

Enquiries to: Health Directions Enquiry Service
E-mail: [REDACTED]
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Queensland Health

[REDACTED]
A/Director-General
Department of Education

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Approval for Queensland residents attending school in a COVID-19 hotspot to re-enter Queensland – *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)*

I, Dr Lynne McKinlay, Deputy Chief Health Officer, have provided an exemption on the conditions set out below for Queensland residents who attend school in a COVID-19 hotspot as an exempt class of persons under *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)* or its successors, or unless amended or revoked, for the students and accompanying adult/s defined in paragraph 2.

This approval only applies to Queensland residents attending school in a COVID-19 hotspot who are returning to Queensland for the end of year (2021) school holidays, or because their school has been closed due to interstate lockdowns. It also covers any accompanying adult conveying the student to or from Queensland. It does not permit Queensland residents or their accompanying adult to enter Queensland for any other purpose except as permitted under the *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)*, or its successors.

1. This class exemption applies until **31 December 2021**, unless it is amended or revoked.
2. In this document:
 - a. ***Accompanying adult*** means a parent, guardian or other responsible adult accompanying ***students*** or travelling in connection with the conveyance of ***students*** to Queensland. This is limited to two accompanying adults. Any travel undertaken that is additional or ancillary to the conveyance is outside of the scope of this class exemption and it will no longer apply;
 - b. ***ACT, Greater Sydney, Victoria student*** means a student enrolled in a school who is a Queensland resident re-entering Queensland from a Local Government Area in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Greater Sydney, or Victoria that is a ***COVID-19 hotspot***;
 - c. ***COVID-19 hotspot*** means a COVID-19 hotspot declared by the Queensland Chief Health Officer;
 - d. ***COVID-19 PCR test*** means an oropharyngeal and deep nasal swab for a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test approved for use in Australia by the

Therapeutic Goods Administration to detect whether a person has the COVID-19 virus.

- e. **COVID-19 vaccine** means a COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration or endorsed by WHO-COVAX where the vaccine was obtained overseas.
- f. **Emergency officer (public health)** means an emergency officer appointed under the *Public Health Act 2005*;
- g. **Face mask** means a flat surgical mask, P2/N95 mask or a cloth face mask with three layers that covers the nose and mouth (but does not include a face shield);

Note: a scarf or bandana is not a face mask.

- h. **Fully vaccinated** means the person has received the prescribed number of doses of a **COVID-19 vaccine**.
- i. **Government-nominated accommodation** means hotel or other accommodation premises at which the person is directed to quarantine by an **emergency officer (public health)**;
- j. **Interstate exposure venue** means a place that is:
 - i. identified by the relevant government authority for the State or Territory as a venue where a person who was present at that venue during an exposure period is required to quarantine, isolate, or be tested for COVID-19 and isolate until they receive a negative result or for another period due to potential exposure to COVID-19; and
 - ii. published on the Queensland Health website.
- k. **Non-restricted border zone** means the local government areas decided by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website

Note: these areas are represented on the map approved by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/covid19/travel-declaration-map>

- l. **Private residence** means a self-contained dwelling with no shared common areas accessible by any persons other than those residing in the property;

Note: A self-contained dwelling may include a duplex or townhouse where there are no shared common areas and entry to the property is separate from other dwellings. It can also include temporary commercial accommodation (for example, a holiday rental or Air BnB). It does not include a hotel room.

- m. **Private transport** means:
 - i. a private vehicle driven by an **accompanying adult** or **students**; or
 - ii. a hire vehicle obtained via contactless collection for use solely by the **accompanying adult** and/or **students** for a permitted purpose during the quarantine period at the private residence; or
 - iii. if travel by (i) to (ii) are unavailable, by taxi with a protective shield between driver and passenger or a maxi taxi, but this mode of private transport may not be used to attend a drive through COVID-19 PCR testing clinic.
 - iv. if travel by (i) to (iii) are unavailable, a taxi or ride share sitting in the back seat on the passenger side.

Note: Travel in a private vehicle may include being driven by a household member of the quarantining person who will also be quarantining. It does not include any form of public transport.

- n. **Regional NSW student** means a student enrolled in a school interstate who is a Queensland resident re-entering Queensland from a Local Government Area in New South Wales that is a **COVID-19 hotspot** and:
- i. includes the **restricted border zone**; but excludes
 - ii. Greater Sydney; or
 - iii. the **non-restricted border zone**.

- o. **Restricted border zone** means the local government areas decided by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website.

Note: these areas are represented on the map approved by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/covid19/travel-declaration-map>

- p. **Students** means both of **Regional NSW student** and **ACT, Greater Sydney, Victoria student**;

- q. **Symptoms consistent with COVID-19** means fever or history of fever, symptoms of acute respiratory infection (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat), loss of smell, loss of taste, runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting or fatigue.

