

CHO ESO

From: SHECC
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 7:35 AM
To: Jeannette Young; Peter Aitken; Mark Elcock
Cc: Scott Kitchener; SHECC
Subject: Blackwater death - new test result negative

Importance: High

Good morning all

We have just spoken to CQ HEOC and they have advised the second test result has come back negative for COVID 19. CQ has requested that Scott make direct contact with Gulam Khandaker, Director Public Health Unit.

Will provide further updates as received.

Thanks
 Kim



**State Health Emergency
 Coordination Centre**

SHECC
 Prevention Division | Queensland Health

P [REDACTED]
 E [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au
 W health.qld.gov.au
 A 33 Charlotte Street

**CLEAN HANDS
 SAVE LIVES**

Wash your hands regularly to stop the spread of germs



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CHO ESO

From: Scott Kitchener
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:41 AM
To: Jeannette Young
Subject: Re: Blackwater death - new test result negative

Thanks. Will call Gulam again. See my last RE PM reliability of testing.

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From: Jeannette Young <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:22:36 AM
To: SHECC <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Peter Aitken <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Mark Elcock <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Scott Kitchener <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Blackwater death - new test result negative

Yes urgent need to go to CQ

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From: SHECC <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:58:25 AM
To: Jeannette Young <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Peter Aitken <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Mark Elcock <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Scott Kitchener <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Blackwater death - new test result negative

Hi all

Scott believes action to proceed with travel to Blackwater is still required. Please disregard previous email.

Thanks
 Kim

From: SHECC
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 7:35 AM
To: Jeannette Young <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Peter Aitken <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Mark Elcock <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Scott Kitchener <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; SHECC <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Blackwater death - new test result negative
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Will provide further updates as received.

Thanks
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**State Health Emergency
Coordination Centre**

SHECC

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E [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au
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RTI RELEASE

EpiCOVID-19

From: EpiCOVID-19
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 12:21 PM
To: [REDACTED].com
Subject: Fwd: Sudden death Blackwater - confidential

s.73

[REDACTED]

Note second GeneXpert was negative but my forensic micro advice is that the first is likely a true pos and the second a false neg contaminated with blood. So appropriate we progress with full public health response.

Scott

s.73

[REDACTED]

RTI RELEASE



RTI RELEASE

Philip Hood

From: Michel Lok
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 4:46 PM
To: Philip Hood
Subject: FW: Plan for testing Blackwater case [REDACTED]

Philip,

Current testing details below.

Should it be required, Forensic Pathologists can take samples for culture (this is frequently done through labs). This presumes the tests are needed to assist in determining the cause and circumstances of a death. I would assume further direction from the Coroner may be needed to take samples for any other purpose.

M



Michel Lok GAICD, CPA
 General Manager

Community and Scientific Services
 Health Support Queensland, Queensland Health

p 07 [REDACTED] m [REDACTED]
 a Level 5, 41 O'Connell Terrace, Bowen Hills QLD 4006
 e [REDACTED] health.qld.gov.au w Health Support Queensland

From: Sanmarie Schlebusch [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 4:37 PM
To: Michel Lok [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Lee Smythe <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Frederick Moore <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Plan for testing Blackwater case [REDACTED]

Hi Michel,

Lee asked to email you with the plan going forward for testing of the deceased case from Blackwater [REDACTED].

1. Deceased case:
 - Two respiratory samples that were tested for SARS-CoV-2 on GeneXpert (one reported as positive and the other as negative), will be forwarded to PQ for respiratory virus PCR panel. The samples will be split by PQ and sent to FSS for confirmatory SARS-CoV-2 PCR.
 - There are no other samples from this case collected pre or post mortem at this stage.

The Forensic Pathologist will await outcome of the additional PCR testing performed by PQ and FSS before determining what further investigation is required post mortem. Noting that the body has not arrived at FSS yet, but arrangements are underway for transfer.

Kind regards
Sanmarie'



Dr. Sanmarié Schlebusch MBChB, AMC Cert., FRCPA, MASM, GradCertBus, GAICD, AFCHSM

[Principal Clinical Microbiologist](#)
**Public and Environmental Health &
Queensland Reference Centre for Microbial and Public Health Genomics (MPHG),
Forensic and Scientific Services**

