

Pandemic Preparedness Levels

Stage Requirements

PPL 3 (Version 23)

Effective from **Monday 7 February 2022**

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		Date of review	New version number
Reviewed by:	John Bolger (Commander State Operations)	03 February 2022	23
	Tony Johnstone (A/C EMCC)	03 February 2022	
Authorised by:	Mark Roche (Duty Deputy Commissioner)	03 February 2022	

Refer State Pandemic Plan and Standing Order:

[https://qfes.sharepoint.com/sites/gateway/our_org/emvcr/emcc/soc/pr/op_plans/pandemic/SO-Q-OM-5.13-QFES_COVID-19_Activities_COVID-19_Vaccinations_\(sharepoint.com\)](https://qfes.sharepoint.com/sites/gateway/our_org/emvcr/emcc/soc/pr/op_plans/pandemic/SO-Q-OM-5.13-QFES_COVID-19_Activities_COVID-19_Vaccinations_(sharepoint.com))

Queensland Fire & Emergency Services Pandemic Preparedness Levels

PPL 1 Preparedness

PPL 2 Standby: transition out of / into outbreak

PPL 3 Initial Action: known community transmission

PPL 4 Targeted Action: widespread community transmission

PPL 5 Widespread Actions: uncontrolled community transmission

On Tuesday 9 November 2021 Queensland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to Unite Families – A Plan for Queensland's Borders was released.

https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/220377/DPC7976-Vaccine-status-plan.pdf

Current Queensland COVID-19 update details are provided:

- Public health and social measures from 17 December 2021:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/queensland-restrictions-80-percent-vaccination>

- Identified high risk settings and businesses are detailed in:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/public-health-and-social-measures-linked-to-vaccination-status-direction>

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/workers-in-a-high-risk-setting-direction>

- Isolation for people Diagnosed with COVID-19

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/confirmed-cases-and-close-contact-isolation/isolation-covid19-diagnosed-case>

[Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Management of Close Contacts Direction \(No.5\)](#)

- Close contacts quarantine and testing requirements

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/confirmed-cases-and-close-contact-isolation/close-contacts>

ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

QFES PPLs should be read in conjunction with Directions provided by the Queensland Chief Health Officer <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers>

Face Masks

From 1am AEST Sunday 2 January masks must be worn indoors everywhere in Queensland, except in your own home or accommodation, and where it is unsafe, such as while doing strenuous exercise.

Overview

From Sunday 2 January 2022, you must wear a mask indoors everywhere in Queensland. This includes:

- all indoor workplaces
- public transport and rideshare
- supermarkets and retail shops
- hospitality venues including pubs, clubs and cafes
- cinemas and theatres
- indoor stadium, sports arena or sports centre
- gyms and sport activities
- vulnerable settings like hospitals and aged care
- schools, childcare and other education facilities
- airports and on planes

You do not need to wear a mask outdoors if you can remain 1.5 meters away from others that are not members of your household.

Children under 12 years and people affected by a medical condition or disability do not lawfully have to wear a face mask

[Public Health Face Mask Requirements Direction \(No.4\)](#)

Additional QFES requirements in regard to changes to Mask Directive

- **Face Masks** (surgical mask or P2/N95 or cloth mask with three layers that cover the nose and mouth) will be required to be worn within all QFES facilities and vehicles unless you are alone in a closed office or vehicle
- Eye protection must be worn for all QAS assists where patient contact is required (safety glasses or goggles).

Universal measures for all staff and volunteers

- Physical distancing and good hand hygiene practises (physical distancing only to be applied if feasible during operations)
- Staff to stay home and seek medical advice if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
- All QFES facilities to maintain contact tracing information.
- Consider postponing face to face community education and events, safety assessments, building inspections (other than legislated building approvals and compliance activities) based on local level of risk
- Any community safety related matters with an aged care facility or shared disability accommodation are to be referred to the appropriate regional ROC in the affected LGA
- Bushfire mitigation activities to continue with COVID safe plans.
- Planned essential training and exercise activities can occur under an approved venue COVID Safe Plan with numbers in line with any Queensland Health direction.
- Non-essential training to continue online where feasible.
- All interstate travel should be assessed for necessity, and where possible use video conferencing facilities as the preferred option.
- Two (2) person in any station or facility gym at a time and machinery must be wiped down after each use. A covid tracking system should be in place.
- Split into teams for use of shared kitchen and eating facilities – maintain social distancing when masks are off. Eating outdoors is another means to reduce exposure risk, eat outside wherever (appropriate facility) and whenever (weather permitting) possible is encouraged.
- Maintain cleaning of all shared use areas.
- Essential facility, fleet and equipment maintenance will continue. Contractors & transport drivers must sign the register and follow COVID-19 safe practices
- At the discretion of the Regions, QFES operational facilities may allow public access. If access is granted Covid Safe plans will have to be in place.
- Wash hands with soap and water or sanitiser entering and leaving all shared use areas.

Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status Direction:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/public-health-and-social-measures-linked-to-vaccination-status-direction>

<p>Pandemic Preparedness Level 3</p> <p>Reduction from PPL4 to PPL3 & Initial Action:</p> <p>Known community transmission with high vaccination rates</p> <p>Community transmission is occurring in identifiable clusters, isolated to locally identified areas with the potential to impact QFES business and operations</p> <p>Triggers to decrease from PPL4 to PPL3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland locations are experiencing COVID19 cases and is widespread in the community. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Directive issued with public health interventions mandated. 	<p>Actions for PPL3</p> <p>(This stage will be scalable, based on Queensland Health or National Advice, and other actions may be added as the situation evolves)</p> <p>Universal measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All requirements for PPL1 and PPL2 remain in place Identify essential and non-essential personnel. Consider activating arrangements for working from home for vulnerable personnel (e.g. those who are currently suffering from any significant or chronic illness) QFES members in the workplace and on operations (as feasible) are to adhere to physical distancing requirements and wear masks (surgical mask or P2/N95 or cloth mask with three layers that cover the nose and mouth) (unless otherwise stipulated) where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Maintain messaging to QFES workforce to ensure situational awareness Regions are to provide situational reports upon request to the SOC to ensure the Commissioner is abreast of Regional activities and requirements. <p>Community Safety and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider postponing face to face community education and events, safety assessments, building inspections (other than legislated building approvals and compliance activities) based on local level of risk. <p>Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies for affected localities to maintain QFES essential services to community Ensure QFES members are appropriately briefed on the risks associated with travelling. Review regional modelling to understand and prepare for the
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	<p>workforce in readiness for scaling down from PPL4 to PPL3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affected Regions are to provide situational reports upon request to the SOC to ensure the Commissioner is abreast of Regional activities and requirements• All QFES personnel attending QAS Assist operations must wear PPE (Gloves and P3 masks with Pro2000 filters wherever provided, or P2 masks with safety glasses/goggles wherever P3 masks with Pro2000 filters are not issued).
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