Entry to Queensland

3. **Students** and an **accompanying adult** are permitted to enter Queensland as follows:
- a. A **Regional NSW student** and **accompanying adult** may enter by road or air.
 - b. An **ACT, Greater Sydney, Victoria student** and **accompanying adult** may enter by air only.
 - c. An **accompanying adult** entering by road or air, whichever is permitted, must be in the company of the **students** in the course of conveying them to a **private residence** or **government-nominated accommodation** to quarantine in accordance with paragraph 6a.
 - d. An **accompanying adult** and **students** entering by road or air, whichever is permitted, must be **fully vaccinated** for COVID-19 prior to entering Queensland. They may be asked to demonstrate evidence of their vaccination on entry. This class exemption will apply to any **students** under 12 years of age as if they were fully vaccinated.
 - e. An **accompanying adult** and **students** entering by road or air, whichever is permitted, must undertake a **COVID-19 PCR test** and receive a negative test result within 72 hours prior to their entry into Queensland. They may be asked to demonstrate evidence of their negative **COVID-19 PCR test** on entry.
 - f. An **accompanying adult** and **students** who do not meet the vaccination requirement in paragraph 3(d) must only enter Queensland by air into Brisbane, Gold Coast or Cairns airports and will be required to undertake quarantine in accordance with paragraph 6b.

Queensland Border Declaration Pass

4. Any **students** or **accompanying adult** entering Queensland in accordance with paragraph 3, must apply for and receive a Queensland Border Declaration Pass prior to entering Queensland, unless they already have a valid Queensland Border Declaration Pass.

Note: You must describe the right of entry as 'I have an exemption granted by the Chief Health Officer' and you will be issued a Queensland Border Declaration Z-Pass.

5. Any **students** or **accompanying adult** must comply with all requirements under the *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)*, or its successors, in relation to the Queensland Border Declaration Pass.

Quarantine

6. Any **students** and **accompanying adult** permitted to enter Queensland in accordance with paragraph 3, must quarantine for:
- 14 days at a **private residence** in accordance with paragraphs 7 to 13; or
 - 14 days in **government-nominated accommodation** in accordance with paragraphs 14 to 16.

Private residence

7. Any **students** and **accompanying adult** permitted to enter Queensland in accordance with paragraph 3, who are quarantining in a **private residence** must:
- quarantine in a **private residence** and remain in place for a period of 14 days commencing on the date of their arrival; or
 - quarantine in a **private residence** and remain in place until such time as all of the **students** and **accompanying adult/s**, if any, leave the **private residence** to leave Queensland provided the **students** and **accompanying adult/s** have obtained a negative **COVID-19 PCR test** before leaving; and
 - travel to the **private residence** in the manner instructed by an **emergency officer (public health)**, or if not instructed by an **emergency officer (public health)**, by the most direct practical route and means to the place using **private transport**; and
 - not leave the **private residence** for a 14-day period, except:
 - for the purposes of obtaining essential medical care at a hospital; or
 - to avoid injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm; or
 - in the event of an emergency situation; or
 - to undertake a **COVID-19 PCR test**; or
 - to leave Queensland by the most direct route without stopping via the same method as is permitted under paragraph 3; or
 - if a person in quarantine is a minor, for the purpose of traveling in **private transport** to reside in a second premises to fulfil an existing obligation relating to shared parenting or child contact provided:
 - neither the **students, accompanying adult** nor the minor has symptoms consistent with COVID-19; and
 - the **students** and **accompanying adult** has had a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the 24 hours prior to the minor moving to the second premises; and
- Note: this subparagraph only applies to established and/or long-term arrangements e.g. a week-on week-off shared parenting arrangement.*
- not permit any other person to enter the **private residence** unless that other person:
 - resides in the **private residence** and is also quarantining at the **private residence**; or
 - enters to provide emergency, medical or other essential care to a person residing in the **private residence**, including a COVID-19 test; or
 - enters to respond to an emergency situation; or
 - is an essential worker required to attend the property; or
 - enters as otherwise required or permitted under a direction given to the person by an **emergency officer (public health)**.

*Note: where the domestic traveller is permitted under Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53) to end their quarantine period early to leave Queensland (provided they have first obtained a negative **COVID-19 PCR test** result), the household members may also end their home quarantine once the domestic traveller has left.*

*Note: An essential worker may enter the property on which a **private residence** is located if the work that they undertake cannot be delayed, is critical to the functioning of the property and they need to be physically present to complete the work. For example, a farm worker may attend a property for work but may not enter the **private residence** where persons are quarantining. Alternatively, a cleaner or gardener cannot attend a **private residence** to provide services during the quarantine period.*

8. An **accompanying adult** quarantining in a **private residence** is required to comply with the *Use of Technology to Support Home Quarantine Direction*, or its successors, if directed to do so by an **emergency officer (public health)**.
9. An **accompanying adult** quarantining in a **private residence** is required to maintain contact records for any essential worker attending the property in accordance with paragraph 7 during the quarantine period. The records that are required to be kept are:
 - a. the date, time and location at which the essential worker entered the property; and
 - b. if possible, the name, phone number and email address of the essential worker who entered the property.
10. Any records required to be kept under paragraph 8 must be provided to an **emergency officer (public health)** or contact tracing officer, if requested
11. All persons residing in a **private residence** will be required to quarantine in accordance with paragraph 6a.

