

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- 7.4.2. Players and Club Officials must wash hands prior to meals.
- 7.4.3. Food served by the Club should be individually packaged wherever possible. No buffet or self-service food is permitted. No finger food or shared food is permitted, and individuals must not eat with their hands. Group meals are allowable if they confirm with these restrictions and the regulations imposed by State and Territory Public Health orders.
- 7.4.4. Persons preparing food or mixing drinks or filling water bottles must wear gloves and an appropriate mask (currently KN95, and if that unavailable a disposable blue surgical mask. Cloth masks not to be worn) whilst doing so.
- 7.4.5. Subject to State and Territory Health Orders, a Club may *arrange* for a *coffee* van to attend the Club (outside of the Training Facility boundaries), subject to the following:
- i. Coffees are collected by a single member of staff and taken inside to the group;
 - ii. No queueing, socialising or mingling is permitted in the vicinity of the coffee van;
 - iii. the provider would need to wear a mask, and gloves when preparing the items.

7.5. Shared Facilities

- 7.5.1. Use of Share Facilities is not permitted at this time.

8. Medical/Physio

8.1. Clinicians working in higher risk areas

- 8.1.1. Because of the broader responsibilities and work outside the NRL environment that some NRL associated clinicians (including doctors, physiotherapists, massage therapists and other medically affiliated practitioners) undertake, there is a higher exposure risk of those individuals to COVID-19 than Players or other NRL or Club workers. Those clinicians who routinely work, or would be expected to work, with possible or suspected COVID-19 cases in intensive care or emergency care contexts are at the highest risk. Those clinicians **MUST NOT** under any circumstances be involved in Project Apollo medical activities, unless it is specifically approved through the NRL informed by advice by the Project Apollo medical team.
- 8.1.2. All Clinicians must have a screen of their practice performed, including but not limited to practice location, PPE protocols, cleaning protocols and practice set up (e.g. numbers of patients and room set up). This must be approved by the

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

Chief Club Medical Officer and Apollo must be notified of these screening results for future reference.

- 8.1.3. In normal primary care, allied health, elective surgical and outpatient clinical contexts the existing requirements and recommendations for all public and private clinical contacts in the COVID-19 environment have been deemed sufficient to control the risk of patient to clinician transmission to the lowest practicable level at the current community prevalence rates, with specific guidance provided to clinicians to manage risk of transmission in all healthcare settings from relevant experts.
- 8.1.4. Where a clinician normally works in a geographic area of elevated COVID-19 prevalence at this time, or in the future, an individual risk assessment of that clinician's non-NRL practice risks in relation to continued involvement with Project Apollo activities will be undertaken in consultation with the clinician. Approval for involvement of the clinician in Project Apollo, where there are concerns about COVID-19 risk, will be at the sole discretion of the NRL Board.

8.2. Consultations only to take place at the Training Facility

- 8.2.1. Medical consultations (including Club doctor appointments, physiotherapy and massages) should usually and by preference take place within the Training Facility, unless this is not feasible.
- 8.2.2. Where this is not feasible, PPE, social distancing, cleaning procedures and hand hygiene measures must be strictly enforced at any location consultations may take place. (currently KN95, and if that unavailable a surgical mask. Cloth masks not to be worn. Masks should be worn by both Players and all medical staff for clinical appointments).
- 8.2.3. Further guidance specific to NRL and Club medical operations are outlined in the Appendix G: Apollo Medical Officer's Handbook.

8.3. Management of Illness, Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- 8.3.1. Any suspected case of COVID-19 in the context of Project Apollo will require collaborative management between the Club Medical Officers and the NRL Independent Medical Officer in close consultation with the NRL and Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel.
- 8.3.2. All confirmed cases of COVID-19 will require immediate notification to NRL Medical, the Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel and the NRL Independent Medical Officer, who must be consulted on all aspects of management of the confirmed case(s).
- 8.3.3. Most of the requirements for management of confirmed COVID-19 cases will be directed, or be required of the affected individual, through the existing system of enforceable Public Health orders and directions at the State and Territory level.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- 8.3.4. The identification of potential cases that require further investigation, quarantine or isolation will be achieved through a comprehensive investigation of the risk situation in question.
- 8.3.5. The process of return to training and play for Players or Club Officials who have recovered from COVID-19 requires specific medical evaluations and checks as outlined in the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) framework for rebooting sport in a COVID-19 environment. Once an individual has been cleared from isolation by relevant Public Health Authorities, the final clearance to return to play will be at the discretion of the Chair of the NRL Medical Advisory Panel in consultation with the relevant Chief CMO.
- 8.3.6. For further guidance specific to NRL and Club medical operations refer to Appendix F: Project Apollo Protocols – Media Access 2021.

8.4. Testing and Quarantine

- 8.4.1. Target testing or quarantine arrangements may be implemented during the 2021 NRL Season to mitigate COVID-19 related risks. If you are subject of a direction to undergo testing or quarantine, you must do so in strict accordance with any instructions provided to you by NRL Apollo or NRL Medical.
- 8.4.2. Please also refer to Appendix G: Apollo Medical Officer's Handbook for more information.

9. Travel & Accommodation

9.1. General travel/travel to Training Facility

- 9.1.1. See Rule 3.6 for Private travel.
- 9.1.2. All State and Territory Quarantine rules must be taken into account and adhered to when travelling.