Clinical Microbiologist
Pathology Queensland

Health Support Queensland, Queensland Health

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Integrity

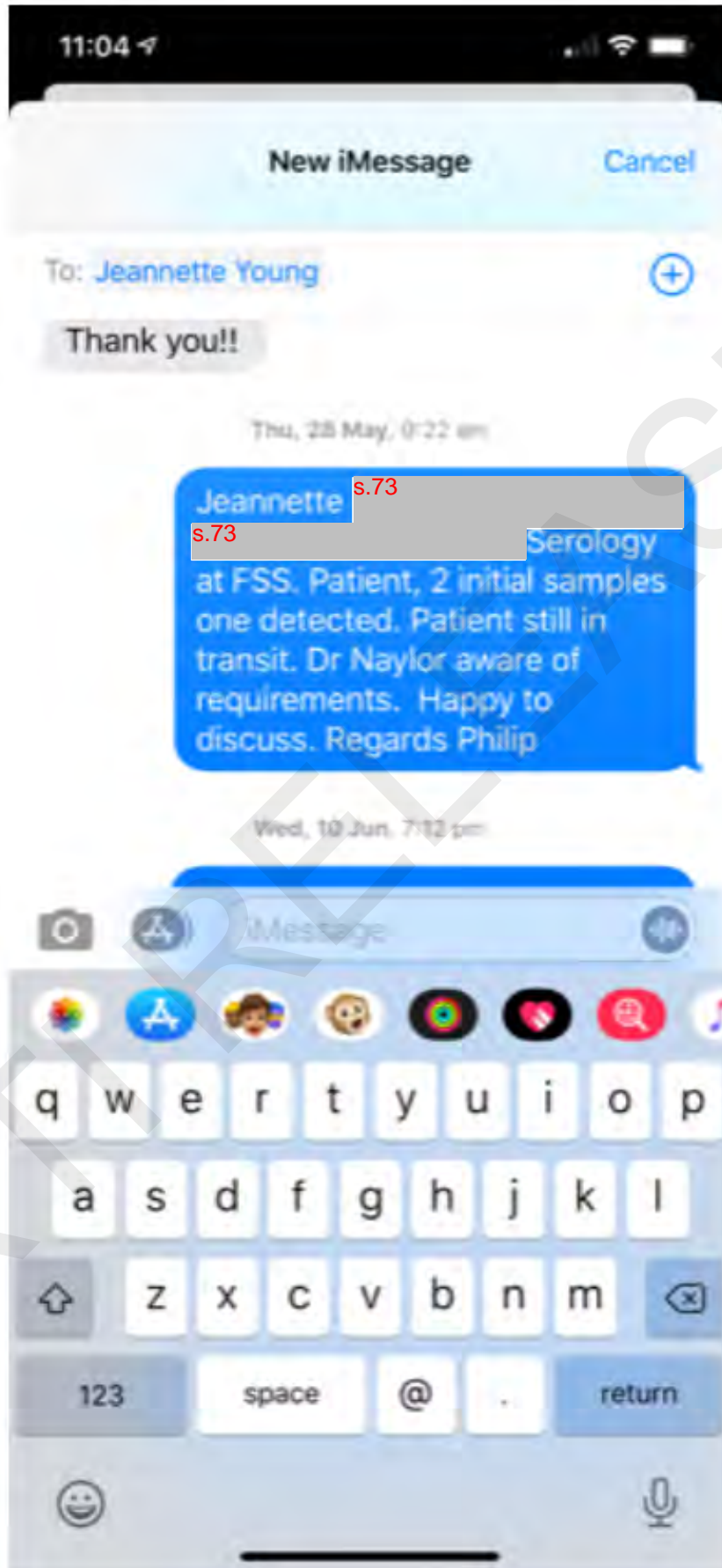
Customers and patients first

Accountability

Respect

Engagement

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Philip Hood

From: Michel Lok
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 3:28 PM
To: Philip Hood
Subject: FW: Backwater case

Philip,

Charles has provided a good summary for any discussion you may want to have with the CHO.

In essence, it is unlikely an invasive autopsy will be undertaken, though sampling for serology will be performed.

The body remains in Emerald, but I have made arrangements with CQ to release the body at 4am, meaning the body will arrive early afternoon.

M



Michel Lok GAICD, CPA
 General Manager

Community and Scientific Services
 Health Support Queensland, Queensland Health

p [redacted] m [redacted]
 a Level 5, 41 O'Connell Terrace, Bowen Hills QLD 4006
 e [redacted] [health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au) w [Health Support Queensland](http://HealthSupportQueensland.com.au)

From: John Doherty [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 2:52 PM
To: Michel Lok [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Backwater case

FYI – Charles' suggested discussion point for Philip if he wishes to discuss the case with Dr Young

From: Charles Naylor [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 2:47 PM
To: John Doherty [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Deborah Whelan [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Backwater case

Dear John - please let me if the points that follow are sufficient - Charles

- [redacted] died in Blackwater on 26 May with flu like symptoms, as well as a history of other conditions. [redacted]
- Police reported the death to the Central Coroner because no Cause of Death Certificate was issued and arranged transfer of the body to Emerald Hospital Mortuary.

