




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.44 am): Today I can advise the House that we have one new confirmed case of COVID-19 in Queensland—a woman in hotel quarantine on the Gold Coast who likely contracted the virus overseas. She is now in isolation. That brings our total to 1,066—five of those cases are active, one is in hospital in intensive care receiving ventilation. In the last reporting period, we exceeded our goal of 5,000 tests a day, completing 5,113 tests.

Queensland is in an enviable position. The US now has over two million cases and more than 100,000 deaths. I mentioned yesterday that Beijing were experiencing a second wave. They had gone more than 50 days without a case and now have a severe outbreak of more than 100. Since I spoke yesterday, they have again shut down their schools. We cannot afford for that to happen in Queensland. We cannot be complacent. Having to go backwards on restrictions would be devastating.

The credit for Queensland's world-class response to COVID belongs to Queenslanders. They include our doctors, nurses and hospital workers, our police and emergency services but also mums, dads, grandparents and children who have performed heroically to keep us all safe. All Queenslanders are eager to keep going forwards because there is a long way still to go. We all want to get back to normal. That is the goal of our unite and recover plan—Queensland's plan to get back to work and back to normal.

Today I announce another step on that road back to normal. In Queensland we love our sport. We love to play and we like to cheer. I am proud the AFL and the NRL were able to return to play in Queensland stadiums, and today we add the missing ingredient—the fans. As of this Saturday, stadiums can host up to 2,000 fans. Some of the codes have requested this number as a trial. That number might not be reached but it is an acknowledgement of how well the codes and the fans have done their part in controlling the spread of COVID-19. It is a small step but a sensible one. Like a great game of football, we have to ensure our defences but we also have to make our breaks when we can. Queensland has earned this small step back to normal.

I want to thank our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and all of the public health staff who have worked with stadiums and codes on these plans. I also thank the Minister for Sport and his team for their support and assistance. I know he is committed, like we are, to continuing to expand not just the return to professional sport but also the return to community sport.