9.2. Plane Travel

- 9.2.1. Specific guidance on the requirements for travel by air will be provided by NRL where air travel is necessary, and taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation and other factors at play that is anticipated at the time, of the match.
- 9.2.2. If Clubs are planning to have Project Apollo designated individuals travel by air, they are to consult with the NRL during the planning process and prior to travel and comply with State and Territory Public Health Order.
- 9.2.3. The NRL may arrange for charter, or suitable commercial air travel options, dependent on the COVID-19 situation for the planned travel on a case by case basis, and in adherence to the requirements, guidance and advice provided to NRL by State and Territory governments.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- 9.2.4. All persons travelling by air must wear a KN95 mask, and if that unavailable a blue disposable surgical mask. Cloth masks not to be worn They are to practice hand and respiratory hygiene and social distancing for the full journey (from arrival at the departure airport until leaving the destination airport).
- 9.2.5. It is strongly recommended that, where possible, passengers are seated in a manner that observes social distancing protocols and should remain seated as much as possible. Avoidance of inflight bathroom use is recommended if possible.
- 9.2.6. All Players and staff should have personal alcohol-based hand sanitiser for use throughout trips. It is recommended that Players and staff have individual tissues and rubbish bags for trips.

9.3. Non-Selected Players and Supernumerary Officials

- 9.3.1. Non-selected Players and supernumerary officials (listed on the Club Apollo Register) are permitted to travel with the team to Matches.
- 9.3.2. These individuals must remain with the Clean Zone.

9.4. Interclub Scrimmage required approval from NRL Apollo

- 9.4.1. The playing Clubs may apply to NRL Apollo (apollo@nrl.com.au) for permission to arrange interclub scrimmage to occur prior to the match being played at the venue. **Scrimmage must not take place without the prior written approval of NRL Apollo** and may be conducted only as directed.
- 9.4.2. If the venue is unavailable or unsuitable for scrimmage (e.g. surface condition), interclub scrimmage can occur at the local training facility of a club close by the main venue (subject to NRL Apollo approval).
- 9.4.3. The scrimmage can only utilise players and staff within the Project Apollo registered and compliant staff and Players, as outlined in these protocols (i.e. the 55 persons).
- 9.4.4. If players are injured and there are insufficient or imbalanced numbers preventing the safe conduct of a scrimmage, Players cannot under any circumstances be substituted from others outside of the Project Apollo protocols.
- 9.4.5. It is the responsibility of the respective Clubs to arrange for suitable logistic, referee and other approvals from the venue.
- 9.4.6. The conduct of any scrimmage also requires Clubs to ensure there are appropriate medical (approved by the Chief Club Medical Officer) and other logistic supports available to meet NRL Minimum Medical standards training requirements. Scrimmage and other training must not occur if necessary medical and other support is not available.

10. Media

- 10.1.1. See Appendix F: Project Apollo Protocols – Media Access 2021.

11. Other Club Activities

Community, Corporate and Promotional Activities suspended

- 11.1.1. Club community, corporate and promotional activities involving face to face contact between individuals will be suspended until further notice.
- 11.1.2. Players and Club Officials are encouraged to participate in online community activities (e.g. zoom meeting or similar) during the period where face to face community activities are not possible.
- 11.1.3. If the Club has a request concerning a particular activity it must contact the NRL through their usual liaison for evaluation and potential approval by Apollo.

12. Non-NRL Matches

Inter-Club Scrimmages

- 12.1.1. Scrimmages against other teams is not permitted without the prior approval of NRL Apollo.

State Cup Matches

- 12.1.2. NRL Players on a Club's Apollo Register are **not permitted to participate in State Cup Matches at this Protocol Level**, unless approved by the NRL.

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

Appendix A: Apollo Protocol Register 2021

NRL Active Player List Submission Template

Club: PLEASE SELECT

Date: INSERT DATE OF SUBMISSION

Summary

Top 30 Active Players	0
Development List Active Players	0
Training & Replacement Active Players	0
Total Active Players	0
Top 30 Injury Reserve	0
Development List Injury Reserve	0
Development List Reserve List	0
Total Inactive Players	0

#	Player Name	Status	Comment on injury reserve players
NRL Top 30			
1		PLEASE SELECT	
2		PLEASE SELECT	
3		PLEASE SELECT	
4		PLEASE SELECT	
5		PLEASE SELECT	
6		PLEASE SELECT	
7		PLEASE SELECT	
8		PLEASE SELECT	
9		PLEASE SELECT	
10		PLEASE SELECT	
11		PLEASE SELECT	
12		PLEASE SELECT	
13		PLEASE SELECT	
14		PLEASE SELECT	
15		PLEASE SELECT	
16		PLEASE SELECT	
17		PLEASE SELECT	
18		PLEASE SELECT	
19		PLEASE SELECT	
20		PLEASE SELECT	
21		PLEASE SELECT	
22		PLEASE SELECT	
23		PLEASE SELECT	
24		PLEASE SELECT	
25		PLEASE SELECT	
26		PLEASE SELECT	
27		PLEASE SELECT	
28		PLEASE SELECT	
29		PLEASE SELECT	
30		PLEASE SELECT	
Development List			
1		PLEASE SELECT	
2		PLEASE SELECT	
3		PLEASE SELECT	
4		PLEASE SELECT	
5		PLEASE SELECT	
6		PLEASE SELECT	
Training & Replacement List (only list players in the active list)			
1		PLEASE SELECT	
2		PLEASE SELECT	
3		PLEASE SELECT	

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

NRL Staff List Submission Template

Club: PLEASE SELECT

Date: INSERT DATE OF SUBMISSION

#	Staff Member	Title / Role
1		
2		
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Appendix B: Household Screening Questions 2021

Appendix B: Household Screening Questions (NRL) 2021

Your Club Doctor (CMO) will ask and confirm the following with regards to household members that may be at higher risk of more severe complications or severe illness as a result of contracting coronavirus (COVID19). This information is also important to help determine the risk of bringing COVID19 into your Club and the NRL competition via your household.

