

Please find to follow the latest COVID-19 Community Update. A further update will be provided by 4 pm on Thursday 6 January 2021.

Response Level: 5

Torres and Cape HHS remains at Tier 5 of its Rapid Response Plan with multiple cases in multiple communities.

Detection of cases overview

TCHHS has identified a significant number of new COVID-19 case in the region today. Due to the volume, the detail and a breakdown of where cases were detected is still being worked through and will likely be reported overnight or first thing in the morning to ensure accuracy of reporting. We can confirm that cases have now been detected at Hopevale and there is now community transmission in Bamaga, Cooktown, Thursday Island and Weipa.

Exposure venues highlighted in yellow are new. After 7 days, exposure sites will be removed. Some exposure sites are still being investigated and will be updated as reported.

HHS Capacity

Rapid response staff have been deployed to various sites to support local teams and additional resources continue to be sought. A huge thank you to Local Disaster Management Group colleagues for support provided so far in our response. It is very much appreciated.

Fever Clinics and Testing

Only people who are symptomatic and those that have been instructed to attend for testing will be tested.

All those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be tested using Rapid Antigen Tests where they are available or via PCR on Point of Care where there are no Rapid Antigen Tests (where it is available). All other tests will be transferred to Cairns or elsewhere for processing. This may cause a delay to receiving results. Rapid Antigen Tests are in short supply nationally and TCHHS will get them out to all communities as quickly as we are able.

Anyone who is symptomatic should come forward for testing.

If an individual tests positive on a Rapid Antigen Test they will be diagnosed as a positive case and they will then receive a swab that will be sent to Cairns for confirmation. The person will still be classed as a positive case.

If an individual tests negative on a Rapid Antigen Test they will be assumed to be negative and are free to go about their day.

Close contacts of a positive case will be notified by public health to attend for testing.

If the close contact has no symptoms they will be tested using a Rapid Antigen Test

- if it is positive they will then receive a swab that will be sent to Cairns for confirmation. The person will still be classed as a positive case.
- If it is negative the person must return home and isolate until day six when they will require a Rapid Antigen Test

If the close contact has symptoms they will be tested via PCR and swabbed. Where available the test will be processed on point of care.

- If it is positive they will be diagnosed as COVID positive
- If it is negative they will need to return home and isolate until day six when they will require Rapid Antigen Test
- All Primary Health Care Centres across the Torres and Cape region offer COVID-19 testing.
- The Fever Clinics at Thursday Island Hospital, Weipa Hospital and Cooktown Hospital are open from 8 am to 5 pm Mon-Fri.
- Thursday Island is a walk in fever clinic
- Cooktown Hospital please call for a time on 04398 44238.
- Weipa Hospital please call 40823611 to arrange a time to come in.
- Please be patient with our staff as queues are possible.

Vaccination

Vaccination clinics are available at Weipa Hospital, Cooktown Community Health, Bamaga PHCC and Thursday Island. Walk ins welcome. Booster doses are available.

Hospitalisations

Within TCHHS – 1 (COVID+ for non covid treatment)

Clients being managed by virtual care

All clients are either asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms and being managed via COVID in Home Care (Virtual care)

Exposure venues

The Queensland Health website is now only listing exposure sites of major concern. Additional local sites in our region will be shared via [Torres and Cape HHS Facebook page](#) and updated on our website. If an individual has attended an exposure venue they are advised to **only get tested if they develop symptoms**. Please note exposure sites will be removed after 7 days.

Thursday Island

03/01/2022	Flight CNS to Horn QF2490
31/12/2021	Flight CNS-Horn QF 2496

Cooktown

02/01/2022 17:00-18:30	Lions Den Takeaway
02/01/2022 14:10-16:00	Lions Den Hotel
02/01/2022 12:20:13:20	Ampol Cooktown

02/01/2022 10:15-13:30	Cooktown Cafe
01/01/2022 18:10-19:20	Ampol Cooktown
31/12/2021 20:00 to close	Lions Den
31/12/2021 07:00-16:00	Cooktown Hospital ED
31/12/2021 13:00-14:00	Australia Post
31/12/2021 13:30-14:30	Cooktown Newsagency
31/12/2021 15:45-16:45	Cornetts IGA

Bamaga








31/12/2021	Flight CNS-Bamaga QN43
30/12/2021 08:00 to 21:00	Bamaga Hospital
31/12/2021 08:00 to 10:30	Bamaga Hospital

Weipa

03/01/2022	Flight CNS-WPA QF 2478
03/01/2022	Flight Alliance QQ7240
03/01/2022	Flight CNS-WPA QF2482
02/01/2022	Flight QF 2478 (CNS to WPA)
02/01/2022	Flight CNS-WPA QF 2482
31/12/2021 06:00-18:00	Loriam Point Work Site
30/12/2021 17:30-06:00	East Weipa HEQ Workshop
30/12/2021 18:15-18:45	Woolworths Supermarket Weipa
30/12/2021	SPQ Village Camp
30/12/2021 09:30-10:30	Woolworths Supermarket Weipa
30/12/2021 12:30-18:00	Loriam Point Work Site
30/12/2021	Flight QANTAS QF2480 CNS to WPA
30/12/2021	Flight ALLIANCE QQ7242 CNS to WPA
30/12/2021 11:00-12:30	Hastings Dearing Shed
30/12/2021 12:45-13:00	Shell Servo, Rocky Point QLD 4874
30/12/2021	Flight QF 2482 CNS to WPA Rows 2,3,4,5,6

Public Messaging

Please be reminded there are measures we can all take every day to help keep ourselves, our loved ones and our community safe:

-  Stay home when you are sick.
-  Get tested if you have even mild COVID-19 symptoms – then go home and stay home.
-  Wash your hands often, with soap or hand sanitizer.
-  Wear a mask if you can't socially distance, or when mandatory masks are required.
-  Check in with the Check In QLD app.
-  Get the COVID-19 vaccine – including your booster dose when it's time.
-  If you are planning on travelling across the region, consider whether or not it is essential.