



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Update**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Queensland's health workers have been critical to our pandemic response. Their dedication and commitment along with the Premier's strong leadership have saved countless lives and helped protect the Queensland economy from one of the gravest threats we have ever faced. I want to join the Premier in thanking our frontline health workers for their efforts throughout the pandemic and also the Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard, for helping guide us through the third Omicron wave.

We now know that the peak of this current COVID-19 wave has passed. The third wave peak occurred around 26 July when there were 1,123 people in Queensland hospitals with COVID. There were 66,569 active cases reported on that date with 2,404 Queensland health staff furloughed through illness. I am pleased to inform the House that since then there has been a significant improvement in these indicators. Currently, there are around 21,107 active COVID cases reported and 751 furloughed health workers. While national modelling suggests we will not experience the worst of this wave until the end of the month, we are pleased that the peak has already passed. This is a testament not only to our health staff but to Queenslanders themselves, who rose to the challenge yet again.

More than 828,000 Queenslanders over the age of 50 have had their fourth dose booster and that number rose substantially leading up to the peak. More people with COVID-19 also sought antiviral medicines. Between 20 June and 24 July prescriptions rose from 800 a week to 6,467 a week. That is an increase of over 800 per cent. However, we are not out of the woods yet. The third wave has peaked, but it has not ended. Furthermore, a fourth wave later this year is possible.

We need to continue doing things that have helped us weather these challenges. Please follow the health advice to wear a mask when you are indoors or you are unable to physically distance when recommended. Stay home if you are sick. Seek antiviral medicines if you are infected and eligible. Importantly, get up to date with your vaccinations. While we cannot eliminate COVID, we can limit the impact it has on us, as we have proven yet again.