



COVID-19 Update (as at 4pm, 21 April 2020)

Overview and key developments

- As at 7.00am Tuesday 21 April, Queensland has recorded 1024 confirmed cases, 6 more than yesterday. This includes 738 cases who have recovered.
- As at 6.00am Tuesday 21 April, Australia has recorded 6625 confirmed cases, 13 more than yesterday. Of the 6625 confirmed cases nationally, 71 have died from COVID-19. Six of these deaths have been Queenslanders.
- The Chief Health Officer has relaxed restrictions to allow dignitaries, including Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, to lay a wreath at the Shrine of Remembrance in Brisbane in a symbolic service to observe **Anzac Day this Saturday 25 April**. Social distancing practices will remain in place. This is not a public service – however will be streamed to the public. This Saturday, at 6.00am, Queenslanders are encouraged to Light up the Dawn and step onto their driveway, balcony or porch in a moment of remembrance for those who've served. More info: <https://rslqld.org/>
- While **Virgin Australia** has announced voluntary administration, it continues to operate a reduced schedule across Queensland services.
- **Term 2 for Queensland school students is underway**, with schools open only to vulnerable children, the children of essential workers and students in indigenous communities. All other students are undertaking home-based learning for the next five weeks. The Queensland Government is providing additional resources for learning from home, including the purchase of an additional 5,254 laptops for families in need.
- **Schools will communicate directly with students and their parents/carers**. For more information and guidance on **home-based learning**, please visit <https://qed.qld.gov.au/>.
- **National Cabinet** met today. Key outcomes:
 - Restrictions on elective surgery will be gradually lifted after the Anzac Day weekend. This will include a gradual restart on Category 2 surgeries and selected Category 3 surgeries, which includes IVF and other screening programs that have ceased. All measures will be further reviewed on 11 May.
 - Aged Care facilities are reminded that residents should not be isolated and confined to their rooms, other than in the case of an outbreak.
 - Schools: there is no requirement for a four square metre per person rule to be enforced in classrooms.
 - For restrictions to be eased, the COVID-19 Reproduction Rate must stay below 1, meaning every one person who gets it transmits to fewer than one other person.
 - National Cabinet gave its in-principle support for the COVID-19 contact tracing app.

Public Health advice

- Wash hands often and properly with soap and water, or use alcohol-based rub.
- Practice social distancing, which means:
 - Stay home as much as possible.
 - Keep 1.5 metres away from others as much as possible.
 - Avoid shaking hands, kissing or hugging others.
 - If you can, work from home.
 - Limit outdoor gatherings to two people, unless you live in the same household.
- The number of people in a household is limited to the usual occupants, plus two visitors who are family or close friends.

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- All Australians must stay home unless leaving for essential reasons, such as:
 - shopping for essentials - food and necessary supplies;
 - medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements;
 - exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements;
 - work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.
- **Testing has been expanded** to people who live in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Cairns AND have fever (or history of fever) or acute respiratory symptoms, as a precaution following detection of a small number of cases where the source of infection is unknown. Testing has also been expanded to include Queensland Police Officers experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- For more information on testing and self-quarantine requirements visit:
www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus.

Other services

- JPs in the Community signing sites are closed until further notice, but **Justices of the Peace** and Commissioners for Declarations are still available to witness documents during this time. To access the online register, visit www.qld.gov.au/findjp.
- COVID-19 **cyber security threats are increasing** and Queenslanders are urged to be careful when using online collaboration and video tools, installing software or providing their personal information and banking details over the internet. Learn how to protect yourself or your business, or report malicious cyber activity at cyber.gov.au.
- Australians are urged to **donate blood** to maintain our blood reserves in the coming months.
- Normal **public transport** services running as scheduled. Visit <https://translink.com.au/>, or call 13 12 30 for details or contact your service operator direct.
- Parents should **ensure their child has a go card** with enough travel credit as the public transport network is currently operating cashless.
- Anyone returning to Queensland from interstate will require a **border pass** to cross back into Queensland. Travellers to Queensland from other states and territories will not be allowed to enter, unless they are an exempt person.
- **COVID-19 hotspots** are now listed on the Queensland Health website, along with an update to the Border Restrictions Direction (No 4). Anyone returning to Queensland who has been in a COVID-19 declared hotspot in the last 14 days will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days, unless they meet an exemption category.
- People are restricted from entering **remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities** that are designated areas under emergency provisions of the Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cwth). The restrictions are designed to limit the risk of exposure to coronavirus, with First Nations communities regarded as one of the groups most vulnerable to this virus. For more information:
www.datsip.qld.gov.au/coronavirus.
- Now is not the time for travel or to encourage travel. This includes **'self-isolation' holidays**.
- All **camping areas and camp sites** in Queensland's national parks, forests and recreation areas are closed, as are a number of high visitation sites.
- **Full park closures apply** to Mount Barney, Moogerah Peaks, Hinchinbrook Island National Park, Moreton Island (Moorgumpin), North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) and Fraser Island (K'Gari).
- If you are a **backpacker** and a temporary resident at a hostel, you are subject to home confinement and should only leave the premises for the permitted purposes and must observe social distancing.
- **Backpackers and seasonal workers looking for harvest work** should not show up to a farm. Register your availability at Harvest Trail <https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest>.

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- A new **online rental hub** has information and resources to help tenants, property owners and agents negotiate new arrangements if the tenants are financially impacted by COVID-19. Visit the hub at <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/the-hub>.

Financial assistance

- The Queensland Government has announced a \$4 billion COVID-19 rescue package and other measures. More details can be found on www.covid19.qld.gov.au/.
- A new online jobs portal is now open to connect Queenslanders who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 with new job opportunities. Any Queensland job seeker can register their details, skills and location via the Jobs Finder Queensland portal and access free online training at www.jobsfinder.qld.gov.au.
- The Queensland Government's COVID-19 health and economic support packages include cost of living relief; a Jobs Support loan facility; land tax relief and payment deferrals for commercial and residential property owners; and measures including payroll tax relief, a worker displacement program, electricity bill rebates, liquor licensing fee waiver, and assistance to support large businesses to scale up when economic activity improves. For information on all financial assistance and business and industry support, visit <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/>.
- The Queensland Government is also providing a \$28 million COVID-19 Grant Fund for the non-government sector to provide services to vulnerable members of the community – those affected by mental health, drug and alcohol issues, and Indigenous people.
- The Australian Government has announced a range of support measures including the JobKeeper payment, Higher Education Relief Package, Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package and a Jobs Hub. For more details on Australian Government measures and assistance, visit www.australia.gov.au.
- **Centrelink** - If you're affected by coronavirus (COVID-19), you can register your intention to claim a Centrelink payment at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/.

Community assistance

- In support of mental health at this difficult time, the Australian Government has announced a new Beyond Blue coronavirus mental wellbeing service (<https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/> or 1800 512 348).
- To support seniors who don't have family, friends or neighbours, register for the Care Army on 1800 173 349 or at www.qld.gov.au/CareArmy.
- Translated Australian and Queensland health resources on COVID-19 are available here: www.covid19.qld.gov.au/translations-and-resources.
- People experiencing domestic and family violence may be vulnerable during periods of isolation. For help call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or visit www.qld.gov.au/domesticviolence.
- A new domestic and family violence reporting tool is available: <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/domestic-violence>.
- Counselling services for anyone at any time are available from www.lifeline.org.au or phone 13 11 14. Additional Mental Health services and resources are available here: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/help-lines/services>.