




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Quarantine; Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.20 am): An effective quarantine system is crucial in the fight against COVID-19. Queensland's quarantine system, including home quarantine, has important safeguards in place, and these safeguards have served Queensland well and helped keep us safe for more than 18 months. Text messages, phone calls and random inspections for compliance have long been the hallmarks of our home quarantine system, but as the virus evolves so must our response. We need to adapt to the new challenges posed by delta and find new ways to monitor people at risk, including those in home quarantine.

As the Premier recently announced, Queensland has begun a trial to allow children from boarding schools in hotspot areas to return home for the school holidays. The children will be able to home quarantine through the use of technology to supervise and monitor them and their families. Today I can announce that anyone going into home quarantine in Queensland as a close contact is now required to respond to a new home quarantine check-in system, enabling real-time monitoring of compliance.

The new system sends a random message to individuals quarantining at least once a day while they are in home quarantine. The message will have a hyperlink that requires individuals to open and respond within 10 minutes. This means Queensland Health will be able to ensure individuals in home quarantine are at the residence they are lawfully required to be at. It specifically allows authorities to identify if anybody is away from their approved residence. Potential breaches will be assessed by police to identify whether further action is required, including fines and a direction to go into hotel quarantine at their own cost.

This new check-in feature of our home quarantine system will also enable authorities to check on the welfare of those in home quarantine which, as we know, can be a challenging time for individuals and families. Our improved home quarantine system will benefit the community through strengthened compliance and more effective monitoring of people's welfare.

As the Premier said, 'roll up, roll up'—this weekend is super vax weekend—to get your COVID vaccination at one of our mass vaccination centres or local community vaccination hubs near you. Anyone aged 12 and over, including those aged 60 and over, can now get Pfizer. I can also confirm that those aged 60 and over can now get the Pfizer vaccine from their GP, as the Premier said. This is great news. This gives choice to those who are 60 and over. From next week there were going to be three vaccines available for those under 60 but only one available for those 60 plus.

I am so glad that our government made the decision to open it up and give people who are 60-plus choice as well. Now our GPs are going to be able to offer Pfizer as well. Our local community pharmacies are going to be delivering not just AstraZeneca but Moderna from next week as well. You can get vaccinated anywhere in Queensland—whether it is a Queensland Health facility, GP or pharmacy. Roll up and get vaccinated. There has never been a more important time to get vaccinated, so come forward and protect yourselves and your loved ones.

We have been saying for 18 months that everything we were doing was waiting for the vaccine. All of those measures we were taking needed to be taken while we waited for the vaccine. All of that work has led up to this point in time. Let us get vaccinated. Let us keep our community safe. While those down south are urgently vaccinating so they can open up to their lifestyle again, we need to get vaccinated to protect the lifestyle we already have here in Queensland. Get vaccinated to help our economy and to keep our community safe.