



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

2 August 2021

Dear foster and kinship carers and parents

The Deputy Premier announced this morning that the current lockdown in 11 local government areas in South East Queensland is to be extended to 4pm on Sunday 8 August, to halt the spread of COVID-19 and keep Queenslanders safe.

The lockdown applies to the local government areas of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redlands, Scenic Rim, Somerset and Sunshine Coast.

The current Health Direction imposes tighter restrictions on movement and gathering, and the wearing of face masks, than in previous lockdowns. Please visit the [Queensland Health](#) website for full details of the only reasons you should be leaving your home.

If you suspect you have come into contact with COVID-19, you must get tested. You should also contact your Child Safety Officer and follow all Queensland Health advice.

Family contact

The most current Queensland Health Direction is clear that for children under 18 years who do not live in the same household as their biological parents or siblings, or one of their parents or siblings, contact or access arrangements can only continue if they are court-ordered or court-directed.

Unless such an order or direction exists, face-to-face contact arrangements between children and their families cannot proceed, and children under 18 years must remain at the premises they are residing at for the duration of the lockdown period.

In the vast majority of cases, children subject to Child Protection Orders **do not** have court-ordered or court-directed contact arrangements. Unless such an order or direction exists, face-to-face contact arrangements between children and their families sadly cannot proceed.

At this time alternatives to face-to-face contact, such as FaceTime calls, SKYPE and zoom contacts, wherever possible, will need to be used to ensure family connections are maintained during this stressful time. Parents experiencing challenges accessing data or devices should contact their Child Safety Officer, who may be able to assist.





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Keep informed

We will continue to provide information on COVID-19 through:

- peak bodies — PeakCare, Queensland Foster and Kinship Care, CREATE Foundation and the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSIPP)
- foster and kinship care service providers
- [Department website](#)
- Carer Connect app
- [Child and Family Queensland Facebook page](#).

If you have any questions and need to talk to your Child Safety Officer, please email them in the first instance. Alternatively, you can call your child safety service centre or contact the Foster and Kinship Carer Support Line on 1300 729 309.

It's important that you continue to follow health advice to stay safe and well. For up-to-date Queensland COVID-19 information, please visit the [Queensland Health website](#).

On behalf of my colleagues I would like to thank you for your ongoing care and attention in this really difficult time. Please know we are here if you need support and assistance. Stay safe and well.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin
Director-General