- A number of swabs taken from the deceased and [REDACTED] have given conflicting results for Covid-19 and are currently being re-tested at FSS, results due late Thursday afternoon.
- Discussions between the Central Coroner and Chief Forensic Pathologist on Wednesday resulted in agreement for the body to be transferred to FSS for CT scan, further sampling and testing, and potentially an invasive coronial autopsy, to the extent considered necessary by the Central Coroner. The latter is unlikely to occur if tests confirm Covid-19.
- Staff at FSS had expected the deceased to reach FSS on Thursday afternoon. However, the Central Coroner has advised that the deceased is scheduled to be at FSS by 1.00 pm on Friday. It is understood that this may have been related to staffing issues with the Government Undertaker contracted by the Coroners Court. **Resolved**
- Assuming the body arrives at FSS on Friday afternoon as planned, FSS staff will perform a CT scan and sampling as promptly as possible, in keeping with the Central Coroner's Order.
- It is not inconceivable that testing might show that [REDACTED] did not have Covid-19, or that he died of other conditions recorded in his medical history. It is also possible that, based on further testing, a doctor may be able to form an opinion as the cause of death, obliging him/her to issue a Cause of Death Certificate that is then accepted by the Coroner.

Dr Charles Naylor, Chief Forensic Pathologist

Mobile [REDACTED]

I'm working from home, contactable by mobile & email.

Please call or text for urgent matters.

COVID-19.IMT

From: Thi Aung
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 10:43 AM
To: Sanmarie Schlebusch; Sonya Bennett; COVID [REDACTED]
Cc: Charles Naylor; Frederick Moore; Gulam Khandaker; Scott Kitchener
Subject: HPE CM: RE: Update on testing for Blackwater case

Categories: Noted

Thank you Sanmarie for your update. I would like to let you know that I won't be attending IMT at 11 to discuss blackwater case as Gulam is leading the case and he will attend the meeting to discuss further.

Kindest Regards,
 Thi

From: Sanmarie Schlebusch [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 6:17 PM
To: Sonya Bennett [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; COVID [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Charles Naylor [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Frederick Moore [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Gulam Khandaker [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Thi Aung [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Scott Kitchener [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Update on testing for Blackwater case

Hi,
 All SARS-CoV-2 NAT testing now complete on samples from the Deceased ([REDACTED]) and all not detected (negative).

There are no other samples from the Deceased ([REDACTED]) collected pre or post mortem at this stage. The body is expected to arrive at FSS about 2 pm tomorrow.

A meeting at 11 am including the Director of Forensic Pathology at FSS will discuss possibility of further sample collection from the Deceased ([REDACTED]) including blood for serology.

Kind regards
 Sanmarie

From: Sonya Bennett [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 17:33
To: [REDACTED] IMT; Sanmarie Schlebusch
Cc: Charles Naylor; Frederick Moore; Gulam Khandaker; Thi Aung; Scott Kitchener
Subject: Re: Update on testing for Blackwater case

Thanks SanMarie
 Is serology on the possible case possible and pending.
 I had understood it was
 Kind regards
 Sonya

From: COVID [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 5:03:42 PM
To: Sanmarie Schlebusch [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Charles Naylor <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Frederick Moore <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>;
Gulam Khandaker <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Thi Aung <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Scott Kitchener
<[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Sonya Bennett <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Update on testing for Blackwater case

Thanks again for the update Sanmarie'.

Regards, Candice

Dr Candice Holland
Public Health Registrar

Public Health Incident Management Team (COVID-19)

Email: COVID-19.IMT@health.qld.gov.au

Phone [redacted]

Queensland Health
Prevention Division

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coughing or sneezing to avoid germs and infection.*



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From: Sanmarie Schlebusch <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 5:02 PM

To: COVID-19 <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Charles Naylor <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Frederick Moore <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>;

Gulam Khandaker <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Thi Aung <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Update on testing for Blackwater case

Hi,

Further my email below.

1. Deceased ([redacted])
 - Two upper respiratory samples that were tested for SARS-CoV-2 on GeneXpert (one reported as detected and the other as not detected), have both been tested on 3 NAT (nucleic acid testing)

assays at FSS and SARS-CoV-2 was not detected. Results for the additional 3 NAT assays are still pending, results will be out this evening.

