



Office of the
Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Olympics



Brisbane 2032
Olympic and Paralympic
Games Host
Queensland



For reply please quote: *LJP/GV – TF/21/29536 – DOC/21/245736*
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10 January 2022

Councillor Greg Christensen
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Dear Councillor Christensen

Thank you for your letter outlining the concerns of your colleagues with regard to the COVID-19 Roadmap. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics and I apologise for the delay in responding.

The decision to restrict individuals' movements has not been taken lightly and is being done in the interests of protecting Queenslanders from the certain loss of life that would result from an outbreak of COVID-19. As a result of these actions, Queensland has had much success in preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and has been able to avoid the long lockdowns experienced by some of our jurisdictional colleagues.

It is clear from your email and the attached Mayoral Minute, that you and your fellow councillors have concerns about the potential impacts of the Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status – a plan for 80% and beyond being implemented, and these concerns are acknowledged. These changes commenced on 17 December 2021, at which time more than 80 per cent of Queenslanders were fully vaccinated.

The restrictions on people who are not fully vaccinated are to protect Queenslanders and ensure that the hospital system is not overwhelmed once the virus begins circulating after the borders open. Unvaccinated people over the age of 16 will be unable to visit non-essential venues which have been identified as presenting a considerable outbreak risk, such as hospitals and residential aged care (except for medical treatment or in an emergency), attend hospitality and entertainment venues such as cafes and nightclubs, and attend music festivals and sporting stadiums.

At all times, both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people will be able to access essential services and activities. This means unvaccinated people will still be able to go to grocery stores, pharmacies, post offices, newsagents, and clothing stores, and participate in activities like going to the gym for exercise. Capacity restrictions may still be in place at these types of businesses, and it is important that people still continue to check-in to venues.

Preliminary modelling undertaken by QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute was used to develop Queensland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan To Unite Families (the Plan), and the modelling indicated that reopening in the absence of additional restrictions beyond the test, trace, isolate and quarantine regime was likely to trigger an outbreak, even should vaccination levels exceed 80 per cent.

Your efforts to encourage vaccination in your region are welcomed. Vaccination, along with reminders that the 'new normal' must include physical distancing, good hand hygiene, using the Check In Qld app, staying home when sick and, at times, mask wearing, will assist with maintaining ongoing reasonable levels of health.

It is important to note that when Queensland reaches 90 per cent double dose vaccinated, the Plan will be reviewed again to align with the latest public health advice depending on the COVID-19 situation at the time and informed by outcomes from jurisdictions reopening earlier than Queensland.

It is understandable that you and your fellow councillors may have further questions on this matter. Detailed information about the restrictions for vaccinated and unvaccinated people, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found by visiting www.covid19.qld.gov.au and click on 'Queensland's COVID-19 vaccine plans'. In addition, should your constituents have further questions about medical exemptions, what counts as an exemption, and who can grant one, information can be found on the Federal Government website at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au and in the search field type in 'immunisation exemptions'.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to the Premier's attention and I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JIM MURPHY
CHIEF OF STAFF