This information will be used to assist with determining appropriate living arrangement recommendations for you and your family to reduce the risk of possible serious illness to your family members⁵ and to help protect the NRL competition.

Please use the below table to provide as much information and detail as possible for the following:

- List all members of your household, including age, occupation/student and suburb of workplace
- Confirm that no members of the household have had contact with known or suspected COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days or have returned from international travel, any known hotspots or visited a designated exposure site in the last 14 days.
- Confirm that no household members have had any COVID location alerts contacts (using the latest alerts information supplied to the Club by Apollo).
- Determine if anyone in the household (people who usually live with you in your house) fall into any of the following categories

Your Club Doctor (CMO) will discuss these findings with you to clarify details and add further details where necessary.

Name	Date of Birth	Club
Completed by (CMO)	Suburb (Postcode)	Date of Assessment

INFLUENZA (date immunised)	PNEUMOCOCCAL (INDIGENOUS PLAYERS/STAFF) (date immunised)
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NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

Screening Component	Player/ Staff Member	Household Member	Household Member	Household Member
Name & Relationship				Household Member
Age & Gender				
Occupation/Education and location (work or school name and suburb)				
Contact with known or suspected COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days? (if yes, please provide details)				
Returned from international travel or known hotspots/exposure sites in the last 14 days (if yes, please provide details)				
Any COVID location alerts contacts? (as per Apollo information)				
Do they share another residence? (if yes, please provide details, including location of residence and information about the others living there)				
Do they have others who regularly stay overnight at this residence (eg partner, boyfriend/girlfriend etc)? (if yes, please provide details, including location of the other				



NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

residence and information about the person(s) staying over eg occupation)					
Persons with serious heart conditions, including heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathies, and pulmonary hypertension					
Persons with Asthma (risk is for moderate-to-severe – provide details)					
Persons with chronic lung diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (including emphysema and chronic bronchitis), idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and cystic fibrosis					
Persons with Diabetes, including type 1, type 2, or gestational					
Persons with chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis					
Persons with severe obesity, defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 35 or above					
Older adults, 65 years and older ⁶					
Persons who will shortly return to, or normally reside at, a nursing home or long-term care facility but are living with you now					



NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

Persons who have cancer or are immune compromised or immune suppressed ⁷ (provide full details)					
Persons who have chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis or hepatitis					
Persons of Indigenous heritage over the age of 50 ⁸					
Do any individuals in the household work in aged care or in the health sector? Is this work in a high risk ⁹ category?					
Do any members of the household work in or regularly visit Custodial or Correctional Services? Please provide details					
Do any members of the household take any regular medications (list), see a medical specialist or have any other current or chronic illness? Please provide full details					

Name & Signed (by CMO)	Date
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⁵ For more information, see guidance from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee available at <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-advice-to-national-cabinet-on-30-march-2020>



NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

⁶ This group are at higher risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19. Although COVID-19 can affect any group, the older you are, the higher your risk of serious disease. Eight out of 10 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years or older; risk of death is highest among those 85 years or older. The immune systems of older adults weaken with age, making it harder to fight off infections. Also, older adults commonly have chronic diseases that can increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

⁷ Many conditions and treatments can cause a person to have a weakened immune system (also called immunocompromised or immune suppressed). This includes people receiving certain cancer treatments, bone marrow or organ transplantation, chronic immune disorders, HIV with a low CD4 cell count or not on HIV treatment, and prolonged use of medications such as corticosteroids and other immune modulating or suppressing medications.

⁸ See advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee referenced above.

⁹ High risk is defined as working with COVID-19 patients, or working in clinical environments that are likely to have COVID-19 cases (e.g. Emergency Department, ICU, Critical Care, Urgent care clinics)

Appendix C: Pre-Season Health Assessment 2021

PLAYER/STAFF NAME:

DATE OF ASSESSMENT:

DOB:

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE: YES NO

CURRENT HEALTH STATUS (confirm any current issues):

CHANGES TO HEALTH STATUS DURING Off-season (if any):

CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS/OTHER POTENTIALLY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID (as per Household screen including):

- Asthma (confirm severity)
- Diabetes
- Chronic lung disease
- Aged over 65 years (or >50 years if indigenous heritage)
- Serious heart conditions
- Renal disease
- Cancer
- Immunosuppression
- Other serious medical conditions
- New symptoms to be aware of/ report immediately should they develop at any stage including with training
 - New onset chest pain/pressure, palpitations, or exercise intolerance (*possibly Myocarditis/myopericarditis related*)
 - Shortness of breath (at rest or with exercise)

CURRENT MEDICATIONS:

ALLERGIES:

IMMUNISATION:

- INFLUENZA
- PNEUMOCOCCAL (INDIGENOUS PLAYERS/STAFF) - as per current National/State Immunisation schedule
- OTHER IMMUNISATIONS AS PER NORMAL REQUIREMENTS

MENTAL HEALTH – please complete the following screening at commencement of training

- PHQ9
- GAD7

CONCUSSION:

ensure that preseason CSx SCAT and COGNIGRAM baselines are completed prior to the start of season 2021 (including trials and preferably before contact sessions)

NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 – Level 4

- **CARDIAC SCREENING:**
 - ensure that Cardiac/ECG screening protocols have been met (2nd yearly screening)

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Appendix D: Health Confirmation Questionnaire

PLAYER/STAFF NAME:

DATE OF ASSESSMENT:

Please answer the following questions - please answer yes if you have had any of these symptoms **no matter how mild**.