- There are no other samples from this case collected pre or post mortem at this stage. The body is expected to arrive at FSS about 2 pm tomorrow.

A meeting has been scheduled by the IMT at 11 am tomorrow to discuss the results and the plan going forward.

Kind regards
Sanmarie'

From: Sanmarie Schlebusch

Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 1:31 PM

To: COVID [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Charles Naylor <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Frederick Moore <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>;

Gulam Khandaker <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Thi Aung <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Update on testing for Blackwater case

Hi,

As requested update on testing, results and planned testing for the deceased case [REDACTED]

1. Deceased case:

- Two upper respiratory samples that were tested for SARS-CoV-2 on GeneXpert (one reported as detected and the other as not detected), have both been tested on 3 NAT (nucleic acid testing) assays at FSS and SARS-CoV-2 was not detected. Another 3 SARS-CoV-2 NAT assays are also currently running and results will be available late afternoon / early evening.
- There are no other samples from this case collected pre or post mortem at this stage. The body was expected late today but I believe is now expected tomorrow.

The Forensic Pathologist will await outcome of the additional testing performed by PQ and FSS before determining what further investigation is required post mortem. Noting that the body has not arrived at FSS yet, but arrangements are underway for transfer.

A meeting to discuss the results and next steps tomorrow morning with FSS, PH, PQ and COVID-IMT would be beneficial to ensure everyone has opportunity to understand the findings and the plan forward.

Kind regards
Sanmarie'



Dr. Sanmarié Schlebusch MBChB, AMC Cert., FRCPA, MASM, GradCertBus, GAICD, AFCHSM

Principal Clinical Microbiologist
**Public and Environmental Health &
Queensland Reference Centre for Microbial and Public Health Genomics (MPHG),
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e [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au w www.health.qld.gov.au/healthsupport



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Sanmarie Schlebusch

From: Sanmarie Schlebusch
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 10:49 AM
To: COVID-19 [REDACTED] Gulam Khandaker; CQ-19 [REDACTED] CQ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] entralQueensland; Scott Kitchener; Frederick Moore; Charles Naylor; Patrick Harris; Petra Derrington; Candice Holland; Suzanne Huxley; Thi Aung
Cc: Aaron Bryant
Subject: RE: Discussion re Blackwater case

Hi everyone,

Just a summary of the results to date:

1. Deceased ([REDACTED]):
 - Two upper respiratory samples that were tested for SARS-CoV-2 on GeneXpert (one reported as detected and the other as not detected):
 - both tested on 3 primary NAT (nucleic acid testing) assays and 3 additional NAT assays at FSS and SARS-CoV-2 was not detected on any assay.
 - There are no other samples from this case collected pre or post mortem at this stage. The body is expected to arrive at FSS about 2 pm.

Kind regards
Sanmarie'

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CHO ESO

From: Scott Kitchener
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 8:01 PM
To: Jeannette Young; Sonya Bennett
Subject: Fwd: Specimen collection for Blackwater case

All negative. Charles will now request further autopsy from the Coroner.

Scott

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From: Sanmarie Schlebusch [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 19:54
To: Charles Naylor; COVID [REDACTED], Gulam Khandaker
Cc: Aaron Bryant; Patrick Harris; CQ [REDACTED], CQ [REDACTED], [REDACTED] CentralQueensland; Scott Kitchener; Frederick Moore; Petra Derrington; Candice Holland; Suzanne Huxley; Thi Aung; Claire Heney
Subject: RE: Specimen collection for Blackwater case

Hi,
Results for testing performed at FSS this evening:
SARS-CoV-2 NAT (nucleic acid testing) 3 assays:

- Lung biopsies: SARS-CoV-2 Not detected (negative)
- Nasopharyngeal swab and oral swab combined: SARS-CoV-2 Not detected (negative)
(pharyngeal swab could not be collected)

SARS-CoV-2 serology:

- IgM non-reactive; IgG non-reactive – Please refer to Auslab for all relevant comments regarding interpretation

Happy to discuss if there are any questions.

Tests referred to PQ

s.73



Kind regards

Sanmarie'

From: Sanmarie Schlebusch

Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 5:02 PM

To: Charles Naylor <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Claire Heney <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; COVID-[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Gulam Khandaker <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Aaron Bryant <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Patrick Harris <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; CQ-[REDACTED] <CQ-[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; CQ-[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; [REDACTED]_CentralQueensland <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Scott Kitchener <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Frederick Moore <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Petra Derrington <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Candice Holland <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Suzanne Huxley <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Thi Aung <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Specimen collection for Blackwater case

Hi all,

Samples have just arrived at FSS PHV. The plan is to perform the NAT testing for SARS-CoV-2 at FSS this evening as well as the SARS-CoV-2 serology.

