

# COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

## High Level Summary of QCS Management of COVID-19 within Correctional Centres: current 23/04/2020

QCS is working on the basis of health advice from the Chief Medical Officer and Queensland Health (QH) to keep COVID-19 out of correctional centres and minimise COVID-19-related risks to prisoners, offenders, staff and the community. Measures put in place will continue to change as advice is updated.

### QCS 4 Stages of Correctional Centre Response to Changing Levels of Risk

<p><b>Stage 1.</b> Restricts visitors if they: present with flu like symptoms; recently returned from overseas; and/or been in contact with someone recently returned from overseas.</p> <p><b>Activated: 6 March 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Stage 2.</b> Restricts all personal visits.</p> <p><b>Activated: 23 March 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Current Stage 3.</b> Only essential QCS, QH and business critical visitors (Commissioner approval required) granted access to correctional centres.</p> <p><b>Activated: 27 March 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Stage 4.</b> Full lock down. Prisoners secured in their cells and movement within the facilities restricted.</p>
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### QCS 4 stages of Community Corrections Response to Changing Levels of Risk

<p><b>Stage 1.</b> Adopt social distancing principles, undertake screening of offenders and adjust operational activities on a case-by-case basis to reduce likelihood of infection</p> <p>Activated: 20 March 2020</p>	<p><b>Stage 2.</b> Planned reduction of in person engagement with offenders and external services in order to increase social distancing and reduce exposure</p> <p>Activated: 24 March 2020</p>	<p><b>Stage 3.</b> Significant reduction of in person engagement with offenders, and suspension of operational activities assessed as unacceptable risk of exposure or infection</p>	<p><b>Stage 4.</b> Public health declaration requires the public to limit movements and/or isolate due to spread of infection. Cease direct employee and offender contact with service delivery maintained via remote operations</p>
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Preparedness and Prevention		
Staff	Prisoners	Protecting Vulnerable Prisoners
<p>Education and promotion of health measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>education and access to resources for cleaning and hygiene, including hand washing</li> <li>training in/and access to PPE</li> <li>social distancing</li> <li>procedures for identification and reporting potential flu like symptoms of staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Education and promotion of health measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prisoner Advisory Committee meetings to build awareness of hygiene and social distancing requirements as well as hear concerns raised by prisoners</li> <li>social distancing</li> <li>education and access to resources for cleaning and hygiene, including hand washing</li> <li>procedures for identification and reporting potential flu like symptoms of prisoners.</li> </ul>	<p>QCS is working with QH to identify and manage higher risk for those falling into the categories deemed by public health advice to be vulnerable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>over 65 with chronic medical conditions</li> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 50 with a chronic illness</li> <li>over 70</li> <li>compromised immune systems.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Activated: 7 April 2020</b></p>
Correctional Centre Access		Parole Board Queensland (PBQ)
<p>Mandatory health checks prior to entry of a centre to occur for all entries, including QCS and Queensland Health (QH) staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>health and temperature check</li> <li>if temperature over 38 degrees and/or flu like symptoms access to centre is not permitted and referred to seek medical advice.</li> </ul>		<p>QCS assisting PBQ as required as it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increases the focus on prisoners identified as vulnerable to COVID-19</li> <li>deploys additional resources to respond to parole applications.</li> </ul>
New Admissions to Secure Custody		
<p>To help stop COVID-19 entering prisons, reception prisoners are subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>health and temperature checks by QH personnel</li> <li>isolation for a period of 14 days.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Activated: 8 April 2020</b></p> <p><i>Note: Prisoners requiring regular hospital treatment are not be subject to isolation protocols, unless advised by QH.</i></p>		<p>Isolated prisoners have access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>confidential medical assessment and treatment including specialist mental health services</li> <li>engagement with the offender development team to monitor and support their mental health</li> <li>engagement with unit and activities officers to provide activities (such as books, drawing and letter writing)</li> <li>blue letter mail processes and unmonitored calls with legal representatives</li> <li>facilitated telephone calls, and/or videoconference connection with family.</li> </ul>



Centre Movements	Release into Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• movement between centers will only occur when essential for placement</li> <li>• prisoner requested moves will be restricted</li> <li>• movements between low custody sites and from secure to low will not be subject to isolation protocols.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Activated: 8 April 2020</b></p>	<p>Planning for discharge/release includes QH health and temperature checks before discharge/release.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Activated: 8 April 2020</b></p>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QCS is working with QH to identify and manage higher risk for those falling into the categories deemed by public health advice to be vulnerable, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 50 with a chronic illness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where Indigenous communities have travel restrictions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, QCS is working with government partners to help support compliance with these restrictions for prisoners and offenders released or discharged who wish to return to their community.</li> </ul>
Legal Representative Contact	Personal Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access continues via telephone</li> <li>• video conferencing has commenced at Arthur Gorrie and Southern QLD Correctional Centre</li> <li>• other centres working to implement video conferencing options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access continues via telephone</li> <li>• video conferencing capability being investigated.</li> </ul>
Response to Suspected Case of COVID-19 in a Prisoner	Response to Suspected Case of COVID-19 in a Staff Member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• immediate isolation in cell to minimise interaction with other prisoners</li> <li>• immediate contact with QH staff at the centre so monitoring and testing can occur</li> <li>• transfer to hospital <b>if their condition warrants as per QH advice</b>—QH to advise hospital of suspected or confirmed COVID-19</li> <li>• QH staff advise on transport (i.e., ambulance with QCS escort or QCS vehicle)</li> <li>• QH staff notify the appropriate authorities</li> <li>• QCS staff notify QCS authorities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately excluded from the facility and remain away whilst a diagnosis is sought.</li> <li>• If COVID-19 is excluded, the staff member may return to work once well and on advice from their medical practitioner.</li> <li>• If a diagnosis of COVID-19 is confirmed, the staff member must stay away from the workplace until they receive medical advice that they may return.</li> </ul>

