

2 August 2021



Metro North
Hospital and Health Service

Dear parents, care givers, students, staff and visitors

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

This is an update to our letter dated 1 AUGUST 2021 which you may have received earlier today.

Metro North Public Health Unit (MNPJU) has been notified today of a further confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a member of the school community. This case is in addition to the previously notified case of a visitor who attended the Open Day on Friday 30 July between 17:25 and 20:30 hrs. The latest case who is a member of the school community was at school from 08:00 hrs on 30 July and who also attended the Open Day until 18:00 hrs. Although the latest case attended Brisbane Girls Grammar School on 30 July 2021 while infectious, they were not aware that they were infectious at the time.

This latest case has expanded the number of people considered to be close contacts (also known as primary contacts) and who are required to complete 14 days of quarantine.

To summarise the advice for Brisbane Girls Grammar School:

All students and staff in attendance, and visitors to the school (including all venues for the Open Day) on Friday 30 July 2021 from 0800 hrs until 18:00 hrs are now considered close contacts.

In addition, anyone in attendance at the following Open Day venues from 1800 hrs are also close contacts.

- **18:00–18:45 Main entrance area – queue for food vans**
- **18:45- 19:05 Level 1 Strings Room Creative Learning Centre**
- **19:14-19:45 New Science Learning Building**

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 Girls Grammar School, the quarantine period now 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 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

Frequently asked questions in relation to school lock downs as a result of exposures in schools will posted on the Department of Education and Training website today.

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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