



THE TORRES STRAIT LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

5 August 2021

LOCALLY ACQUIRED COVID-19 CASE IN CAIRNS REGION

Joint statement from Torres Shire Council Mayor Cr. Vonda Malone, and Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor Cr. Phillemon Mosby.

A person in Cairns has recently tested positive for the COVID-19 Delta virus.

The person visited a number of locations in Cairns, and as a result there are a list of COVID Exposure Contract Tracing Sites that have been identified. These are listed on the QLD Health Website. They include 3 categories of risk exposures (Close Contact, Casual Contacts and Low Risk Contact).

If you have been to the locations identified, please call 1300 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) IMMEDIATELY.

Keeping the Torres Strait Community Safe

The Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) stresses the need for the local community to continue to maintain safe practices and physical distancing during this pandemic.

The TSLDMG strongly encourages anyone who has been in Cairns on or after Saturday 31 July 2021 should:

- Check the contract tracing listed sites and get tested if necessary.
- If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, wear a mask and get tested.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Get vaccinated.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, or hand sanitiser regularly.
- Use the Check-In app whenever you visit a venue.

Get vaccinated

The TSLDMG strongly recommends all members of the local community to get vaccinated at the earliest opportunity.

Vaccinations are currently being administered by the Thursday Island Pharmacy and the Health Clinics on the outer Torres Strait islands.

Testing sites

All Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Services sites have testing capability although Point of Care testing is available at the following sites:

Thursday Island Hospital

Media Enquires:

Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG):
Phone. 07 4069 1336 Email. admin@torres.qld.gov.au

Saibai Island Health Centre
Boigu Island Health Centre
Badu Island Health Centre
Bamaga Hospital

Travel

The TSLDMG request that you carefully consider any travel at this time and make an informed decision.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN ONE OF THE ELEVEN LOCKED DOWN AREA LISTED BELOW

From 4 pm AEST Saturday 31 July 2021 to 4 pm AEST Sunday 8 August, local government areas (LGA) in southeast Queensland are subject to new lock down restrictions.

The LGAs are:

- City of Brisbane
- City of Gold Coast
- City of Ipswich
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan City
- Moreton Bay Region
- Noosa Shire Council
- Redland City
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Anyone who has been in a lock down area on or since 31 July 2021 it is mandatory that you follow the restrictions [see <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/restrictions-impacted-areas>]

You can only leave your home (including temporary accommodation such as a holiday rental) for essential purposes:

- get essential goods or services, including healthcare.
- exercise within a 10 km radius of your home with one other person or members of your household.
- attend essential work or volunteering
 - if you can work from home, you must work from home.
 - additional requirements exist for people leaving a locked down area to work at a hospital, aged care facility or disability accommodation service.
- attend school or childcare - school and childcare is only open for children of essential workers or vulnerable children.
- provide assistance, care or support to a vulnerable person or family member or visit a terminally ill relative.
- provide childcare as part of an alternate childcare arrangement.
- get a COVID-19 test or vaccination.

- fulfil an obligation relating to shared parenting, child contact or contact between siblings.
- in an emergency.
- for safety reasons (to avoid injury or illness, or to escape a risk of harm).
- as directed by an emergency officer.
- to follow an exemption you have been granted by the Chief Health Officer
- attend any court or tribunal of Australia or comply with or give effect to orders of the court or tribunal.
- assist with or participate in an investigation or other action by a law enforcement authority, whether voluntarily or not.

You should stay within 10km of your home whenever possible. You can go further than 10km for an essential purpose, but you must stay within the locked down area unless an exception applies. You cannot travel further than 10 km for exercise.

You **must** wear a face mask when leaving your home, if you cannot wear a face mask you are not to leave your residence.

TSLDMG urges community to continue to maintain COVID safe practices to keep our communities and region safe.

ENDS