

**DIRECTIONS WHILE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DATED 21 DECEMBER  
2020 IS IN FORCE**

**Sections 263, 264 and 268(4) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006***

On 21 December 2020, I, Peter Martin APM, Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services (**QCS**), with the approval of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, declared that an emergency exists in relation to all corrective services facilities for the period commencing on 1 January 2021 and expiring at 11:59pm on 31 March 2021 (the **Declaration**).

The Declaration was made following extensive consultation with the Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre who believed it was necessary to make the Declaration to assist in containing, or to respond to, the spread of COVID-19 within corrective services facilities and the wider community.

On 24 February 2021, following increased COVID-19 community transmission in New Zealand, Queensland Health announced that New Zealand was to be removed as a 'safe travel country' and that anyone who travelled to Queensland would need to quarantine for 14 days in government arranged accommodation at their own expense.

As a result of this announcement, I directed that:

- any **Staff Member** who arrived in Queensland from New Zealand on or since 6 February 2021 who had not completed a quarantine period must:
  - a. immediately inform their direct supervisor in writing and not attend at their place of work (whether that place is a corrective services facility or otherwise);
  - b. undergo a test for COVID-19; and
  - c. comply with all directions given by their direct supervisor and Queensland Health in relation to their COVID-19 test and any self-isolation or quarantine requirements; and
- any person who was not a Staff Member and who had arrived in Queensland from New Zealand on or since 6 February 2021 who had not completed a quarantine period, must provide evidence that they had been tested for COVID-19 and cleared by Queensland Health before entering a corrective services facility.

(the **New Zealand Directions**).

Today, Queensland Health have announced that New Zealand has been reinstated as a Safe Travel Zone Country and visitors from New Zealand who travel to Australia on a quarantine free flight will not be required to quarantine on arrival into Queensland and will have no restrictions on their movements within Queensland.

In light of the decision to reinstate New Zealand as a Safe Travel Zone Country, and in accordance with the advice and recommendation received by Queensland Health, recognising that the safety, welfare and human rights of prisoners and staff are paramount considerations for QCS, I direct as follows:

1. the New Zealand Directions are revoked;
2. the wearing of face masks as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for all Staff Member and visitors to any corrective services facility, including when transporting a prisoner, in circumstances where social distancing is not possible, or otherwise as directed by Queensland Health personnel;
3. the wearing of face masks as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for all prisoners who have COVID-19 symptoms, as determined by

Queensland Health personnel, when they are required to leave their cells including whilst being transported outside a corrective services facility;

4. the following QCS policies will apply to all corrective services facilities:
  - a. 'Managing new admission reception prisoners and COVID-19 isolation';
  - b. 'Managing Employee Health Risks to COVID-19'; and
  - c. 'Managing Vulnerable Prisoners';
5. for the purposes of these directions, **Staff Member** has the meaning given in the CS Act.

These directions are made pursuant to sections 263(2), 264 and 268(4) of *Corrective Services Act 2006* (**CS Act**). They have been made in consultation with Queensland Health, the Chief Health Officer and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre and in accordance with the approach taken by the Queensland Government to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Given the high risks to a vulnerable prison population if COVID-19 were to enter a corrective services facility, and the medical advice received, I consider that any impact on the human rights of prisoners, staff, family members or any other person as a result of these directions is demonstrably justifiable.

These directions will take effect on signing, revoking and replacing the previous directions made by me pursuant to sections 263(2) and 268(4) of the CS Act on 19 March 2021. These directions will remain in place until revoked or replaced by me.



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Peter Martin APM

Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services

20 March 2021