

## Hospital entry restrictions for persons who are unvaccinated

From 17 December 2021, Public Health Directions for hospital entry will change to require all visitors (a person who is not a patient) who enter a Queensland hospital facility to be fully vaccinated. This means if you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you won't be able to enter the hospital to visit a patient unless you receive approval from an approved hospital delegate.

We understand this may cause some distress; however, these restrictions are in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our patients and staff safe.

### Visitors who are under the age of 16

There are no restrictions for unvaccinated siblings and other visitors under the age of 16.

### I want to visit a patient in hospital. Will I be allowed in?

All visitors who attend a hospital facility must show proof of their full vaccination status prior to entry. You can demonstrate evidence of vaccination status via the Check In QLD app.

Visitors who are unvaccinated can visit if they:

- are a child under 16
- unable to receive COVID-19 vaccination because of a medical reason and can provide evidence of this
- are a COVID-19 vaccine trial participant
- are visiting a patient for end-of-life care
- are a support person for a patient during admission for childbirth
- are a parent/guardian of a child
- carer/support person for someone with a disability.

We encourage all visitors who wish to remain unvaccinated, to make arrangements to connect with the patient by telephone or other virtual means.

### How do I show my vaccination status?

All visitors will need to show their vaccination status prior to entering the hospital. If you have linked your vaccination evidence to the Check In QLD app, a green tick will be displayed on the app screen, after check in using the hospital QR Code. You can also show printed evidence of your immunisation history statement or COVID-19 digital certificate.

### Approval to enter a hospital facility?

Approval to enter the hospital may be provided in some situations e.g. high-risk deterioration, end of life visits, childbirth and emergency situations.

If you are unvaccinated and seeking approval to enter the hospital after 17 December 2021, please speak to the patient's treating team to obtain further information and discuss alternative arrangements for connecting with the patient.

If you meet criteria for hospital entry approval, you can complete a Hospital Entry Approval form by scanning this QR code.



It is recommended you complete this form and await a response prior to attending the facility.

The form can be completed after arriving to the facility however, you may have to wait while we are processing the application.

### Conditions of entry for unvaccinated visitors of patients who are children

As an unvaccinated parent, carer or guardian of a person under age 18 you may enter a healthcare facility if the following conditions are met:

- only one unvaccinated visitor is able to accompany/visit a child or young person to an appointment or admission.
- wear a single-use surgical face mask.
- limit your movements to bedside and ensure you can safely physically distance from others.
- must have a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of entering the hospital for all admissions.

If you have visited within the past 24 hrs you must have had a COVID-19 test prior to re-entering the facility in the same 24-hour period.

### Conditions of entry for unvaccinated visitors of adult patients

As an unvaccinated person you must have prior approval from a hospital delegate prior to entering the hospital/healthcare facility and:

- only one unvaccinated visitor is able to attend
- wear a single-use surgical face mask.
- limit your movements to bedside and ensure they can safely physically distance from others.
- you must have a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of entering the hospital for all admissions.
- if you have visited within the last 24hrs you must have had a COVID-19 test prior to re-entering the facility in the same 24-hour period.

### Where to get tested

Visitors who are unvaccinated, can request a test from the staff on the ward where the patient is admitted. Alternatively, you can attend the nearest testing clinic at your earliest convenience.



### Where to get vaccinated

Scan this QR code to find the nearest vaccination location to you.



### I am vaccinated but don't own a personal device? How can I prove my vaccination status?

Visitors who do not have a personal device to show their vaccination status will need to:

- Verify their identity by showing a form of photo identification e.g. driver's license
- Verify their vaccination status by showing a printed copy of:
  - Immunisation History statement Or
  - COVID-19 digital certificate.

### I can't have a COVID-19 vaccination for medical reasons

If you can't get any of the approved COVID-19 vaccines for medical reasons:

- Your doctor will need to update your record on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to say you have a medical contraindication.
- You can then use your statement or certificate as proof of your vaccination status

*Note: If you're recovering from a severe illness, your medical contraindication may only be valid for a few months. In this case, your COVID-19 digital certificate will show a 'valid to' date. After this time, your COVID-19 digital certificate will not be valid for entry to a hospital facility.*

### How do I link/add my vaccination certificate to the Check in QLD app?

#### Check In QLD app

If you're using the Check In Qld mobile app:

1. Make sure you've updated the Check In Qld app.
2. Open the app and open the menu from the top left hand side.
3. Select 'COVID-19 digital certificate' and tap 'add certificate' via myGov.
4. Log-in to your myGov account, scroll to 'Proof of COVID-19 vaccination' and then select 'Go to Medicare'.
5. Tap 'View history' and choose 'Share with check in app' and choose to share with Check In Qld.
6. Tap 'Accept and share', then 'Accept'

#### Express Plus Medicare mobile app

If you're using the Express Plus Medicare mobile app:

1. Select 'Proof of vaccinations' from Services.
2. Select 'View history'.
3. Select your name, then 'Share with check in app'.
4. Choose an app to share your certificate with and select 'Share'.

#### Medicare online account through myGov

If you're using your Medicare online account through myGov:

1. Sign in to your myGov account using a browser on your device.
2. Select 'Medicare'.
3. Select 'View proof' in Proof of vaccinations.
4. Select 'View history'.
5. Select your name.
6. Select 'Share with check in app'.

Select 'Check In Qld' and follow the prompts to add your certificate to your profile.

#### Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI)

If you're not eligible for Medicare and need proof of your COVID-19 vaccination online, you'll need an Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI). You can get an IHI through myGov.

1. Sign in to your myGov account using a browser on your device.
2. Select 'Individual Healthcare Identifiers service'.
3. Select 'Immunisation history'.
4. Select 'Share with check in app'.
5. Select 'Check In Qld' and follow the prompts to add your digital certificate to your profile.

