

Protocol for Queensland Government agencies with employees entering Western Queensland

1. Purpose

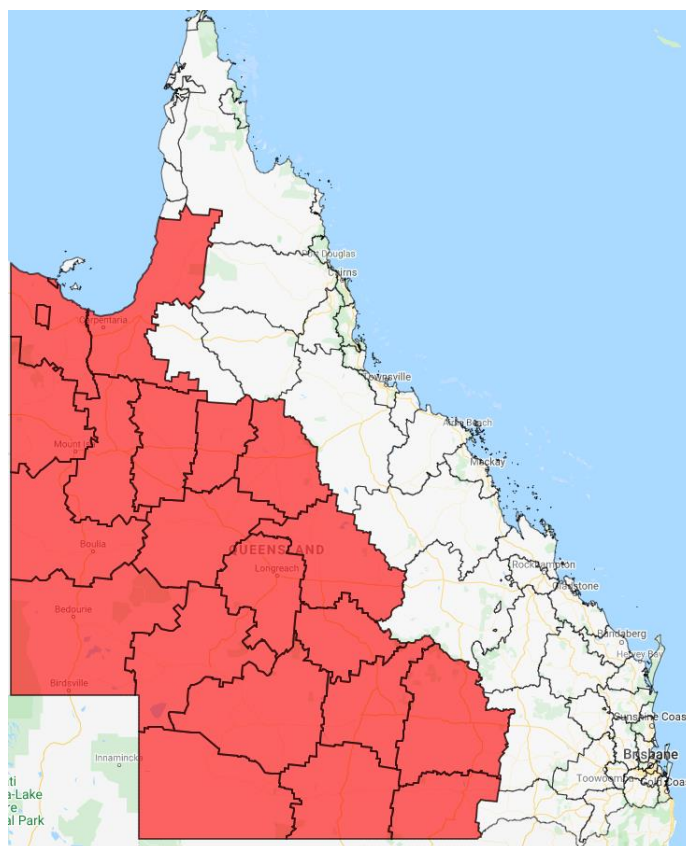
- 1.1. This Protocol is designed to help provide assurance to communities in Western Queensland that Queensland Government employees are committed to slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) by undertaking certain measures when entering or returning to the Western Queensland Local Government Area.

2. Scope and Application

- 2.1 This Protocol applies to all Queensland Government employees entering the Western Queensland Local Government Area to work and/or reside, except for those exempt under Section 4.
- 2.2. This Protocol will apply until the end of the declared public health emergency, unless it is revoked or replaced.

2.2 The **Western Queensland Local Government Area** is defined as the following local government areas:

- Balonne
- Barcaldine
- Barcoo
- Blackall-Tambo
- Boulia
- Bulloo
- Burke
- Carpentaria
- Cloncurry
- Diamantina
- Doomadgee
- Flinders
- Longreach
- Maranoa
- McKinlay
- Mount Isa
- Murweh
- Paroo
- Quilpie
- Richmond
- Winton.



2.2 For the purposes of this Protocol, a **Queensland Government employee** means:

- public service employees as defined in s9 of the *Public Service Act 2008*, including casual employees, chief executives, senior executives and senior officers;
- employees of Government-owned entities; and

- a contractor (but not a consultant) as defined in the Department of Housing and Public Work's *Procurement Guidance: Engaging and managing contractors and consultants*, which is available at https://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/3347/procurementguideengagingconsultantscontractors.pdf.

Note: a Queensland Government employee does not include staff of non-governmental organisations, even if that organisation receives state funding.

- 2.3 **This Protocol does not override any other requirement, such as any relevant Health Directives, which may apply to a Queensland Government employee entering or residing in Queensland.** This includes measures such as social distancing.

Note: Separate restrictions apply in remote Indigenous communities under the Federal *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Cth) declarations. Where both restrictions apply to a community, such as the Burke Shire Council, the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Cth) declarations prevail. For more information on those restrictions go to: <https://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/coronavirus/travel-restrictions-remote-communities>.

3 What is required of Queensland Government agencies and Government-owned entities that have employees entering Western Queensland?

- 3.1 To protect residents of Western Queensland communities from the effects of COVID-19, Queensland Government agencies and Government-owned entities will ensure their employees entering the Western Queensland Local Government Area:
- do not have COVID-19 related signs or symptoms immediately before entry (see section 3.2); AND
 - have had no close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (without appropriate personal protection); AND
 - have not travelled interstate, overseas or to a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days (including disembarkation from a cruise ship).

3.2 Prior to entry into Western Queensland

- 3.2.1 Employers will arrange for their employees to be screened prior to entry and will not be allowed to enter the designated area if they present with the following symptoms:
- a fever of 38 degrees or above;
 - a history of fever (including symptoms of a fever such as night sweats or chills); or
 - symptoms of acute respiratory infection (including shortness of breath, a cough, sore throat and/or fatigue).
- 3.2.2 This screening will be undertaken by a health practitioner, nominated by the employer. Following the screening, the health practitioner will issue a certificate of assessment. The employee will need to submit this certificate, along with a completed questionnaire, to their employer.

4 Exemptions

4.1 Exemptions to this Protocol include:

- 4.2.1 Emergency workers, law enforcement officers, judges, magistrates or critical utility, infrastructure or service workers who are required as part of their duties to enter the Western Queensland Local Government Area
- 4.2.2 Queensland Government employees undertaking duties for the transportation of essential goods or freight, including food
- 4.2.3 Queensland Government employees transiting or completing a journey through the Western Queensland Local Government Area.

Any other Queensland Government employee, or class of Queensland Government employee, may be exempted by the Chief Health Officer because they determine:

- 4.2.4 they have compassionate or other grounds such that exclusion from the Western Queensland Local Government Areas would lead to an unusual or disproportionate hardship; or
- 4.2.5 they are essential for the proper functioning of the Western Queensland Local Government Area; or
- 4.2.6 other exceptional circumstances exist that merit the person being granted access to Western Queensland Local Government Area.

5 Approval and Implementation

- 5.1 **Approving Officer:** Queensland Chief Health Officer, Department of Health
- 5.3 **Effective from:** 17 April 2020
- 5.4 **Review date:** June 2020

6 Version Control

Version	Date	Prepared by	Comments
1.0	15/04/2020	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	New document