Friday 28 August 2020

Hi,

Epidemiology

- 3 new cases in Queensland overnight – all appear linked to the Queensland Corrective Services Academy cluster, all aged in their 30s, one case from Forest Lake and two from Pimpama on the Gold Coast.

Directions extend to the Gold Coast LGA

- As a result of the two new cases in Pimpama, health care facilities in the Gold Coast local government area (LGA) will be subject to the following directions from 8 am tomorrow (Saturday 29 August):
  - **Aged Care Direction**: restrictions on public and private residential aged care facilities.
  - **Hospital Visitors Direction**: no visitors to public or private hospitals unless permitted by the facility.
  - **Disability Accommodation Services Direction**: physical distancing and risk mitigation measures.
- The Gold Coast LGA will also be subject to the **Movement and Gathering Direction**, which restricts public gatherings and gatherings in home to 10 people, from 8am tomorrow.
- Enhanced PPE requirements will also be in place from 8 am tomorrow for Queensland Health facilities and residential aged care and disability accommodation services. QAS will also extend its current PPE advice to include the Gold Coast LGA region. This mirrors the directions and recommendations which continue to apply to the Greater Brisbane area, resulting from the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre cluster.

Practical tip

- We had queries about hair and hair covers and the risk of COVID-19. The IMT provided the following response:
  - ‘the [national guidance for PPE in hospitals](#) (including the new version soon to be published) states that “Head covering is not required except as part of standard operating theatre attire or when performing a sterile/aseptic procedure (e.g. central line insertion).”’
  - There is also no recommendation for head/hair coverings as part of the PPE in either the World Health Organization guidance or the US CDC.
  - When wearing PPE, loose or long hair should be tied/pinned back and hand hygiene should always be performed immediately after removal of each item of PPE. Healthcare workers should be aware that removal of PPE is a process that carries a high risk of self-contamination and they should perform PPE removal in a careful and methodical way.

Kind regards,

Carl

A/Prof Carl de Wet MBChB DRCOG FRACGP FRCGP MMed PhD
Clinical Lead | Primary Health Network | Gold Coast
Clinical Lead | Healthcare Improvement Unit | Queensland Health
About this Document:

- This document was an e-mail sent to a wide range of primary care staff and clinicians. The content is related to COVID-19 and the Queensland response and is intended for the free use and wide dissemination by the recipients or anyone else who access this webpage.
- Every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date. If you become aware of any issues, please notify us so we can amend our documents.
- Please provide any feedback or contact us using our e-mail COVID19-PC@health.qld.gov.au. Please note that the inbox is not continuously monitored, and we may not be able to respond to every message.