the entire state is now on “low risk” for PPE decision-making. PPE utilisation should not change until further notice. This is important in order to preserve stock of critical supplies. Healthcare providers in the “low risk” geographic areas can be assured that the situation is being closely monitored, and updates to this risk categorisation will be issued as needed.

This advice regarding the use of PPE is provided to you as guidance but does not reflect a mandatory directive. It also applies to PPE requirements in residential care, disability care and correctional facilities.

In relation to the changes to the Border Restrictions Direction, Queensland Health wishes to advise that as of, 3 pm, Wednesday 23 September 2020, the Border Restrictions Direction was updated to make the use of the approved Queensland Health essential healthcare form mandatory for private health practitioners providing health care to people entering Queensland from declared hotspots. The form and supporting information can be found here: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/border-restrictions/border-restrictions-zero-cases>.

Further information for clinicians regarding Queensland Health's response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians>.

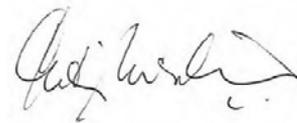
Queensland Health appreciates your organisation's continued efforts in working under challenging circumstances arising from the impacts of COVID-19 on the Queensland community.

Yours sincerely



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