We will email results through as they become available and if SARS-CoV-2 detected, will also phone the COVID-IMT.

Pathology Queensland's samples are on their way to PQ, as well.

Kind regards

Sanmarie'

RTI RELEASE

RTI RELEASE

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EpiCOVID-19

From: EpiCOVID-19
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2020 9:25 AM
To: EpiCOVID-19
Subject: Att Belinda presentation
Attachments: COVID-19 summary 20200601.pptx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

RTI RELEASE

COVID-19 Clusters/Outbreaks under investigation

7am, 1 June 2020

Reporting period: 09/05/2020-01/06/2020 (COVID-19)		Jurisdiction: Queensland
Clusters / Outbreaks under investigation		
Incident ID / name	No. of cases	Potential source / Comments
Blackwater death	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30y M case resident of Central Queensland under investigation (deceased 26/05/2020). • Date of onset 01/05/2020. Hx 3/52 flu-like illness. • Diagnostics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o GeneXpert COVID-19 positive collect 26/05/2020. o SARS-CoV-2 NAT (nucleic acid testing) 3 assays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lung biopsies: SARS-CoV-2 Not detected (negative) • Nasopharyngeal swab and oral swab combined: SARS-CoV-2 Not detected (negative) (pharyngeal swab could not be collected) • SARS-CoV-2 serology: IgM non-reactive; IgG non-reactive (29/05/2020)

s.73

s.47(3)(b)

COVID-19.IMT

From: Sonya Bennett
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2020 10:25 AM
To: EpiCOVID-19
Cc: Ross Andrews; Scott Kitchener; Heidi Carroll; COVID [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Categories: Epicovid

Hi team
I understand the serology on the Blackwater case was negative
I haven't seen that come through in any of my emails
Were we aware?
Thanks and regards
Sonya

s.73

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RTI RELEASE

Sharon Jaklofsky

Subject: URGENT meeting re [REDACTED] dob [REDACTED] (Deceased person from Blackwater)
Location: TC
Start: Mon 1/06/2020 6:00 PM
End: Mon 1/06/2020 6:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer: Gulam Khandaker
Required Attendees: Steve Williamson (Health Service Chief Executive); Jeannette Young; Scott Kitchener; Charles Naylor; Patrick Harris; Sanmarie Schlebusch; Frederick Moore; Robert Hoge; Michael Rutherford

Dear all,

As discussed, here is the dial in detail for an urgent tc to discuss post mortem findings and possible cause of death for Nathan Turner.

Dial in details;

[REDACTED]
Conference code [REDACTED]

Thanks
Gulam

CHO ESO

From: Magistrate O'Connell - [REDACTED]@courts.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2020 7:37 PM
To: Jeannette Young
Subject: [REDACTED] dob. [REDACTED] (Blackwater)

Dear Dr Young,

On 27 May 2020 [REDACTED] death at Blackwater (on 26 May 2020) was reported to me as the Central Coroner for investigation. At the time of his death an initial preliminary test by Qld Health for COVID-19 had returned a positive result. Further extensive and more specialised testing before autopsy was conducted by a Forensic & Scientific Services pathologist and those tests have all returned a repeated negative result to COVID-19. As a result of the extensive further specialised testing I advise that at present, despite significant and widespread reporting, [REDACTED] cause of death is confirmed as not being related to the COVID-19 virus.

The autopsy was conducted this afternoon and has revealed evidence that he had a significant underlying medical condition but a definitive cause of death first requires further test results. These test results will not be available for some time. As per the normal course of the Coroner's investigation the cause of death once known will be relayed to [REDACTED] next-of-kin and to relevant Health Officials (if requested), but will not be made public.

As Justice Media this morning received an enquiry on [REDACTED] death I will be forwarding a brief response for them to issue tomorrow along these lines. Whether Qld Health wishes to issue a media statement is for QH to decide. I will leave that to your discretion but I have no issue with your issuing a media statement now as the matter has, understandably, received widespread attention and directly affects the community of Blackwater.

As certain persons associated with [REDACTED] may be under Qld Health mandated self-quarantine/isolation Directives at this time then you may now wish to revoke that isolation Directive/Order as the further specialised tests have persuasively cleared [REDACTED] of any COVID-19 related issue.

Regards,

Magistrate O'Connell
 Central Coroner
 Coroners Court of Queensland – Central Region
 Mackay Courthouse

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