



COVID-19 Update (as at 3pm, 28 April 2020)

Overview and key developments

- As at 7.00am Tuesday 28 April, Queensland has recorded 1033 confirmed cases, with no new cases since yesterday. This includes 934 cases who have recovered.
- As at 6.00am Tuesday 28 April, Australia has recorded 6725 confirmed cases, 12 more than yesterday. Of the 6725 confirmed cases nationally, 84 have died from COVID-19. Six of these deaths have been Queenslanders.
- The Queensland Government is urging Queenslanders to book in for their **flu vaccination** as soon as possible with the peak season from June to September. Vaccinations are available at doctors' surgeries, local pharmacies or at the workplace.
- Queensland will start to ease restrictions this weekend. From the 2 May **Queenslanders may leave their home for some recreational activities**, but they must practice social distancing, good hygiene, only go out with one other person or the people you live with and stay within 50kms of home. For details: <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/updates/covid-restrictions-ease>
- As part of the restrictions easing from 2 May, **Seqwater managed lakes and parks and Sunwater dams**, lakes and weirs will be open for day use-only for activities including camping, swimming, boating, walking trails, skiing and fishing. Campgrounds in these areas and barbeque facilities will remain closed. All other state-owned government dams and weirs remain closed.
- Some **areas of National Parks will also reopen for day use from 2 May**. This includes the reopening of summit tracks at Mount Coolum, the Glasshouse Mountains and Mt Bartle Frere. All **campgrounds remain closed**. For information visit <https://www.des.qld.gov.au>.
- **Accommodation can remain open** for essential travellers – details are available within the Non-Essential Business Direction, however 'self-isolation' holidays, or holidays within 50km of home – are not permitted.
- Government funded quarantine is available in **Cairns for people currently living away from home** due to the Biosecurity determination restrictions. Travel plans will be put in place for residents to ensure that they can return home once they have completed quarantine.
- **Australia's zoos and aquariums** can now access a federal \$94.6 million support package to help them get through the COVID-19 crisis and care for their animals. For more information see the [fact sheet](#).
- This **COVID-19 Stakeholder bulletin**, and previous bulletins are now available at www.covid19.qld.gov.au/updates/stakeholder-bulletins.

Public Health advice

- Wash hands often and properly with soap and water, or use alcohol-based rub.
- Practise 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.
- Currently, 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;

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- work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.
- **Elderly people** are our most vulnerable. As long as good hygiene and social distancing is practised, family members can visit their loved ones in **aged care homes**. Nursing homes should not be in lockdown nor residents confined to their rooms.
- From 1 May, **visitors to residential aged care facilities** must be up-to-date with an influenza vaccination, if the vaccination is available to them.
- A Queensland **COVID-19 data website** provides a regional breakdown of COVID-19 numbers by Local Government Area and is updated daily. For further information, visit <http://health.qld.gov.au/covid-data>.
- **Testing has been expanded** in Queensland and may be done for people who have fever (or history of fever) OR acute respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath). If you are unwell and you meet the above criteria, you should contact a doctor immediately. Your doctor will decide if you need to be tested for COVID-19.
- Any form of aggression or violence towards Queensland Government staff will not be tolerated. During the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, any person who intentionally coughs, sneezes or spits at an essential worker, or threatens to do so, can be fined up to \$13,345, and may also face criminal charges.
- For more information on testing and self-quarantine requirements visit: www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus.

Other services

- The Australian Government has launched a voluntary **coronavirus contact tracing app, COVIDSafe**. The app is an important initiative to help slow the spread of coronavirus through early notification of possible exposure. COVIDSafe is available on both iOS and Android. Visit www.covidsafe.gov.au for full details.
- 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). For more information: www.datsip.qld.gov.au/coronavirus.
- 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.
- A new online rental hub – www.covid19.qld.gov.au/thehub - has information and resources for tenants, property owners and agents impacted by COVID-19.
- A number of changes have been made to help Queenslanders with costs and requirements relating to personal and business vehicle registration if they are not currently using the vehicle. There is also a freeze on heavy vehicle registration fees until 30 June 2021. Visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration.
- **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>.

Financial assistance

- The Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill 2020 provides additional appropriation for expenditure on COVID-19 related relief measures that have been announced previously including:
 - \$1.2 billion to expand fever clinics, emergency department capacity, acute care services and regional aeromedical services for remote communities.

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- \$300 million in cost-of-living relief for households, including a \$200 credit for all 2.1 million households to offset the cost of water and electricity.
- \$2.5 billion for a series of measures including payroll tax relief; a worker displacement program; electricity bill rebates for eligible small and medium sized businesses; liquor licensing fee waiver; and assistance to support large businesses scale up when economic activity improves.
- The **Queensland Government is also providing additional measures** including a Jobs Support loan facility; land tax relief and payment deferrals for commercial and residential property owners; assistance for small to medium arts organisations and those that provide support for mental health and domestic and family violence; a housing and homelessness plan; support for tourism operators in National Parks and port businesses in Far North Queensland; an initial industry recovery package and a COVID-19 Grant Fund for the non-government sector to provide services to vulnerable members of the community.
- An **online rental hub** has information and resources to help tenants, property owners and agents. Visit covid19.qld.gov.au/the-hub.
- An **online jobs portal** is available to connect Queenslanders who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 with new job opportunities. Visit www.jobsfinder.qld.gov.au.
- A number of changes have been made to help Queenslanders with **costs and requirements relating to personal and business vehicle registration**.
- For information on all financial assistance and business and industry support, visit <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/> and www.covid19.qld.gov.au/.
- 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

- Australians are urged to donate blood to maintain our blood reserves in the coming months.
- The Queensland Government is providing funding of \$3.5 million for Lifeline to continue its life saving counselling services and a further \$1 million for Legacy.
- To support seniors who don't have family, friends or neighbours, register for the Care Army on the Community Recovery Hotline 1800 173 349 or at qld.gov.au/CareArmy.
- Translated Australian and Queensland health resources on COVID-19 are available at 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>.
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).