

1 August 2021

Restrictions in Queensland Update

Restrictions in Queensland update – 3-day lockdown 31 July 2021 to 3 August 2021

Queensland Health is continuing to actively respond to the declared public health emergency in relation to COVID (19). From 4pm Saturday 31 July 2021 to 4pm Tuesday 3 August 2021, a lockdown will be in place for the following Local Government Areas (LGAs) as per the [Queensland COVID-19 Restricted Areas \(No.19\)](#) and [Restrictions for Locked Down Areas \(South-East Queensland\) Direction](#):

- Brisbane City Council
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Redland City Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Noosa Shire Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council

Anyone who was in these LGAs at or after 1am Saturday 31 July 2021 is also required to follow the same lockdown rules even if they are no longer in South-East Queensland.

Anyone in the affected LGAs will be required to **stay at home except for essential reasons**, including:

- obtaining essentials such as groceries or medications
- obtaining medical treatment or other health care services
- essential work if you cannot work from home
- physical exercise outdoors **within a 10km radius of your home**, and with no more than one person from outside your household
- getting a COVID-19 test or scheduled vaccination
- providing help, care or support to a vulnerable person.

These arrangements are intended to limit the further spread COVID-19 and allow an assessment of risk of further exposure in the community. Decisions regarding the public health response, and the impact that this may have on essential healthcare are made by the Chief Health Officer to ensure the continued safety of Queensland communities.

Restrictions South East Queensland

All allied health professionals, working in the LGAs listed above are considered to provide **essential services**. Attending a health care appointment is one of the reasons that individuals may leave home and allied health private practices are still permitted to operate.

It is strongly encouraged that any **non-urgent appointments, including group therapy appointments, are postponed or converted to telehealth where appropriate**. Physical distancing must be observed to the extent possible and contact information must be collected.

Hydrotherapy sessions are excluded as swimming pools that are not at a private residence are closed. This includes the use of swimming pool for rehabilitation purposes.

Restrictions for the rest of Queensland

All allied health professionals who have been in South East Queensland, since 1am Saturday 31 July 2021 are required to follow the same lockdown rules as above, even if their principal residence or place of work is outside of the lockdown areas.

Face Masks

Anyone who is in the LGAs listed above from must carry a face mask at all times, unless there is a lawful reason not to. A mask must be worn in indoor spaces, including health care settings and allied health private practices.

This includes for allied health practitioners providing care where physical distancing is not possible or unlikely to be maintained for the duration of the therapy session, or for workplaces where physical distancing is not possible. There are some other exceptions to wearing face masks, including for children under 12 and people with particular medical conditions or disabilities.

If unsure, allied health professionals should wear a mask and take a commonsense approach.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Information regarding the use and escalation of personal protective equipment (PPE) can be found on the dedicated [Queensland Health PPE webpage](#) and in the [Pandemic Response Guidance – Personal Protective Equipment in Healthcare Delivery](#).

For entities external to Queensland Health, a decision to follow recommended PPE protocols rests with the responsible Chief Executive or equivalent for that entity, except where a Directive requires use of PPE (such as for residential aged care facilities).

All impacted areas above have now been determined by the Chief Health Officer to be in the “moderate” risk category for the purposes of determining appropriate PPE.

All other LGAs remain in the ‘low’ risk category.

All health and care settings are to use PPE, including community health settings (of which allied health private practices are included).

Clinicians and non-clinical personnel who live or work in the impacted areas who also work in other facilities or areas outside the escalated LGAs should follow the requirement for escalated PPE.

Please note that this PPE guidance is additional to and does not replace the Chief Health Officer Directives that have been formally issued, and for which compliance is mandatory. The PPE escalation will remain in place until notification that it has been rescinded by the Chief Health Officer.

Enquiries

Please direct enquiries to the Allied Health Professions’ Office of Queensland, by email allied_health_advisory@health.qld.gov.au.