Do you have now, or have you had in the last 24 hours:-

- a cough
- a sore throat
- a tickle in your throat or a scratchy throat
- a runny nose
- any shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- any pain on swallowing
- any chills
- any generalised muscle aches or pain which you haven't had before
- any headache
- any loss of taste or smell
- any gastro symptoms (off food, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps)
- any other symptom listed in the Daily Health Confirmation (see below).
- A Fever; any temperature recorded above 37.2 degrees (i.e. 37.3 and higher)

Has anyone in your household had any of the above symptoms in the last 24 hours?

Please provide your temperature.

Has anyone in your household had any a temperature in the last 24 hours?

Have you been to a hotspot, visited a **designated exposure site** or returned from OS travel in the last 14 days?

Appendix E: Cleaning Protocols

1. Clubs/NRL must make arrangements with their venues to ensure appropriate and professional cleaning of change-rooms, bathrooms and other places used by Players and Club Officials occurs before, between and after every event, and/or at least once per day.
2. Additionally, it is a necessary that systematic cleaning of high touch surfaces and regularly used areas (incl all training areas, bathrooms, treatment/medical rooms) with disinfectant and/or bleach solutions (commercially available are appropriate) is undertaken at an appropriately set schedule.
3. The recommended frequency of cleaning high-touch cleaning is:
 - a. For very high use items or certain training equipment, between individual use.
 - b. For general high contact items in the environment every 3 hours, or if visibly soiled or contaminated.
4. Examples of general high touch surfaces in the environment are:
 - a. doorknobs and door jams/pushers, light switches, toilet door locks, buttons on cisterns, taps, parking meters, lift controls, remote controls, computer equipment (iPads and Phones, shared keyboards and mice), or any other thing that is touched by multiple people repeatedly in a single day. Goal post protectors. Planes and buses (where allowed). Dressing room fixtures, toilets and shower fixtures.
5. Examples of very high use items requiring cleaning between individuals:
 - a. tables, benches, gym equipment, massage tables, clinical treatment equipment in direct contact with patients, and similar items.
 - b. Stationery items (i.e. pens and folders)
 - c. balls at training (pre and post) and matches and balls touched by media/TV crews etc
 - d. NRL equipment (eg iPads for interchanges, SIS equipment etc)
6. NRL Players and Club Officials are also asked to consider how they can minimise risks at their residence and in their vehicles by considering the advice here applied into their own personal context outside of Club and NRL venues.
7. Refer to the following guidance from the Federal Department of Health for further detail about cleaning and disinfection principles with COVID-19:

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19.pdf> and to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland's guide on PPE involved in cleaning: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/191678/covid-19-overview-and-guide.pdf
8. All match and training clothing used/worn by players, officials (refs) and training staff must be provided by the Club at the venue and washed by the Club after each match under appropriate infectious diseases protocols.

Appendix F: Project Apollo Protocols – Media Access 2021

The NRL's biosecurity strategy is based around prevention of transmission of coronavirus.

The Apollo Protocol establishes a controlled environment in which training and matches can occur.

All media must adhere to the Apollo Protocol which stipulates a distance of 1.5m from Players and Club officials must be maintained.

It is important to note there will be a minimum set of guidelines which all Clubs will need to adhere to in order to promote the sport through the Host Broadcasters and Media. Clubs must ensure they have adequate staff/protocols in place in order to adhere to these minimum standards.

Training

- A minimum of 15 minutes training vision remains a requirement.
- Clubs must allocate a space for photographic and filming purposes to be approved by the Club and/or NRL.
- Journalists, photographers and camera operators must not come within 1.5 metres of players, coaches or staff upon their arrival or exit from training venue. **Interactions with the media must be held outdoors.**
- Media interviews may be held in person at training venues, under strict health protocols. Only essential media personnel must be present, being those that are conducting interviews. All media present must remain a minimum of 1.5 metres from players, coaching staff and officials and practice hand hygiene. Those not conducting an interviews must wear a KN95 mask, and if that unavailable a blue disposable surgical mask. Cloth masks are not to be worn.
- Players, coaching staff and officials must not touch external equipment.

Media opportunities

- Clubs must make available the minimum of Players as per the 2021 Media Rules (in the NRL Operations Manual).
- Clubs must make available Head Coaches in a separate media opportunity each week.

Set-up Images

- Set-up/portrait images are permitted, under strict health protocols. Players, Club Officials and coaching staff must remain a minimum of 1.5 metres from photographers and accompanying equipment at all times and engagements must take place outdoors.

Players and Staff must not touch equipment (including microphones and headsets).

Appendix G: Apollo Medical Officer's Handbook

Will be issued separately

RTI RELEASE



Enquiries to: Ms Kate Coehn
Executive Director
COVID-19 Compliance
Telephone: (07) [REDACTED]
File Ref: C-ECTF-21/10742

Queensland Health

Mr Jaymes Boland-Rudder
Head of Partnerships
National Rugby League Ltd
Rugby League Central
Driver Avenue
MOORE PARK NSW 2021

Email: jbolandrudder@nrl.com.au

Dear Mr Boland-Rudder

I write in response to the National Rugby League Ltd's (NRL) submission received 2 July 2021 regarding the NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocol 2021 Level 4 Version 1.0 and Apollo Match-Day Protocol 2021 Level 4 Version 1.0.

Thank you for providing a copy of the Player & Club and Match-Day Protocols for my consideration. Further to the Professional Sporting Code COVID Safe Plan Levels 1 – 3 Apollo Protocols that I approved on 5 February 2021, I note the current submission Level 4 Protocols (the Protocols) underpin the implementation of higher-level public health controls in response to situations of escalating public health risk and that all teams have been operating under Level 4 Protocols since midnight on Monday 28 June 2021.

