



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Update**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.46 am): The Chief Health Officer has advised that we are in a new wave; it will be our fourth wave. The number of COVID inpatients in our hospitals has ticked up significantly in the last week, but we have been here before. We know how to do this; we have done it many times before. Under our new COVID management framework, the Chief Health Officer will be making recommendations to Queenslanders on how to best protect themselves from this next wave.

We will be moving our COVID risk alert on the Chief Health Officer's traffic light system from green to amber. As we have identified before, this does not mean that any enforceable directions are being issued by the Chief Health Officer. Instead, it means that the Chief Health Officer is indicating to the public that we need to raise our level of alertness, and be prepared to take measures to protect ourselves from a high rate of community transmission.

The Chief Health Officer has advised that when the traffic light is amber, Queenslanders should wear a mask in healthcare settings, indoors if they cannot socially distance, on public transport, if they are older or medically at risk or if they are around people who are vulnerable to COVID-19. The Chief Health Officer has further advised that people who are experiencing symptoms should take a rapid antigen test, and any person living in the same household as a positive case should do a rapid antigen test every two days.

I encourage all Queenslanders to take this advice but, as I say, Queenslanders have been here before. We know that some of the best protection against this virus comes from ensuring we are fully up to date with our booster doses. For most people under 30, it means having three shots. If you are 50 and over, you need four. For any person who has not had their third or fourth dose and is eligible to do so, I implore them to head to their local GP or pharmacy and protect themselves in anticipation of this fourth wave.

I also remind vulnerable Queenslanders that they may be eligible to receive COVID-19 antivirals. Coupled with vaccination, this provides significant protection against the virus and it provides the best chance of preventing serious illness. Queenslanders have been put to the test time and time again and each and every time we have prevailed. I am sure that this time will be no different and, in order to ensure that is so, we need to work together. We know what to do, Queenslanders—let's get on and do it.