

Right to Information Application (RTI 2909/21)

Scope of application

1. *The number of healthcare workers in total in Qld that have contracted covid*
2. *The number of healthcare workers in Qld who contracted covid and then transmitted that to patients or co-workers*
3. *The number of healthcare workers that contracted covid at their workplace*
4. *The vaccination status of these health care workers that contracted covid-19*
5. *The number of staff infected in Qld and took the virus into the community*
6. *National evidence, numbers and vaccination status of healthcare workers that contracted covid-19 in the workplace*
7. *Evidence of which healthcare worker covid-19 infections triggered wide scale lockdowns in Qld*

Date range

Jan 2021-December 2021

Source

Information regarding Items 1-6 was sourced from the Notifiable Conditions Systems (NoCS)

Question 1, 4: NoCS by notification date (line list extracted 7pm 16/01/2022)

Question 3, 6: NoCS by notification date (QH Employee NoCS report extract 9am 13/01/2022)

Response

1. *The number of healthcare workers in total in Qld that have contracted covid*

In 2021, we know of 75 healthcare workers in Qld who contracted COVID-19.

2. *The number of healthcare workers in Qld who contracted covid and then transmitted that to patients or co-workers*

This cannot be reported as this information is not collected on NoCS.

3. *The number of healthcare workers that contracted covid at their workplace*

It is difficult to ascertain if healthcare workers acquired COVID in the workplace. This information is not collected in our surveillance system for healthcare workers in general. However, under Workplace Health and Safety obligations, Queensland Health maintains a record of Queensland Health Employees who may likely have acquired their infection at a Queensland Health Facility – noting that not all Queensland Health Employees are healthcare workers. While we cannot provide the number of healthcare workers that contracted COVID-19 at their workplace, we can provide the number of Queensland Health employees who may likely have contracted COVID-19 at their workplace (as long as it was a Queensland Health facility). During 2021, ten Queensland Health employees were reported as likely contracting COVID-19 at their workplace, six of which were healthcare workers.

4. *The vaccination status of these health care workers that contracted covid-19*

The vaccination status of the 75 healthcare workers in QLD who contracted COVID-19 (Answer 1) is tabulated below. Please note that the COVID-19 vaccine was only available to HCW in Queensland from 22/02/2021.

Vaccination status	Count of COVID-19 cases in HCW
Complete	64
Incomplete	2
Not vaccinated	4
Blank	3
Not eligible to be fully vaccinated at time of infection	2
TOTAL	75

5. *The number of staff infected in Qld and took the virus into the community*

We cannot answer the question as stated; however we can provide some background information that may help the recipient understand if healthcare workers were in the community with a positive COVID-19 result:

- a) Of the 75 healthcare workers in Qld who contracted COVID-19 in 2021, one case was overseas acquired, 36 cases were locally acquired, and the source of infection remains under investigation for the remaining 38 cases. Based on cases where date entered quarantine was available (22), we can confirm that eight cases were detected in the community (notification date before date entered quarantine).
- b) Of the 75 healthcare workers in Qld who contracted COVID-19 in 2021, 24 cases were linked to 14 outbreaks. It cannot be determined from our data if the healthcare workers were the index case, or consequently infected other cases.

6. *National evidence, numbers and vaccination status of healthcare workers that contracted covid-19 in the workplace*

As per answer 3, the number of healthcare workers that contracted COVID-19 in the workplace is difficult to ascertain. We can therefore only provide the vaccination status for the six Queensland Health workers from answer 3 who are likely to have contracted COVID-19 in a Queensland Health workplace. Please note that the COVID-19 vaccine was only available to HCW in Queensland from 22/02/2021.

Vaccination status	Count of COVID-19 cases in HCW
Complete	2
Incomplete	1
Not vaccinated	2
Not eligible to be fully vaccinated at time of infection	1
TOTAL	6

7. *Evidence of which healthcare worker covid-19 infections triggered wide scale lockdowns in Qld*

There have been no widescale lockdowns in QLD that have been triggered by an individual infection. Rather, when considering whether to impose a lockdown, the CHO considers a range of information which may include the number of infections, spread of infection, vaccination coverage, other public health requirements implemented at the time (e.g. face masks) and movements of infected persons.