In considering this current submission, I must again re-state the seriousness of the breaches of Protocols by some players to date. Whilst I acknowledge the firm position that the NRL has taken in responding to these breaches, including the issuing of significant financial penalties and exclusion of players from matches commensurate to the extent of their breach, I must emphasise that in the current situation of elevated risk of COVID-19 transmission, there is no room for disregard and non-compliance. COVID Safe Professional Sports Plans are implemented and enforced to protect the health of Queenslanders and accordingly, the Queensland Government cannot tolerate ongoing breaches.

I have reviewed the Level 4 Protocols and confirm the requirements that must be met by the NRL in Queensland are outlined as follows:

1. NRL must notify COVID-19 Compliance via email COVID-19.Compliance@health.qld.gov.au which Protocol Level NRL clubs are operating under, within two business days of this Approval.
2. NRL must notify COVID-19 Compliance, within one business day of any decision to change the Protocol Level NRL clubs are operating under.
3. The Cleaning Protocols state that high contact items and high touch point areas must be cleaned every 3 hours, amend to state that high contact items and high touch point areas must be cleaned every 1-2 hours.

In addition, please note the following requirements apply to this approval:

1. All individuals seeking to enter Queensland from interstate must complete a Queensland Border Declaration pass.
2. All individuals must adhere to PPE requirements in accordance with the *Mandatory Face Masks Direction* (No. 2), effective from 22 March 2021 or its successor including:
 - i. A person at a *Queensland airport* must:
 1. carry a *face mask* at all times; and
 2. wear a *face mask* in all areas of a *Queensland airport*, including a passenger waiting area, at all times when at the airport; and
 3. wear a *face mask* where required to do so in accordance with any other Public Health Directions in effect under section 362B of the *Public Health Act 2005*.

Note: A face mask must be worn in all indoor and outdoor areas at a Queensland airport.

3. All individuals within the scope of the Protocols are required to download and use the *Check In Qld* app for contact tracing purposes.
4. The *Restrictions for Impacted Areas Direction* (No. 8) took effect from 3 July 2021 and includes the Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast Local Government Areas (LGA's) as impacted areas. Noting the locations proposed by NRL for accommodation, training and matches are located within these LGA's, all individuals must comply with requirements stated in the *Restrictions for Impacted Areas Direction* (No. 8) including:
 - a. All persons who are in or have been in an impacted area at any time from 1.00am on 29 June 2021 must carry a face mask at all times; and wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth at all times if they are in an indoor space or an outdoor space. Noting that these requirements do not apply to a person in an outdoor space, including a workplace, if the person can maintain physical distance from people who are not members of their household; or to a person in an indoor space that is a residence, temporary accommodation.
 - b. For professional sporting codes, elite sport and elite athletes, occupant density requirements do not apply on the field of play, however physical distancing applies off the field of play to the extent possible.
5. The NRL must make an undertaking that all Club Officials are up to date with COVID-19 infection control training, noting training is required to be completed 12-monthly in accordance with section 2.2.3. of the Apollo Player & Club Protocol.
6. Noting the NRL's position strongly encouraging COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with the national roll-out, consider including COVID-19 vaccination status in the *Household Screening Questions* and *Pre-Season Health Assessments* attached to the Protocols.
7. In reference to section 6.2.7 of the Player & Club Protocol, exclusive use of training facilities must be arranged as much as practicable. Where other teams, codes or the public are using the same training facilities, sharing of facilities can only occur at a separate time to NRL teams undertaking training. Cleaning of equipment and high touch points must occur prior to the arrival of and following departure of the NRL teams at the training facility.
8. Preference should be given to engaging Endorsed Transport Providers for travel, including but not limited to travel between airports, accommodation, training and match day venues. Information regarding Endorsed Transport Providers is available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/covid-19-testing-for-quarantine-facility-workers/endorsed-transport-providers>
9. Any person who has symptoms related to COVID-19 must be immediately isolated and submit to COVID-19 testing as soon as practicable.

10. Public health controls as outlined in the Protocols must always be strictly adhered to including when travelling between accommodation and training venues.
11. Frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection must be maintained at all sites, including accommodation and training venues.

The Protocols must not be amended without the prior approval by the Chief Health Officer. Any amendments to the Protocols should be because of significant change within the community whereby the Protocols must be updated to ensure the continued safety of the players, staff and officials and the Queensland community. All amendments must be clearly highlighted in the Protocols, include a summary of the changes in a covering email and allow for at least 21 business day assessment time frame.

Where inconsistencies exist between the Protocols and the Chief Health Officer approved conditions, the Chief Health Officer approved conditions take precedence.

It is my expectation that NRL will actively monitor the COVID-19 public health situation in Queensland and nationally which, at the time of writing is rapidly evolving. For the avoidance of doubt, this approval of the Level 4 Protocols does not constitute approval to enter Queensland. Any player or staff member who has been in a declared COVID-19 hotspot within the previous 14 days prior to entry to Queensland must apply for an exemption to enter Queensland. Exemption requests are to be submitted via the COVID-19 Services Portal at: <https://healthserviceportal.health.qld.gov.au/hdsp>.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Kate Coehn, Executive Lead, COVID-19 Compliance, Queensland Department of Health, on telephone (07) [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au.

Thank you again for your commitment to the safety of Queenslanders. I wish you every success for the duration of the 2021 NRL season.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jeannette Young PSM
Queensland Chief Health Officer
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Health

//
Enc.

Prepared by: Andrea Henning Cruickshank
(Author) Senior Public Health Officer
COVID-19 Compliance

[REDACTED]
13 July 2021

Cleared by: Chris Wold
(Director) Team Lead
COVID-19 Compliance

[REDACTED]
13 July 2021

Cleared by: Kate Coehn
(Executive Director) Executive Director
COVID-19 Compliance

[REDACTED]
13 July 2021

RTI RELEASE

From: [CHO COVID](#)
To: [CHO COVID](#)
Subject: RE: For Urgent Review & Approval - NRL Exemption to enter Queensland
Date: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 10:56:00 AM
Attachments: [2021.07.14 - NRL exemptions - CHO Letter - FINAL.docx](#)
[Attach 1 - Exemptions - NRL - FINAL.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi YJ

Please see updated docs attached.

