

COVID-19 Update (as at 7pm, 26 March 2020)

Overview

- As at 8am Thursday 26 March, Queensland has recorded 493 confirmed cases, 50 more than yesterday.
- As at 3pm Thursday 26 March, Australia has recorded 2799 confirmed cases, 376 more than yesterday.
- Queensland has recorded its first death, a 69-year-old man from Toowoomba with an underlying medical condition in Toowoomba Hospital. He contracted the disease on a cruise. This follows the death of a Queenslanders in New South Wales earlier this month.
- More than 178,000 tests have been conducted across Australia.

Key developments

- Queensland **state schools** remain open for the rest of this week. From Monday 30 March to Friday 3 April, five Student Free Days will be in place.
- Schools will remain open for the children of essential workers or vulnerable children during this time. Further information: www.qed.qld.gov.au
- Multiple **border controls** are now in place along Queensland borders as of 12.01am today. Essential workers, services and freight are excluded from these restrictions. Further information: www.qld.gov.au
- The Australian Government's **travel restrictions to Queensland's remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities** will take effect from midnight Thursday 26 March.
- **Testing criteria** has been expanded:
 - A person is eligible for testing if they have a fever (or history of fever) or acute respiratory symptoms, and, in the last 14 days:
 - they were a close contact or a household contact of a confirmed case
 - they had been overseas, including on a cruise.
 - Testing is also possible for people who have a fever (or history of fever) or acute respiratory symptoms, AND:
 - work in vulnerable settings such as healthcare, aged or residential care, military, correction facilities, detention centres and boarding schools.
 - live in an area where an outbreak has occurred
 - live in a First Nations community.

Public Health advice

- Stay home as much as possible and keep 1.5 metres away from others.
- Avoid shaking hands, kissing or hugging others.
- If you can, work from home.
- Avoid gatherings that aren't essential.
- Wash hands often and properly.
- You must self-quarantine for 14 days if you have been overseas, travelled to Queensland (unless the travel is essential) or you have been in close contact with a confirmed case.
- Further information: www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus
- Latest social restrictions in effect from 11.59pm 25 March:
 - Closures of many public venues including community and recreation centres, amusement parks, public swimming pools, galleries and museums, libraries, auction houses and in-store beauty therapies.



- Funerals limited to 10 people and weddings to five people.
- Time restrictions have been lifted on hairdressers and barber shops, however social distancing measures to be strictly observed.
- Outdoor boot camps and personal training limited to groups of 10 people and social distancing must be exercised.
- Effective from 12.01am Thursday 26 March, all elective surgery other than category 1 and urgent category 2 cases will be suspended in hospitals.

Other services

- **Public transport** is an essential service and running on schedule. As of 25 March, all SEQ public transport services are operating as 'pre-paid' services using Go-Card to reduce cash handling.
- All **camping areas** in Queensland national parks, state forests and recreation areas are closed until further notice. For a full list of national park and forest partial and full closures, visit Park Alerts at www.des.qld.gov.au

Financial assistance

- The Queensland Government has announced a \$4 billion COVID-19 rescue package. Further information: www.qld.gov.au/about/industry-recovery
- Previous announcements include a new Jobs Support \$500 million loan facility, with loans of up to \$250,000. Expressions of interest can be registered at www.qrida.qld.gov.au
- Information on the Australian Government's financial stimulus package is available here: <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/supporting-australian-workers-and-business>

Community assistance

- Community Recovery Hotline – 1800 173 349 – for Queenslanders who do not have the capacity to look after themselves in quarantine and don't have family or friends to assist.
- COVID-19 information that has been translated into a number of languages is available at <https://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/about-us/our-department/novel-coronavirus-covid-19.html>
- Counselling services for anyone at any time are available from www.lifeline.org.au or phone 13 11 14.
- Additional Mental Health services and resources are available here: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/help-lines/services>

