

## Right to Information Application (RTI 1965) – Lockdown medical advice for COVID-19

### Scope of application

*Medical advice provided to the Minister and Cabinet related to the last lockdown of Brisbane due to COVID-19 enforced on 29 March 2021. I would like the advice the Chief Health Officer provided that informed the decision to lockdown Greater Brisbane and declare the region a hotspot.*

### Important information

*Our priority is, and will always be, the health and safety of Queenslanders.*

*When putting in place directions or other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Chief Health Officer has access to a range of expertise. These include: experienced staff such as clinicians, public health specialists, environmental health scientists, epidemiologists and policy advisors (both within and external to Queensland Health); and the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA).*

*A range of issues are considered before any border restrictions may need to be put in place. These include:*

- the number and nature of new cases in any state or local government area,*
- the amount of testing, including wastewater testing, being undertaken,*
- the restrictions in place in that state at the time,*
- the restrictions in place in Queensland at the time, and*
- information provided by that state's public health officials, including internal travel restrictions they may put in place to help manage any outbreak*

*The Chief Health Officer meets regularly with the Queensland Premier and Health Minister to discuss the pandemic, including changes to the Public Health Directions. It is not practical for these meetings and discussions to be documented, however this information is shared with the general public via press conferences as soon as possible.*

*The Chief Health Officer public health directions can be viewed at:*

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers>