

4 August 2021



Dear parents, care givers, students, staff and visitors

**Metro North**  
Hospital and Health Service

**RE: UPDATE – CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES AT BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

This letter is an update to the previous correspondence on 1 August 2021.

Metro North Public Health Unit (MNPHU) has been notified of additional confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in members of the school community. As a result, the school will be closed for all activities for 2 weeks. These people attended Brisbane Grammar School on several days while infectious, although they were not aware that they were infectious at the time. Specifically, they were at school:

- **Monday, 26 Jul 2021**
- **Tuesday, 27 Jul 2021**
- **Wednesday, 28 Jul 2021**
- **Thursday, 29 Jul 2021**
- **Friday, 30 Jul 2021**

All students, staff and visitors to the school on those days, including anyone who entered the school for after school hours activities are considered close contacts (also known as primary contacts) of these cases. All close contacts must quarantine at home for 14 days. Household members of staff, students and visitors are secondary contacts (contacts of close contacts) and must also quarantine at home for 14 days. This includes essential workers such as healthcare workers, police and border workers.

If essential workers (healthcare workers, police and border workers) are deemed by their employer to be critical to the appropriate staffing of their workplace and the worker is asymptomatic and has tested negative to COVID themselves, they may attend work if the following conditions are met:

- The close contact must be able to maintain separation from the secondary contact (the critical essential worker) as per the advice in the quarantine at home information sheet: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/quarantine/home-quarantine>. This is a minimum separation. It is preferable for the worker to completely separate from the close contact, for example move to live in a house / unit at a separate address or move into a self-contained granny-flat.
- The close contact needs to be tested and a negative test needs to be returned AFTER the critical essential worker (secondary contact) is effectively separated from the close contact
- The critical essential worker (secondary contact) must inform their workplace that they have had a potential COVID exposure and the workplace should consider additional precautions if the worker is to return to work.
- The critical essential worker's workplace may require additional precautions such as:
  - That the worker (secondary contact) has been vaccinated against COVID-19
  - That the worker (secondary contact) attends to saliva testing every day they are at work whilst the close contact is in quarantine;
  - That the critical essential worker (secondary contact) wears a P2/N95 mask and eye protection whilst at work.

In the situation of Brisbane Grammar School, the quarantine period for the school community and any visitors to the school finishes at **11:59PM on Friday, 13 Aug 2021**. Detailed information on home quarantine can be found on the Queensland Health website at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/quarantine/home-quarantine>

Close (primary) contacts should be tested within the first days of going into quarantine. All close (primary) contacts **must** also undertake exit testing on day 12 of the quarantine period, Wednesday 11 August 2021. Additionally, any close contact or household member (secondary contact) who develops symptoms during the quarantine period should be tested immediately. It is preferable to use a drive through testing centre for this testing. Please see the following websites for the testing centre nearest to you:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/testing-and-fever-clinics>

<https://www.snp.com.au/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.qml.com.au/patients/covid-19-patient/>

As long as the primary close contact (student or staff member or school visitor) remains free from COVID-19 infection, others in the household (with the exception of critical essential workers considering returning to work) will not need to be tested, but must still quarantine until **11:59PM on Friday, 13 Aug 2021**.

COVID-19 is a highly infectious illness, which is spread from person-to-person through tiny droplets created during coughing, sneezing, singing and speaking, or via contact with contaminated objects (such as door handles or tables) and then touching your mouth or face. It can cause serious complications such as pneumonia.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of smell or loss of taste

If you have questions, please contact your family doctor, Metro North Public Health Unit between 08:30 am and 5:00 pm, seven days (P: 07 3646 1111) or 13HEALTH (P: 13 43 25 84).

Yours sincerely

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Metro North Public Health Unit