Grateful if you could urgently action.

Thanks

Christine

Christine Stones

Manager

Policy Analysis and Coordination Unit

CHO COVID

Office of the Chief Health Officer and DDG

M [REDACTED]

From: Jeannette Young [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 10:41 AM

To: Kate Coehn [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Cc: CHO COVID <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Kyle Fogarty [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; COVID-19.Compliance [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Re: For Urgent Review & Approval - NRL Exemption to enter Queensland

Approved and I am happy to use my esignature

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From: Kate Coehn [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:26:51 AM

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

Cc: CHO COVID [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Kyle Fogarty [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; COVID-19.Compliance [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: For Urgent Review & Approval - NRL Exemption to enter Queensland

Morning Jeannette

To facilitate on the ground operational processes on the pending arrival of the 12 NRL teams (players, staff and officials) I am seeking your approval to separate the exemption process from the approval of the 3 x quarantine management plans.

By separating the two it allows the 500 persons to complete the required border pass which requires the exemption to be attached prior to them boarding the charter flights, alleviating congestion at the arrival airport through this disembarking process.

I have attached a letter drafted for your review which also outlines that it is all still subject to your approval of the 3 x QMPS.

If supported, could you also please approve the use of your electronic signature.

Many Thanks

Kate

Kate Coehn

Executive Director, COVID-19 Compliance
 Team
 Priority Project Co-Ordination Office

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Queensland Health

A

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RTI RELEASE

Enquiries to: Kate Coehn
Executive Director
COVID-19 Compliance
Telephone: (07) [REDACTED]
File Ref: C-ECTF-21

Queensland Health

James Boland-Rudder
Head of Partnerships
National Rugby League Ltd
Rugby League Central
Driver Avenue
MOORE PARK NSW 2021

Email: jbolandrudder@nrl.com.au

Dear Mr Boland-Rudder

I write in response to your submission of the National Rugby League (NRL) request to enter Queensland from a declared COVID-19 hotspot to facilitate the continuation of the NRL 2021 Season.

In order to facilitate the continuation of the NRL 2021 Season, I am approving exemptions from the Public Health Directions, as outlined in the attached table. These exemptions are being granted on the basis that there are extreme exceptional circumstances, namely:

- due to the worsening COVID-19 situation in New South Wales the entire NRL 2021 season is in jeopardy
- the changing situation with COVID-19 has meant that the declaration of interstate locations as COVID-19 hotspots has a significant impact on the progression of the season
- the persons arriving in Queensland will quarantine, mitigating the public health risk that they pose to the community coming from a COVID-19 hotspot
- sport is vital to the mental health and wellbeing of the Queensland and Australian community, particularly as we continue to be in the midst of responding to the pandemic
- Queensland is an appropriate location for maintenance of the season, particularly given the experience in managing hubs and COVID-safe measures during the 2020 season
- the incoming persons will not place pressure on Queensland's quarantine capacity as they are able to be managed in an equivalent arrangement in nominated premises
- NRL will operate under the NRL Apollo Player & Club Protocols and the NRL Apollo Match-Day Protocols, Level 4, which is aimed at managing the risk of the spread of infection
- given the ongoing uncertainty of the situation, permitting entry into Queensland is an appropriate balance between continuing the NRL 2021 Season and managing the risk of infection from interstate

This exemption is subject to the approval of the Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan for the 3 x NRL Hubs in Queensland. These Plans are currently under assessment by Queensland Health and you will receive further correspondence once this assessment has been completed.

For clarity, this exemption applies only to the arrangements outlined therein.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Kate Coehn, Executive Director, COVID-19 Compliance, on telephone (07) [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au.

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to the safety of Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jeannette Young
Queensland Chief Health Officer
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Health
/ /

Enc.

RTI RELEASE

Prepared by: Jacinta Lusi
(Author) Team Lead
COVID-19 Compliance
[REDACTED]
14 July 2021

Cleared by: Jacinta Lusi
(Director) Team Lead
COVID-19 Compliance
[REDACTED]
14 July 2021

Cleared by: Kate Coehn
(Executive Director) Executive Director
COVID-19 Compliance
[REDACTED]
14 July 2021

RTI RELEASE

Appendix 1

Table of exemptions from the Public Health Directions for National Rugby League as at 14 July 2021

Exemptions

I, Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland Chief Health Officer, grant the following exemptions from the Public Health Directions to National Rugby League. These exemptions only apply to the extent that a person is operating in their capacity as part of the NRL 2021 Season. If a person is undertaking normal activities in daily life, then they must comply with the requirements of the Public Health Directions.