### Under what circumstances may a visitor be granted an approval to enter if they are not fully vaccinated?

The hospital delegate will consider granting approval for hospital entry for unvaccinated visitors who are:

- The parent, guardian or carer for a patient under the age of 18
- A partner and /or support person/s when the patient is admitted for care related to their pregnancy. This person

will be granted access to limited areas for a period of time specified by the treating team

- Carer for a patient with a disability
- Support person for emergency or critical care situation
- Supporting end-of-life patient.

These people will be required to answer the hospital screening questions prior to entry. Requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the hospital delegate. Please be patient, you will receive an outcome as soon as possible

Unvaccinated visitors requesting approval to enter are encouraged to contact the ward/department they are seeking to visit. The ward will assist a visitor to understand the eligible reasons a person can apply for hospital entry and assist the person to complete a request.

Visitors who are granted approval will be required to follow additional restrictions during their visits. These will be outlined at time of approval.

### **If I am granted approval to enter, as an unvaccinated individual, will there be additional restrictions I must follow?**

Yes, there will be additional restrictions you must follow to protect the hospital and its occupants.

These include:

- Visitor limitations – There maybe limitations placed on the number of individuals who can visit a patient at one time.
- Face Mask requirements – It is a requirement for all unvaccinated visitors to wear a single use face mask for the duration of their visit. Personal cloth masks are not permitted.
- Movement restrictions – There will be limitations on your movement within the facility for the duration of your visit/s. During visits, an unvaccinated person must go directly to the patient's bedside and limit their movement elsewhere within the hospital. The use of common areas such as café, patient lounge, retail outlets etc. is not permitted.
- COVID-19 testing requirements – Unvaccinated persons must have a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of entering the hospital. If a person has visited within the last 24hrs they must have a COVID-19 test prior to re-entering the facility in the same 24-hour period

### **I am a parent, carer or guardian of a patient under the age of 18 and I am not vaccinated, can I enter the facility:**

It is important to note that no child or young person or their parent, carer or guardian will be denied access to care or treatment based on their vaccination status.

There will be some restrictions for unvaccinated parents, carers and guardians accompanying a child or young person to healthcare facilities. These include:

#### *Check-in requirements:*

All persons other than staff are required to answer screening questions and check in using the QLD check in app.

#### *Visitor limitation:*

- Only one unvaccinated parent, carer or guardian can accompany a child or young person to an appointment or admission.
- In the event that another parent, carer or guardian is with the patient at the time of your arrival, your access to the facility will not be permitted. Your entry will be reassessed once the patient's unvaccinated visitor leaves the facility.

#### *Face Mask requirements*

An accompanying unvaccinated parent, carer or guardian must wear a single-use surgical face mask and will be required to limit their movements to areas where they can safely physically distance from others.

#### *Movement restrictions:*

Unvaccinated parents, carers or guardians cannot use a family lounge, kitchenette or hospital facilities.

#### *COVID-19 testing requirements:*

- A COVID-19 test will be required each time an unvaccinated parent, carer or guardian swaps with a vaccinated parent, carer or guardian
- The unvaccinated accompanying parent, carer or guardian must have a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of entering the hospital for all admissions.

### **I am a support person to a patient who is due to give birth in the near future:**

A support person to patients admitted for child birth will be permitted to enter the hospital, however there will be restrictions for individuals who are unvaccinated. These include:

#### *Check-in requirements:*

All persons other than staff are required to answer screening questions and check in using the QLD check in app.

#### *Face Mask requirements:*

The unvaccinated support person must wear a single-use surgical face mask for the duration of the birthing process.

#### *Movement restrictions:*

- Unvaccinated support person can't use a family lounge, kitchenette or hospital facilities.

#### *COVID-19 testing requirements:*

- The unvaccinated support person must have a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of entering the hospital

**What if I need to provide support to someone who requires emergency care and I am not vaccinated e.g. requiring entry to an Emergency Department? Can I enter the facility?**

Individuals who are providing support to someone who requires emergency care will be permitted entry, however there will be restrictions for individuals who are unvaccinated. These include:

*Face Mask requirements:*

The unvaccinated individual must wear a single-use surgical face mask for the duration of their time spent in the emergency department

*Movement restrictions:*

- Unvaccinated support persons can't use a family lounge, kitchenette or hospital facilities.

*COVID-19 testing requirements:*

- The unvaccinated support person must have a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of entering the hospital.

**Can I visit someone who has been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit if I am not vaccinated?**

Unvaccinated Individuals who are providing support to or are visiting someone who requires Intensive Care treatment will need to apply to be considered for entry to the hospital. There will be restrictions for unvaccinated individuals who are provided approval to enter the facility. These include:

*Movement restrictions:*

- The unvaccinated individual will be permitted access to the Intensive Care Unit at all times throughout the duration of the patient's admission period.
- The unvaccinated individual will be required to leave the hospital directly from the Intensive Care Unit after each respective visit and will not be permitted to access other areas in the hospital e.g. café, retail outlets, family lounge, kitchenette or hospital facilities.

*Face Mask requirements:*

The unvaccinated individual must wear a single-use surgical face mask for the duration of their visit/s

*COVID-19 testing requirements:*

- The unvaccinated individual must have a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of entering the hospital.
- If a person has visited ICU within the last 24hrs and leaves the hospital they must have a COVID-19 test prior to re-entering the facility in the same 24-hour period.

**I would like to know more about COVID-19**

To stay informed and read the latest announcements about COVID-19 and up-to-date advice for your situation, go to <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. If your health deteriorates or you have any further questions regarding your condition, please contact your GP.