

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

### Sections 157(1A), 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 7 January 2021 the Chief Health Officer confirmed that a person in South East Queensland had tested positive for the UK strain of COVID-19. According to the press release given by the Chief Health Officer, the UK strain is 70 percent more infectious than other strains.

The Chief Health Officer issued an alert calling for all people in Queensland who visited the **Named Locations** to be tested for COVID-19.

Further, in light of the positive diagnosis on 7 January 2021, and the high risks to a vulnerable prison population if COVID-19 were to enter a corrective services facility, the Chief Health Officer requested that swift action be taken to restrict access to corrective services facilities within Southern Queensland to staff and only essential visitors approved by me.

Following the request from the Chief Health Officer, and extensive consultation with Queensland Health and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, I made the Stage 3 Personal Visit Suspension Decision and the Northern Corrective Services Facilities Personal Visit Suspension Decision.

Subsequently, by letter dated 7 January 2021, the Chief Health Officer wrote to me:

- advising that she was declaring the **Brisbane Areas** as restricted areas pursuant to section 362B of the *Public Health Act 2005 (PH Act)* with immediate effect;
- requesting that all Queensland correctional facilities located within the Brisbane Areas implement restrictions on visitors to limit entry to facilities to only individuals who were essential to either the effective operation of the facility or the health, wellbeing or safety of the prisoners; and
- requesting that all Queensland correctional facilities, regardless of location, restrict visitors who had been in any of the Brisbane Areas in the preceding 14 days, or since 2 January 2021, whichever period was shorter.

Following the request from the Chief Health Officer, and extensive consultation with Queensland Health and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, I made the Amended Northern Corrective Services Facilities Personal Visit Suspension Decision. The Stage 3 Personal Visit Suspension Decision remained unchanged.

On 8 January 2021 the Chief Health Officer:

- published the Restrictions for Impacted Areas Direction (**Impacted Areas Direction**) pursuant to section 362B of the PH Act which identified the **Impacted Areas**;
- published the Queensland COVID-19 Restricted Areas (No. 8) Direction pursuant

to section 362B of the PH Act which identified the **Restricted Areas**; and

- wrote to me:
  - reiterating her request from 7 January 2021 that, effective immediately, all Queensland correctional facilities located within the Restricted Areas (which are the same Local Government Areas referred to as the Brisbane Areas in my directions dated 8 January 2021) implement restrictions on visitors to limit entry to facilities to only individuals who are essential to either the effective operation of the facility or the health, wellbeing or safety of the prisoners; and
  - requesting that all Queensland correctional facilities, regardless of location, restrict visitors who have been in any of the Impacted Areas on or after 2 January 2021. I note the differentiation between Restricted Areas and Limited Areas was not in place at the time of the Chief Health Officer's request on 7 January 2021.

Following the request from the Chief Health Officer, and extensive consultation with Queensland Health and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, I revoked the Amended Northern Corrective Services Facilities Personal Visit Suspension Decision in its entirety and made the 9 January Northern Corrective Services Facilities Personal Visit Suspension Decision. The Stage 3 Personal Visit Suspension Decision remained unchanged.

Today the Premier and Chief Health Officer announced via press conference that the restrictions in place under the **Impacted Areas Direction** would ease from 6:00pm, with more relaxed restrictions in place until at least 1:00 am on 22 January 2021 subject to any confirmed cases of community transmission of the UK variant of COVID-19.

Queensland Health have advised that for so long as restrictions remain in place in the Impacted Areas, QCS should maintain the current practices in place for the Stage 3 corrective services facilities regarding visitors so as to reduce movement of people in and out of centres and the wider community until more time has elapsed to allow Queensland Health greater confidence that the UK variant of COVID-19 is not circulating undetected in the community.

