



GENERAL MESSAGE

3 August 2021

Re: QLD COVID UPDATE

Dear QLD members,

Please see the following COVID update provided by the QLD Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). If you require further information, please contact DAF by email at info@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

Lockdown extended – stop, don't move

The current lockdown in the 11 local government areas of SEQ has been extended until 4pm Sunday, 8 August to allow time for contact tracing and testing.

The [lockdown direction](#) applies to anyone who has been in the 11 LGAs since 1am on Saturday 31 July and their household members.

The simple message is 'stop, don't move'. You should only leave home if it is absolutely essential that you do so for one of the following essential reasons:

- obtain food or other essential goods or services
- obtain medical treatment of health care
- have a COVID-19 test or receive a COVID-19 vaccination
- perform critical and essential work that can't be done from home

Agriculture is still considered essential and is permitted to operate, but if there are tasks that can be postponed, then these should be delayed until after lockdown.

Please also reiterate with your workers that all movement should be kept to an absolute minimum.

You should consider providing a letter to your employees stating that they are undertaking essential work and reminding workers to carry identification with them — this will assist if they are stopped by police for a check.

[Face masks](#) are a requirement if you (or a member of your household) have recently been in the lockdown area. Facemasks are required in the workplace, even if you are able to physically distance.

Anyone who has moved outside the lockdown area or returned home outside the lockdown area must continue to follow all restrictions, including members of their household.

If anyone has been asked to quarantine for 14 days because they are a close contact or have been at an exposure site, then the only reason they can leave home is to get a COVID-19 test or access emergency healthcare. The person and members of their household are **not** to leave for other essential purposes, including shopping and work.

Please continue to check the [listed exposure sites](#) as they are updated, and if you have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#), get [tested](#).

Essential workers

Before making an application as a specialist worker or applying for a border declaration pass for the class exemption, please ensure you submit all the necessary documentation as outlined on the [Business Queensland website](#).

Ekka 2021

Unfortunately, the Royal Brisbane Show (Ekka) has been cancelled for 2021 due to the increased risk of spreading COVID-19.

Business assistance

The Queensland Government announced today a \$260 million support package for businesses. This includes the 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grants, which will provide \$5,000 to eligible small and medium businesses who have experienced a drop in turnover of 30% or more as a result of the SEQ lockdown.

Information on the grants is available [here](#). It is expected that applications will be open in about 2 weeks.

General information on assistance available to Queensland businesses is available on the [Business Queensland](#) website.

Employee assistance

The Australian Government will also provide support for people affected by COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Disaster Payment will be available for people who live in, work from, or who have visited a declared COVID-19 hotspot (this includes the 11 SEQ LGAs). More information will be available on the [Services Australia](#) website on or after the 7 August.

If you are required to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official, you may be eligible for the [Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment](#). This applies if you (or your child) have COVID-19, are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and you do not receive any income or income support during your quarantine. The payment is \$1,500 per 14-day period.

Vaccinations

Queensland is following the Australian Government's eligibility criteria for COVID-19 vaccination. This focuses on prioritising those at highest risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, such as health care, border and quarantine workers; as well as those at highest risk of severe illness from COVID-19 infection, such as older age groups.

Supply of vaccine is currently constrained but is expected to improve over the coming weeks and months, at which point Queensland can consider opening eligibility up to wider groups of essential workers.

DAF will continue to work with Queensland Health to identify opportunities to streamline vaccination of priority workers, particularly in the 1b priority category.

Freight operator testing sites

A list of testing sites for COVID-19 is available [here](#), and additional QML heavy vehicle COVID-19 testing sites at Port of Brisbane, Acacia Ridge, Boondall and Robina. For full details and opening hours [click here](#) (click the green box 'Freight and logistics operators' at the top).

Discussions with TMR and Queensland Health are ongoing regarding additional testing sites at Charlton and other locations.

If you require further information, please contact DAF by email: info@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

NOTE: The material in this GENERAL MESSAGE has been compiled from external resources such as State and Federal government sources. It does not constitute legal advice or recommendations and should not be relied

upon as such. It is provided in good faith to assist ALFA members. Appropriate legal advice should be sought that reflects your individual circumstances.



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