

Communication from Metro North Public Health Unit – preventing introduction of COVID-19 into RACFs – December 2021

From **1am on Monday, 13 December 2021**, fully vaccinated people will be able to enter Queensland from a [declared COVID-19 hotspot](#) (known as a 'hotspot traveller') if they:

- have undertaken a COVID-19 PCR test within 3 days of arrival in Queensland and receive a negative test result
- agree to undertake an additional PCR test on Day 5 after arriving in Queensland.

If they meet these criteria, hotspot travellers will NOT have to quarantine.

As a result of increased hotspot travellers entering Queensland and not requiring to quarantine, a **significant increase of COVID-19 within the community is anticipated** in the coming weeks.

As per the Residential Aged Care Direction, **RACFs are required to have entry screening processes in place** to ensure persons who are potentially infectious with COVID-19 do not enter the facility. Persons who are NOT permitted to enter a RACF are listed in **Paragraph 10** of the [Residential Aged Care Direction](#).

Your entry screening procedure should identify if the staff member, volunteer or visitor:

- is unwell
- has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- has returned from overseas in the last 14 days (excluding safe travel zone countries) unless an exemption has been granted
- is in home quarantine, unless an exemption has been granted
- has had contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- has visited a [COVID-19 hotspot](#) in the last 14 days or since the hotspot was declared (whichever is shorter)
- has visited an [interstate exposure venue](#) in the last 14 days unless an exemption has been granted for an end of life visit
- has been in an [interstate area of concern](#) in the last 14 days or since the identified start date (whichever is shorter), unless you fit into one of the categories of people who are allowed to enter a facility with a negative COVID-19 PCR test
- has had a COVID-19 PCR test and is waiting for the result (except for tests due to surveillance testing obligations)
- has [COVID-19 symptoms](#) of fever (37.5 degrees or more), cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting or fatigue.

If any of the above questions are answered YES, then entry is NOT permitted.

The entry screening procedure is most effective when one entry point to the facility is used and a staff member administers the questions.

www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au

Level 1, Market Central
120 Chalk Street, Lutwyche QLD 4030
PO Box 845 Lutwyche QLD 4030
t 07 3630 7300 f 07 3630 7333

Level 2, 10 Endeavour Boulevard
North Lakes QLD 4509
PO Box 929 North Lakes QLD 4509
t 07 3490 3490 f 07 3630 7333

To ensure your entry screening process is effective, **it is strongly advised to delegate a staff member to regularly monitor (at least daily) the following websites for changes and update your entry screening questions accordingly:**

- [Residential Aged Care Direction](#) – Paragraph 10
- [Protecting aged care residents](#)
- [Queensland exposure sites](#) – check if staff/volunteers/visitors have visited listed exposure sites within the last 14 days. Close contacts should be in home quarantine and casual/low risk contacts should have received a negative PCR test result following the exposure date.
- [COVID-19 hotspot](#)
- [interstate exposure venue](#)
- [interstate area of concern](#)
- [Restricted Local Government Areas](#)

Recommended PPE escalation according to risk of COVID-19 infections in residents or staff can be found on the Queensland Health website [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)

To subscribe to Queensland Health updates, please use the following links:

- [COVID-19 Update for Residential Aged Care](#)
- [Frontline COVID Advice](#)
- [Chief Health Officer Public Health Directions Update](#)