

COVID update – Student Placements

Following a Queensland Health Directive, students are now classified as healthcare workers and can follow the same directives as healthcare staff.

The following applies to students while on placement within Mater facilities.

N95 mask requirements in all Mater hospitals

Mater has changed its mask-wearing requirements for staff and students, bringing its facilities in line with Queensland's public Health and Hospital Services.

N95 Mask requirements update

PLEASE NOTE: Students providing direct clinical care to patients are required to wear N95 masks

- Students who do not provide direct clinical care to patients can wear a surgical mask
- Students must be clean shaven to wear N95s
- Students working in non-clinical areas in clinical buildings must wear a surgical mask

Returning from overseas travel

- Returning students must
 - Be asymptomatic and fully vaccinated
 - Isolate for a minimum of 7 full days after returning to Queensland
 - Wear appropriate PPE at all times
 - Undertake a COVID-19 test and return a negative result before returning to placement
- If students test positive for COVID-19 they must not attend placement and should follow the process below.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19

- The day of the positive test result is Day 0
- Isolate for a minimum of 7 full days after positive test
- May return to placement on Day 8 provided you are asymptomatic
- There is no need to retest for COVID-19. Please see latest guidelines for reinfection period information at [covid19.qld.gov.au](https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au).

Students who are close contacts

- Students are able to continue on placement providing they test negative for COVID-19 and have no symptoms
- Must return a negative COVID-19 test result before their first shift and on days 2, 4 and 6 during the 7-day period after becoming a close contact. The day of last exposure to the COVID positive person is Day 0.
- Mater People who have returned to work as close contacts must continue to wear N95 masks in clinical buildings.
- This requirement applies for the 14-day period after the staff member is identified as a close contact.
- Returning close contacts must also have breaks on their own or outside.