Direction	Requirement	Exemption
<i>Border restrictions Direction (no.26) or its successor Direction</i>	<p>Paragraph 4 – A person who has been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the 14 days prior to entering Queensland must not enter Queensland unless permitted under Part 2.</p> <p>Paragraph 18 – A person listed in column 1 of schedule 1 who enters Queensland must quarantine in accordance with the requirements in column 4 of schedule 1.</p> <p>Paragraph 20 – A person required to quarantine under this part will be quarantined for a further period of 14 days from the end of the quarantine period if the person is not tested for COVID-19 when requested to do so by an emergency officer (public health), including as soon as possible after arrival at the nominated premises, between day 5 and 7 and on day 12 or 13 of the person's quarantine period.</p>	<p>NRL players, staff, and officials from the 12 nominated teams are permitted to enter Queensland if they have been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the preceding 14 days provided in the entry is in their capacity as part of NRL 2021 Season.</p> <p>The exemption is granted on the condition they complete 14 days of quarantine in a nominated premise and in accordance with the NRL Quarantine Accommodation and Training Facility Management Plan (NRL Hub).</p>

From: [Kate Coehn](#)
To: [Jeannette Young](#)
Cc: [CHO COVID](#); [Kyle Fogarty](#); [COVID-19 Compliance](#)
Subject: For Review/Approval - Alternative Quarantine Management Plan - Sunshine Coast Hub - CHO Letter and Plan
Date: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:28:15 PM
Attachments: [NRL HUBS - OMP - Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort v1.0 140721.pdf](#)
[CHO Letter - NRL HUB - Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Importance: High

Hi Jeannette

Please find attached the 2nd of three approval's for your consideration. This QMP is for the Novotel Sunshine Coast and this hotel is expecting the first NRL arrivals from 330pm onwards. It has been reviewed to the best of our ability within such short timeframes and incorporates a level of input from QPS and Sunshine Coast PHU.

If you support the plan and associated conditions, would you also mind approving the use of your electronic signature.

Many Thanks

Kate



Kate Coehn
 Executive Director, COVID-19 Compliance
 Team
 Priority Project Co-Ordination Office
 Queensland Health

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Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

NRL HUB – Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort

1. Overview	4
1.1. Quarantine Management Plan.....	4
1.2. NRL Hubs	4
1.3. NRL Personnel	4
1.4. Quarantine within the NRL Hub.....	5
1.5. Accommodation Hub Staff.....	5
1.6. Monitoring, Breaches, Advice & Support	5
2. Quarantine	5
2.1. NRL Hub is a quarantine environment	5
2.2. Hygiene, Masks & Social Distancing.....	6
2.3. Reasons to leave Quarantine	6
2.4. COVID-Testing for NRL Personnel	6
2.5. Testing to Leave Quarantine	7
2.6. Vaccination	7
3. Accommodation Hub	8
3.1. Overview	8
3.2. Street Address	8
3.3. Site Map of Accommodation Hub	8
3.4. Accommodation Hub will be divided into Zones	9



NRL Hubs – Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

3.5.	Clean Zone (Green).....	9
3.6.	Dirty Zone (Red).....	9
3.7.	Transition Zones	10
3.8.	Common Space TRANSITION ZONES.....	12
3.9.	Entry/Exit Points.....	12
3.10.	Arrival at Accommodation Hub.....	12
3.11.	QR Codes must be used by staff and contractors.....	13
3.12.	Lift & Access.....	13
3.13.	Hand-Sanitiser Stations & Hand Hygiene Notices	13
3.14.	Access to gymnasium/pool facilities	14
3.15.	Cleaning & Disinfection.....	14
3.16.	PPE Stations.....	14
3.17.	Balconies	15
3.18.	No Housekeeping services during quarantine period	15
3.19.	Waste Disposal.....	15
3.20.	Linen	15
3.21.	Laundry of Personal Items	15
3.22.	Food and Beverage.....	16
3.23.	Induction of Accommodation Hub Staff.....	19
3.24.	Testing of Accommodation Hub Staff	19
3.25.	Maintenance Staff.....	19
4.	Daily Screening & Management of Suspected COVID-19 Cases – NRL Personnel.....	20
4.1.	NRL Apollo Protocols	20
4.2.	Immediate Reporting for illness/COVID-19 symptoms.....	20
4.3.	Daily Health Confirmation.....	22
5.	Training Facility.....	22
5.1.	NRL Training Facility	22
5.2.	Single Access Point to Training Facility (Assessment Point)	23
5.3.	Procedure for Entry to Training Facility	23
5.4.	Where an individual does not pass admission assessment	24

NRL Hubs – Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

5.5.	Assessment.....	25
5.6.	Cleaning Requirements for Training Facility	25
5.7.	NRL Apollo Protocols	26
6.	Transportation	26
6.1.	Air Travel to State of Queensland	26
6.2.	Ground Travel.....	26
6.3.	Testing of transport providers.....	27
7.	Security	27
7.1.	CCTV.....	27
7.2.	Security Co-ordinator Contact Details.....	27
7.3.	Duties of Security Staff	27
7.4.	Accreditation of Security Staff.....	28
7.5.	Training of Security Staff	28
7.6.	Perimeter Security – Fencing and Patrols	28
7.7.	Access to Accommodation Hub.....	28
7.8.	Deliveries	28
8.	Emergency Response	28
8.1.	Emergency Evacuation.....	28
8.2.	Medical Emergency.....	29
	Appendix: Training Facilities of all NRL Hubs.....	30
	Appendix: Additional Materials	31

NRL Hubs – Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

1. Overview

1.1. Quarantine Management Plan

- 1.1.1. This Quarantine Management Plan is submitted to Queensland Health in support of exemptions sought to conduct quarantine accommodation and training facilities in the State of Queensland.
- 1.1.2. The actions set out in this Plan will be delivered by the NRL through its personnel and the Accor as the provider of accommodation and other facilities in accordance with this plan.

1.2. NRL Hubs

- 1.2.1. The NRL has established secure hubs in which its registered personnel may satisfy QLD Health quarantine requirements whilst training for and participating in the 2021 NRL Competition.
- 1.2.2. Each NRL Hub comprises two elements:
 - a. an **Accommodation Hub** at which personnel will reside;
 - b. a **Training Facility** at which personnel will prepare for matches.
- 1.2.3. This Quarantine Accommodation and Training Facility Management Plan sets out the procedures for management of both the Accommodation Hub and the Training Facility and the movement of personnel between them.
- 1.2.4. The Accommodation Hub to which this management plan applies is the Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort facility at Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast operated by Accor.