*Note: This will include persons other than **students** and an **accompanying adult**. For example, if there are other family members residing in the **private residence** at the time that the **students** and **accompanying adult** enter then they will also be required to quarantine with the **students** and **accompanying adult**.*

12. During the quarantine period the Queensland Police Service, local Public Health Unit or other Queensland Government service may conduct random compliance and welfare checks of persons in quarantine in a **private residence**. Any persons found to be in breach of their quarantine requirements may be subject to a penalty and arrangements made for persons to complete quarantine at **government-nominated accommodation** at the **accompanying adult's** expense.
13. All costs incurred for quarantine in accordance with this exemption are the individual's responsibility.

Government-nominated accommodation

14. **Students** under 18 years of age must have an **accompanying adult** to enter **government-nominated accommodation**.
15. Any **students** and an **accompanying adult** quarantining in **government-nominated accommodation** will be required to comply with all Schedule 2 quarantine requirements under *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)*, or its successors.
16. All quarantine in **government-nominated accommodation** is at the **accompanying adult's** expense.

COVID-19 testing

17. Any **students** and an **accompanying adult** who have entered Queensland from a COVID-19 hotspot and are quarantining in accordance with paragraph 6a, are required to undertake a **COVID-19 PCR test** on day 1, 5 and 12 of the quarantine period.

Note: Where possible, testing should be undertaken at a drive-through COVID-19 testing centre.

18. All other persons residing in the **private residence** who have been directed to quarantine are not required to undertake a **COVID-19 PCR test** during the quarantine period unless paragraph 21 applies.
19. All persons in quarantine in a **private residence** in accordance with paragraph 6a are required to undertake a **COVID-19 PCR test** if they have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, regardless how mild, at any stage during the quarantine period or as otherwise directed by an **emergency officer (public health)**.
20. If any person required to be tested under this class exemption refuses to be tested then they will be required to complete a further 14 days of quarantine.
21. Should any person quarantining in accordance with paragraph 6a test positive to COVID-19 then they, and any close contacts, will be managed by the local Public Health Unit and this class exemption no longer applies.
22. Any **students** and an **accompanying adult** quarantining in **government-nominated accommodation** will be required to comply with all Schedule 2 quarantine requirements under *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)*, or its successors.

Face masks

23. Any **students**, **accompanying adult**, or other persons quarantining in a **private residence** in accordance with paragraph 6a must carry a **face mask** and wear the mask:
 - a. during transit; or
 - b. whenever leaving the **private residence** for a permitted purpose outlined in paragraph 7; or
 - c. a person enters the **private residence** as permitted under paragraph 7.
24. Any **students** and an **accompanying adult** quarantining in **government-nominated accommodation** will be required to comply with all Schedule 2 quarantine requirements under *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)*, or its successors.
25. **Face masks** are only required to be worn by persons who are aged 12 years or older.

Transport

26. Any **students**, **accompanying adult**, or other persons quarantining in a **private residence** in accordance with paragraph 6a who are travelling:
 - a. to the **private residence** to commence quarantine; or
 - b. to or from the **private residence** for a permitted purpose outlined in paragraph 7; must:
 - i. use **private transport**; and
 - ii. wear a **face mask** at all times while in transit; and
 - iii. travel by the most direct route practicable, only stopping for essential fuel or fatigue management, in an emergency, or if directed to stop by law enforcement, and ensure contact-less exchanges; or
 - iv. for a **COVID-19 PCR test**, travel directly without stopping except in an emergency or if directed to stop by law enforcement, to and from the testing facility.

Note: Public transport must not be used. Private transport to leave Queensland may include an airplane. These transport rules do not apply to anyone leaving quarantine in an emergency.

27. Any **students** or **accompanying adult** leaving Queensland must leave by the same method that they were permitted to enter.

28. Any **students** and an **accompanying adult** quarantining in **government-nominated accommodation** will be required to comply with all Schedule 2 quarantine requirements under *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 53)*, or its successors.

Documentation and other requirements

29. To enter Queensland under this class exemption, **students** and an **accompanying adult** must carry a copy of the following, and present them if requested to do so by an **emergency officer (public health)**:

- a. Queensland Border Declaration Pass for each individual (Z-Pass);
- b. copy of this class exemption;
- c. student identification card demonstrating enrolment at an interstate school;
- d. driver's licence or other form of ID for **accompanying adult**;
- e. contact details for **accompanying adult**, including, name, phone number, email address and quarantine location.

30. The class exemption does not apply to anyone who has:

- a. been overseas in the 14 days prior to entering Queensland;
- b. been to an **interstate exposure venue**; or
- c. had known contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
- d. been diagnosed with COVID-19 and is not yet cleared; or
- e. **symptoms consistent with COVID-19**, unless cleared by a medical practitioner and able to provide a negative COVID-19 test no greater than 3 days prior to travel.

This exemption has been approved based on the Public Health Directions and COVID-19 hotspot declarations in place at the time of approval. It is the **student's** and an **accompanying adult's** responsibility to review the Public Health Directions and hotspot declarations at the time of their entry to Queensland to determine if they are subject to any amended requirements or obligations.

Yours sincerely



Dr Lynne McKinlay
Deputy Chief Health Officer
Queensland Health
12 November 2021