



Enquiries to: Office of the Chief Health Officer
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Health
File Ref: C-ECTF-22/16495

Queensland Health

Dear Primary Care Providers

I write regarding a number of changes that will be occurring from 1:00am on 14 October 2022.

Mandatory isolation

As you may be aware, on 30 September 2022, the Prime Minister announced that National Cabinet agreed to lift mandatory isolation for persons who test positive for COVID-19.

What this means in Queensland

From 1:00am on 14 October 2022, I will be revoking the *Management of Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Close Contacts Direction (No. 5)* (Isolation Direction). This Isolation Direction made isolation and other requirements mandatory for persons who tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts. This Isolation Direction will cease to apply for all persons in Queensland, including those currently isolating.

How should COVID-19 positive persons be managed

National advice for COVID-19 positive persons is that they should stay home when sick and until at least:

- 24 hours has elapsed since their last fever episode (without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
- there is significant improvement in their acute respiratory symptoms (including new or worsening: cough, breathing difficulties, sore throat, or runny nose/nasal congestion).

It will be a matter for individual general practices to decide how they manage COVID-19 positive staff and patients.

Please be aware that if you provide services at or practice in a high-risk setting (hospitals, aged care and disability facilities), the national advice is that COVID-19 positive staff should not enter these settings for seven (7) days from the positive COVID-19 test date.

Specifically:

- the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) National Guidelines for Public Health Units* (CDNA Guidelines);
- Australian Health Protection Principal Committee will be releasing a Community Protection Framework.

Useful resources

The following links are useful resources to support the ongoing management of COVID-19:

- AHPPC Community Protection Framework: <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc>

- CDNA Guidelines: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cdna-national-guidelines-for-public-health-units>
- *Managing healthcare workers exposed to or with COVID-19*: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians/personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

The above materials will continue to be revised and I would encourage you to regularly review the materials for updates on managing COVID-19.

The invaluable roll of primary care throughout the pandemic response has enabled us to reach this next milestone in transitioning away from public health mandates and back to usual workplace health and safety and infection prevention and control frameworks. Primary care will continue to play a critical role in supporting the community and your ongoing dedication to this is remarkable.

I trust the above information is of assistance in preparing for these changes.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Gerrard
Queensland Chief Health Officer
13 October 2022