



COVID-19 Update (as at 3pm, 27 April 2020)

Overview and key developments

- As at 7.00am Monday 27 April, Queensland has recorded 1033 confirmed cases, 3 more than yesterday. This includes 926 cases who have recovered.
- As at 6.00am Monday 27 April, Australia has recorded 6713 confirmed cases, 10 more than yesterday. Of the 6713 confirmed cases nationally, 83 have died from COVID-19. Six of these deaths have been Queenslanders.
- The Home confinement, movement and gathering direction has been updated. From 2 May, in addition to leaving home for essential purposes, **Queenslanders may leave for some recreational activity**. This includes having a picnic, going for a drive, taking a boat out and shopping for an outfit or a book, provided you:
 - stay within 50km of your home
 - practice social distancing
 - are only joined by people who usually live with you, or one other person.
- As part of the easing of restrictions from 12.01 Saturday 2 May, **some areas of National Parks will reopen for day use only**. 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>.
- Through the **\$27.25 million Immediate Industry Recovery Package**, tourism operators on National Parks impacted by decreased patronage can apply for fee relief through to July 2020.
- 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.
- The Queensland Government has announced a **new Public Health Direction** whereby anyone who deliberately coughs, sneezes or spits on frontline workers could be fined \$1,335 on the spot or \$13,345 if the matter goes to court. Frontline workers include health workers, health department officials, police, fire and ambulance officers, retail workers, food delivery workers, transport workers, council workers, electricity, gas and water meter readers, airport workers, teachers and school staff.
- The Queensland Government is providing a **\$2.3 million package to support port businesses** across the far north as it deals with the impact of coronavirus. It will provide rental relief for the region's tourism, resource and seafood sectors; and is in addition to the \$3 million package announced in February for operators at the Cairns Marina as part of the response to COVID-19.
- The Queensland Government has approved a **\$54.5 million passenger transport assistance package**, to ensure the sustainability of essential transport services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The package is targeted at regional bus, ferry and aviation services, in addition to the personalised transport industry.
- **Learner drivers** are able to renew their learner licence at no cost for up to three months after practical driving tests resume, saving the standard three-year learner licence renewal cost of \$175.80.
- New Queensland residents are able to continue driving on their valid interstate or overseas licence for three months after the COVID-19 emergency ends before needing to obtain a Queensland driver licence.
- Queensland driver licence holders can now **renew their licence for a one-year term online** if their digital image and signature has expired so they do not have to visit a customer service centre.

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- Queenslanders with an **expired drivers licence** may now **renew it online** for up to five years after it expires.
- 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. Changes include:
 - removing the cancellation fee
 - removing the plate surrender requirements
 - customising plates for free for customers wanting to re-register
 - waiving the plate fee upon re-registration if customisation does not occur when cancelled; and
 - removing inspection requirements at re-registration (in most cases).

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.
- 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.
- Elderly people are our most vulnerable during this pandemic that's why certain restrictions have been put in place to protect those specifically in **aged care homes** like postponing large group visits and gatherings. As long as good hygiene and social distancing is practised, family members can visit their loved ones. Nursing homes should not be in lockdown nor residents confined to their rooms.
- A Queensland **COVID-19 data website** has been launched, updated daily, to include a breakdown of regional COVID-19 numbers by Local Government Area, giving communities more oversight of their local cases. 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.
- For more information on testing and self-quarantine requirements visit: www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus.

Other services

- Queensland Health is actively considering a range of options that would support additional **elective surgery** while maintaining appropriate levels of precautions and safety for both staff and patients. We will announce further details regarding elective surgery soon.
- 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.

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- 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.
- **Essential flights are continuing** to operate in remote and regional Queensland, including Regional Express services, QantasLink, Skytrans and Hinterland Aviation services.
- 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.
- 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 <https://www.cyber.gov.au/>.
- 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.
- Now is not the time for travel or to encourage travel. This includes **'self-isolation' holidays**.
- **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>.
- **Study Queensland** has launched the online Queensland Student Hub so international students have free counselling and a central point of contact for study, visa, accommodation and other critical resources during COVID-19. The Hub complements the initiatives of education institutions and charities. Any student aged 18 or over can access the Hub by visiting www.studyqueensland.qld.gov.au.

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.
 - \$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 domestic and family violence services; a housing and homelessness plan; 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.
- For information on all financial assistance and business and industry support, visit <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/> and 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

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location via the Jobs Finder Queensland portal and access free online training at www.jobsfinder.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

- 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.
- Australians are urged to donate blood to maintain our blood reserves in the coming months.
- 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>.