

## **Halls of Residence UQ Gatton Novel coronavirus Response**

The purpose of this plan is provide guidance for UQ Gatton staff on the management of residents on campus during the coronavirus pandemic. It enables staff to maintain essential functions during the outbreak through relevant mitigation strategies to minimise the risk of transmission and infection of students and others.

### **UQ Halls of Residence**

UQ Gatton Campus houses approximately 436 students and employs 5 permanent staff as well as 28 residential staff members. The residence halls, dining hall, teaching spaces and office spaces are within close proximity to each other. The total number of enrolled students on campus, which includes those that live off campus can be up to 2000. A viral outbreak on campus will require the interactions and collaboration of the university personnel, local and state health agencies depending on the scope of the outbreak. The university may remain open during the outbreak and may continue to provide services to students who must remain on campus and maintain teaching and other services. Certain students such as international students may need accommodation on campus for some period and will require essential services from the university during that time.

### **Key Responsibilities**

The Director, Gatton Campus shall be responsible for the overall command and control of emergency operations related to the Halls of Residence. The Gatton Campus Director, UQ Security, UQ Health and UQ HSW Division will be key points of contact during the event.

### **Communication**

Replication of any University communication with students and development of similar content for Campus Visitors until the risk period has passed.

Dissemination of Hall's or living environment specific information to go as a separate email and on internal social media platforms.

Halls of Residence Office to disseminate a specific email for students arriving from overseas to go out as a matter of urgency.

### **Reporting of cases**

#### **Internal Reporting**

Any cases on Campus would be reported to UQ Security, UQ Health, Gatton Campus Director, The Division of Student Affairs and UQ HSW Division.

#### **External Reporting**

Student Affairs contacts Qld Health to notify the case of a reportable disease to centralise the flow of information leaving UQ.

### **Isolation/Quarantine Protocols**

UQ Health, in consultation with the Qld Health, makes a recommendation either to quarantine one or more individuals who have been exposed but are without symptoms, or to isolate any individual who has been exposed and has symptoms.

Halls of Residence will identify appropriate space for emergency/isolation use.

The Health Service will contact the Halls of Residence to make arrangements for use of a designated isolation or quarantine space and to get the room/hall keys.

The Halls of Residence will arrange to have keys assigned to that student. The Halls will coordinate with Health Service and Student Services an appropriate space based on the student's needs and room availability. Options may include the Cottage, houses on campus or the Motel.

In the case of an out-of-hours occurrence Halls' residential staff will contact the Hall's administration staff to facilitate the above process through UQ Security.

A quarantined student will be required to occupy the room for the duration of time specified by Health Services and/or Qld Health.

The student will be provided with information contained in this document and will be given parameters about contact with others. Halls of Residence staff will rely on information from Health Services on specific precautions the student must take including food preparation, personal cleaning and hygiene requirements, attendance at lectures etc.

Halls' residential staff will consult with the individual to gather necessary belongings and provide meals and or provision for self-catering.

Halls will service the quarantine rooms with linen and regular cleaning as necessary. Contract cleaning staff will be briefed re precautions needed when entering the space.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and medical waste disposal procedures are dependent on the scope and nature of any given outbreak. Halls will seek procedures and guidance from Health Services and Qld Health in relation to these issues and in relation to cleaning both quarantine and non-quarantine areas.

### **Emergency and Non-Emergency Transportation Guidelines**

Halls' students who are seriously ill with a contagious respiratory infection and in need of critical medical care will be transported via ambulance. This will be arranged in the normal manner through Health Service or UQ Security. Residential staff will inform Hall's administration staff immediately in order that next of kin are informed. Residential staff will also notify students in the immediate living area that they may have come in contact with the virus and to monitor their own health.

All interaction should be limited as much as possible and be determined by the condition of the student in consultation with health Services or UQ Security. To minimize possible exposures, only necessary personnel should be involved with the student.

Campus Students who require testing can be transported via the Science Faculty Community Bus. Safety protocols to be established and UQ Health will coordinate the process. Halls of Residence has a pool of drivers who are willing to assist.

### **Education**

Detailed factual information about the Novel Virus will be circulated to students prior to their arrival on campus. Disseminated by Hall's administration staff – in particular FAQ document which UQ has produced.

Hall's administration staff will erect Posters indicating the best possible defence against catching the virus as per Qld Health or WHO websites will be placed in key areas.

A campaign of vigilance and awareness managed by residential staff through discussion and observation of fellow residents' health and well-being to catch any potential cases as early as possible will be implemented.

#### Counselling and support

1. Provide counselling and support services for students
2. Provide information to students – handouts and notices
3. PPE for staff and students
4. Information sessions for staff and access to Employee Assistance Program

### **Procedure in the event of a suspected case**

Report through residential staff.

Student to be isolated ASAP and taken to UQ Health as soon as practicable – or ambulance called through UQ Security if required

All staff and community informed via social media and email platforms that there is a suspected case

Wait for medical outcome to inform if positive case or not

Positive case – reinforce education strategies above – report to Student Affairs, UQ HSW Division, UQ Security and Gatton Campus Director

Introduce quarantine/isolation measures

Report from another source.

All staff and community informed via social media and email platforms that there is a suspected case

Wait for medical outcome to inform if positive case or not

Positive case – reinforce education strategies above – report to Student Affairs, UQ HSW Division, UQ Security and Gatton Campus Director

Introduce quarantine/isolation measures

## **Social Distancing and Cleaning Measures**

### **Dining:**

Extensive modifications to our dining service have been implemented in conjunction with Chartwell's Catering group. This includes but is not limited to all food served by staff, self-serve buffet no longer in place, pre-packaged desserts and salads, seating density compliant with 4sqm rule as per Qld Government, hand wash stations on point of entry and departure, regular sanitisation of common touch points during meal service.

### **Cleaning:**

All high use areas such as bathrooms and hallways, handrails, and common room surfaces sanitised twice daily on top of regular cleaning schedule as per Qld Government guidelines.

### **Living:**

All common areas under supervision of Residential Staff Team to ensure social distancing is adhered to where required. Room use capacity signs placed outside all rooms including social distancing guides.

All student events are subject to additional covid-safe protocols and are submitted to Halls of Residence Management for approval. UQ Event Guidelines including Qld Government recommendations are adhered to.

## **Closure of Halls/Campus**

May occur in stages depending on the level of risk and advice from UQ Crisis Management team and relevant authorities.

- Cancellation of sporting events
- Closure of dining hall
- Stockpiling non-perishable food and equipment that may be required when the dining hall is closed

### **References:**

- Qld Health Influenza pandemic plan - [https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0030/444684/influenza-pandemicplan.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/444684/influenza-pandemicplan.pdf)
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  - Edith Cowan Uni plan: [https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/129455/BCP-ECU-InfluenzaPandemic-Plan-2017.pdf](https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/129455/BCP-ECU-InfluenzaPandemic-Plan-2017.pdf)
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