1.3. NRL Personnel

- 1.3.1. NRL Personnel who are granted access to the Accommodation Hub and the Training Facility are:
 - a. NRL Players, Club Officials, Match Officials and Medical Service personnel necessary for the delivery of the 2021 NRL Competition;
 - b. permitted to enter the State of Queensland pursuant to exemption from Queensland Health;
 - c. required to observe **Quarantine** conditions in accordance with their exemption, this management plan and the applicable NRL Protocol.
- 1.3.2. These persons are referred to in this Management Plan as **NRL Personnel**.
- 1.3.3. Compliance with quarantine requirements form part of the NRL Apollo

NRL Hubs – Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

Protocols which binds all NRL Personnel attending the NRL Hub.

1.4. Quarantine within the NRL Hub

- 1.4.1. All NRL Personnel will quarantine within the NRL Hub as required by the Health Order, this Management Plan and the applicable NRL Apollo Protocols.
- 1.4.2. No NRL Personnel may leave the Accommodation Hub without the prior approval of the NRL Hub Co-ordinator in consultation with NRL Apollo and Queensland Health.

1.5. Accommodation Hub Staff

- 1.5.1. Staff of the Accommodation Hub are referred to in this Management Plan as **Accommodation Hub Staff** and include:
 - a. administrative staff;
 - b. cleaning staff; and
 - c. security staff engaged or employed by Accor.

1.6. Monitoring, Breaches, Advice & Support

- 1.6.1. Compliance with this Management Plan must be actively monitored by NRL and Accor.
- 1.6.2. Breaches of this Management Plan must be reported to Queensland Health (COVID-19.Compliance@health.qld.gov.au) immediately for review and escalation if necessary.
- 1.6.3. Queensland Health should be contacted for advice and support:
CONTACT: Greg Bennett – [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au

2. Quarantine

2.1. NRL Hub is a quarantine environment

- 2.1.1. The NRL Hub is operated as a quarantine environment in accordance with Queensland Health requirements.
- 2.1.2. NRL Personnel must comply with quarantine requirements whilst part of the NRL Hub.
- 2.1.3. No members of the community or other persons (including health professionals) are to enter the Accommodation Hub during the quarantine period. Queensland Ambulance Service should be called for urgent care.

NRL Hubs – Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

2.2. Hygiene, Masks & Social Distancing

- 2.2.1. All NRL Personnel will be reminded to:
- a. Maintain physical distancing, where practical.
 - b. Carry personal alcohol-based hand sanitiser or ensure they have ready access to hand sanitiser;
 - c. Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth, shaking hands or making other forms of physical contact.
 - d. Cover their nose and mouth with a tissue or their arm when coughing or sneezing, and put the tissue in the bin.
 - e. Frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
 - f. Wear a face mask whilst in transit (e.g. airport transfers, in and around airports, on airplanes and ground transports) and suggested to wear otherwise in in the Accommodation Hub.
- 2.2.2. Masks should be changed if they are torn, damaged or soiled/moist. Personnel should always sanitise hands immediately before and after removing their mask.

2.3. Reasons to leave Quarantine

- 2.3.1. NRL Personnel may only leave the Accommodation Hub quarantine to:
- a. Obtain essential medical care.
 - b. To avoid injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm.
 - c. In the event of an emergency situation.
 - d. As otherwise permitted by an emergency officer (public health).
 - e. Train with other NRL Personnel at the Training Facility;
 - f. Travel to and attend Match-Day in the 2021 NRL Competition.

2.4. COVID-Testing for NRL Personnel

- 2.4.1. Pre-Arrival Testing
- a. COVID-19 testing of all NRL Personnel who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot or identified COVID-19 exposure site in the previous 14 days must be undertaken 72 hours or less prior to arrival in Queensland.

NRL Hubs – Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

- b. The results of the pre-departure COVID-19 tests results must be notified to Queensland Health.
- c. Any person who receives a positive COVID-19 result prior to departure should isolate and seek medical care from their local health authority.

2.4.2. Testing During Quarantine Period

- a. COVID-19 testing of all NRL Personnel must be undertaken on:
 - i. Day 1,
 - ii. Day 5,
 - iii. Day 12,
 - iv. Day 16, and
 - v. if symptomatic.
- b. All tests results must be provided to the local Public Health Unit within a timely manner.

2.4.3. Upon confirmation of negative results for all NRL Personnel from Day 12 nasal swabs, the Accommodation Hub can return to delivering normal hotel services. This must first be confirmed with NRL Apollo.

2.5. Testing to Leave Quarantine

- 2.5.1. A negative COVID-19 test result is required prior to being able to leave quarantine for any reason other than:
- a. to avoid immediate injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm; or
 - b. an emergency situation; or
 - c. as otherwise required or permitted under a direction given to the person by an emergency officer (public health).

2.6. Vaccination

- 2.6.1. All NRL Personnel have been strongly encouraged to be vaccinated with the appropriate COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to them, in accordance with Australia's COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy.

NRL Hubs – Quarantine Accommodation & Training Facility Management Plan

3. Accommodation Hub

3.1. Overview

- 3.1.1. The Accommodation Hub's normal business is an accommodation and conference venue. The management of the Accommodation Hub and any associated Training Facility (where that Training Facility is on the accommodation grounds) is provided by Accor.
- 3.1.2. It is a requirement of Queensland Health that Accor provide services in accordance with this Management Plan.
- 3.1.3. Further details of the Accommodation Hub's procedures and plans appear in the Appendix.

3.2. Street Address

- 3.2.1. The Street Address of the NRL Hub Accommodation is 270 Ocean Drive, Twin Waters QLD 4564.

3.3. Site Map of Accommodation Hub