Following extensive consultation with Queensland Health and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, and in recognition of the high risk of community transmission and the fact that the safety and welfare of all prisoners and staff are paramount considerations for QCS, I direct as follows:

1. the Stage 3 Personal Visit Suspension Decision remains in place until further notice, for a period of up to one year from 7 January 2021;
2. the 9 January Northern Corrective Services Facilities Personal Visit Suspension remains in place until further notice, for a period of up to one year from 9 January 2021;
3. in addition to the suspension of access approvals for personal visitors under the Stage 3 Personal Visit Suspension Decision, and under section 263(2) and section 268(4) of the CS Act, all visitor access to a **Stage 3 corrective services facility** is prohibited other than access by:
  - a. an accredited visitor where access is approved by me;
  - b. a government visitor where access is approved by me;
  - c. a casual site visitor where access is approved by me;
  - d. a law enforcement visitor;
  - e. an emergency services officer;
  - f. a professional visitor whose attendance is necessary to perform health duties or provide psychological care and access is approved by me;
  - g. a commercial visitor whose attendance is necessary to perform

- essential maintenance or delivery of essential goods and services and access is approved by me;
- h. elders, respected persons and spiritual healers, where access is approved by me; and
  - i. religious visitors, where access is approved by me;
4. in addition to the 9 January Northern Corrective Services Facilities Personal Visit Suspension Decision, and under section 263(2) and section 268(4) of the CS Act, any other person who has been in one of the Impacted Areas on or after 2 January 2021 must not enter a Northern corrective services facility unless that person is a **Staff Member**;
5. any Staff Member who:
- a. has been in Victoria in the preceding 14 days or since 21 December 2020, whichever period is shorter; or
  - b. was in Orange, Nyngan and Broken Hill between 2-3 January 2021; or
  - c. was in a Named Location,
- must:
- i. 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);
  - ii. undergo a test for COVID-19; and
  - iii. 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;
6. the wearing of face masks as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for all Staff Members when working from a QCS location, regardless of whether the Staff Member works in a corrective services facility or another location, in circumstances where social distancing is not possible, when transporting a prisoner outside of a corrective services facility or otherwise as directed by Queensland Health personnel;
7. 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 by the ESB;
8. the 'Managing new admission reception prisoners and COVID-19 isolation' policy will apply to all Northern Corrective Services Facilities;
9. the 'Managing Prisoner Receptions' policy will apply to all Stage 3 Corrective Services Facilities;
10. the following QCS policies will apply to all corrective services facilities:
- a. 'Managing Employee Health Risks to COVID-19'; and
  - b. 'Managing Vulnerable Prisoners';
11. for the purposes of these directions:
- a. each of the following is a **Stage 3 corrective services facility**:
    - Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre;
    - Borallon Training and Correctional Centre;
    - Brisbane Correctional Centre;

- Brisbane Women’s Correctional Centre;
- Wolston Correctional Centre;
- Helena Jones Correctional Centre;
- Southern Queensland Correctional Centre;
- Palen Creek Correctional Centre;
- Numinbah Correctional Centre;
- Woodford Correctional Centre;and
- Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit.

b. each of the following is a **Northern corrective services facility**:

- Maryborough Correctional Centre;
- Capricornia Correctional Centre;
- Townsville Correctional Centre;
- Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.

c. each of the following places, provided a person was there during the stipulated time, is a **Named Location**:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Time period</u>
Train from Altandi station to Roma Street station	Saturday 2 January, 7am
Train from Central Station to Altandi station	Saturday 2 January, 4pm
Woolworths Calamvale North	Sunday 3 January, 11am-12noon
Coles Sunnybank Hills	Tuesday 5 January, 7.30-8am
Nextra Newsagent, Sunnybank Hills Shopping Town	Tuesday 5 January, 8-8.15am;

d. each of the following Local Government Areas are classified as **Restricted Areas**: City of Brisbane, City of Ipswich, Lockyer Valley Region, Logan City, Moreton Bay Region; Redland City; Scenic Rim Region and Somerset Region;

e. each of the following Local Government Areas are classified as **Impacted Areas**: City of Brisbane, City of Ipswich, Logan City, Moreton Bay Region and Redland City;

f. a reference to the **Greater Sydney Area** includes the following Local Government Areas: Bayside, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Central Coast, City of Sydney, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Hunter’s Hill, Inner West, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Liverpool, Mosman, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland, The Hills, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollondilly, Wollongong, Woollahra and Sydney Harbour (unincorporated);

g. **Brisbane Areas** has the same meaning as **Restricted Areas**; and

h. **Staff Member** has the meaning given in the CS Act.

These directions are made pursuant to sections 263(2), 264 and 268(4) of 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 take effect from 6:01pm today, 11 January 2021, revoking and replacing the previous directions made by me pursuant to sections 263(2) and 268(4) of the CS Act on 9 January 2021. These directions will remain in place until revoked or replaced by me.



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Peter Martin APM

Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services

11 January 2021