

DIRECTIONS WHILE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DATED 24 JUNE 2022 IS IN FORCE

Sections 157(1A), 263, 264 and 268(4) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*

On 24 June 2022, I, Paul Stewart, Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services (**QCS**), with the approval of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, declared that an emergency exists in relation to all corrective services facilities for the period commencing on 25 June 2022 and expiring at 11:59pm on 22 September 2022 (the **Declaration**).

The Declaration was made following extensive consultation with the Chief Health Officer and Queensland Health 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.

In accordance with ongoing advice from Queensland Health and recognising that the safety, welfare and human rights of prisoners and staff are paramount considerations for QCS, I direct as follows:

1. any **staff member** who is a **diagnosed person** or is identified as a **close contact**, or is an **international arrival**, 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); and
 - b. comply with all directions given by their direct supervisor and Queensland Health including in relation to the following (where applicable):
 - i. the wearing of face masks;
 - ii. isolation or quarantine requirements in accordance with the Chief Health Officer's public health directions; and
 - iii. testing for COVID-19 in accordance with the Chief Health Officer's public health directions.
2. any other person who is not a **staff member** and who was:
 - a. an **international arrival**, must comply with all directions given by the Chief Health Officer including any restrictions on entry to a corrective services facility and any requirement to undergo isolation or quarantine and COVID-19 testing (where applicable).
 - b. identified as a **close contact**, must provide evidence that they have complied with all Queensland Health directions in relation to testing for COVID-19, self-isolation and quarantine requirements before entering a corrective services facility.
3. all **staff members** and all visitors to any QCS location or workplace, whether or not that location or workplace is a corrective services facility, must comply with any **mask requirement**;
4. all prisoners in a corrective services facility must wear a surgical face mask:
 - a. when outside of their secure unit or residential compound unless engaged in strenuous physical exercise. Where a prisoner has removed their mask for the purposes of engaging in strenuous physical exercise, the prisoner must resume wearing a mask as soon as practicable after they cease exercising

strenuously;

- b. when outside of their cell if the prisoner is a **diagnosed** person; and
 - c. when outside of their cell if the prisoner is being isolated or quarantined for COVID-19 on the advice of Queensland Health.
5. the following QCS policies will apply to corrective services facilities depending on the level of restriction at the facility:
 - a. 'Managing new admission reception prisoners and COVID-19 (Standard Response) policy'; or
 - b. 'Managing prisoner receptions, transfers, discharges and releases during COVID-19 restricted operations' (this applies to any correctives services facility in Elevated Pandemic Response);
6. the following QCS policies will apply to all corrective services facilities:
 - a. 'Managing At Risk Employees';
 - b. 'Managing Prisoners at Risk of Serious Illness from COVID-19';
 - c. 'COVID-19 Personal Visitors Plan'
 - d. 'Use of PPE'; and
 - e. 'Management of Prisoners diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19'
7. for the purposes of these directions:
 - a. **staff member** has the meaning given in the CS Act;
 - b. a **close contact** has the meaning given by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website and means a person who is a **household member** or a **household-like contact** of a diagnosed person:
 - i. a **household member** is a person who ordinarily resides at the same premises or place of accommodation as the diagnosed person, and who are residing at the premises or place of accommodation at the time the diagnosed person receives their positive COVID-19 test result;
 - ii. a **household-like contact** is a person who has spent more than four hours with the diagnosed person or other place of accommodation, care facility or similar.
 - c. a **diagnosed person** has the meaning given by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website and means an individual who has received a positive COVID-19 test result, or who has been otherwise informed that they have been diagnosed as having COVID-19, but does not include a person who is a cleared case of COVID-19;
 - d. a **mask requirement** includes:
 - i. for staff members and visitors attending a Corrective Services Facility, face masks to be worn at all times unless:
 - A. they are in a closed-door office by themselves;
 - B. they are outdoors and there is no other person present;
 - ii. for staff members and visitors attending the Queensland Corrective Services Academy (**QCSA**) face masks must be worn in classrooms and where social distancing is not possible.

- iii. for staff and visitors to other QCS locations not covered by this direction - any requirement published on the Queensland Health website or as directed by Queensland Health;
- e. an **international arrival** has the meaning determined by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website and means any person who arrives in Queensland by sea or on a flight who, in the 7 days immediately before their arrival to Queensland, has been in a place outside Australia or arrived in Australia by sea or air.

These directions are made pursuant to sections 263(2), 264 and 268(4) of the CS Act. They have been made in consultation with Queensland Health and the Chief Health Officer 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 reasonable and demonstrably justifiable.

These directions take effect at 12:00am on 25 June 2022, revoking and replacing the previous directions titled *Directions while Declaration of Emergency dated 29 April 2022 is in Force* made by me pursuant to sections 263(2) and 268(4) of the CS Act on 20 May 2022.

These directions will remain in place until revoked or replaced by me.



Paul Stewart
Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services

24 June 2022