




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Restrictions

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): I advise that Queensland has, as of today, implemented National Cabinet's decision to remove the mandatory isolation period for COVID-positive individuals. This decision was based on the advice of the Commonwealth Chief Health Officer and marks a new phase of our management of the pandemic. With 90 COVID-19 inpatients across our hospital system today—down from a high of over 1,000 in July—now is the right time to take this step.

Queensland Health and the Chief Health Officer have advised that, rather than isolation being mandatory, it is now recommended if people are COVID-positive they remain at home until they no longer have any acute respiratory symptoms such as cough, breathing difficulty, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion or other symptoms like fatigue, nausea or fever, and if they are in a high-risk group they consult their GP for specialised advice and access to antiviral treatment if appropriate.

If people are COVID-19 positive but are well enough to re-enter the community it is recommended that they wear a mask indoors for seven days from when they received their positive test or until they are no longer symptomatic and that they do not visit an aged-care or disability facility or hospital. Remember, if people are sick they should still ensure they are testing themselves and registering that test. Queenslanders have done an exceptional job in protecting themselves and our community against this virus. I am sure we will continue this excellent work in the next phase of this pandemic.