




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): I also want to acknowledge the tremendous work of our hospital and ambulance staff in relation to the Callide power station. The work they did to immediately respond in preparation for a potential mass casualty event was extraordinary. I am so pleased there were no injuries. I want to acknowledge the great work that was done by the health workers.

Queensland's COVID response has always been and always will be based on expert health advice. It is this expert advice of the Chief Health Officer which has kept Queenslanders safe throughout the deadly worldwide pandemic, which has claimed, sadly, more than 3.4 million lives, and that number continues to increase. In response to nine new cases—and I am hearing there could potentially be 10, but I understand Victoria is doing a press conference now and there may be an additional five cases reported in Greater Melbourne—Queensland Health has declared the City of Whittlesea local government area in Melbourne's north a COVID-19 hotspot.

As a result the following new measures have been put in place as outlined by the Premier. From 1 am today, anyone arriving in Queensland who has been in the City of Whittlesea local government area since 11 May will go into hotel quarantine. From 1 am tomorrow, Thursday, 27 May, everyone arriving from Victoria will be required to complete a border pass. Any of those arrivals who have been in the City of Whittlesea local government area since 11 May and are a nonresident will be turned away unless they have an exemption to enter the state. Queensland residents or those given an exemption to enter the state will go into hotel quarantine. This is in addition to measures already put in place by Queensland Health which meant that from 1 am today anyone who has been in a declared venue of concern associated with the Victorian outbreak will be placed in hotel quarantine unless they have an exemption.

As of this morning, I can advise the number of public exposure sites in tier 1 and tier 2 in Victoria now sits at 47 sites. I remind anyone in Queensland currently who has been in Victoria over the last two weeks to please keep checking this site to see if you have been to a public exposure site. Even if you have not been to a public exposure site, if you have been to Victoria and you have any symptoms whatsoever, no matter how mild, please come forward and get tested.

Restrictions will also apply to the state's prisons, aged-care facilities, disability accommodation services and hospitals. From 1 am today, anyone who has been in the Greater Melbourne area on or after 11 May cannot enter these facilities unless 14 days have passed since they were there. Exemptions can be requested on compassionate grounds. Anyone who has been to a declared COVID exposure site in Victoria during the risk period is reminded to get tested and quarantine. Anyone who is planning to visit Victoria, in particular Greater Melbourne, should reconsider their need to travel at this time.

We wish all Melbournians and all Victorians the very best as they work to contain this latest outbreak. We will continue to follow the advice of the Chief Health Officer in our COVID response—an approach which has kept Queenslanders safe throughout this deadly pandemic. Based on the Victorian update, I will be seeking a briefing from the Chief Health Officer after question time. I also know that she will be meeting with AHPPC and her colleagues across the country again today to talk about what responses should happen in relation to the latest information.

I want to thank everyone in Queensland who has come forward to get tested. There have been 8,096 tests in the last 24 hours. Please keep this up. I also want to thank our vaccination staff because our daily vaccination rate has doubled since last Wednesday. I thank all of our staff who are working very hard to get more vaccines into more arms. We are going to keep seeing those numbers increasing over the coming weeks and months.