Return to UQ campuses and sites March 2022

Context

- All staff and students (and other groups) attending UQ sites have been required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 from 14 February.
- It is strongly encouraged that people receive their booster for COVID-19 as soon as they are eligible.
- The Queensland Government is encouraging people to return to work and has further reduced restrictions.
  - Masks will no longer be required indoors, except in a hospital or a health care facility (where providing face to face services), residential aged care, disability accommodation, prisons, public transport, airports and on planes.
  - Masks will no longer be required in schools, including for staff, students and visitors.
  - Masks will still be recommended whenever you can’t socially distance.
  - There will be no limit on the number of visitors to one’s home at one time.
  - Occupant density limits will no longer apply to weddings and funerals.
  - Food courts, hairdressers, gyms, private hire and universities will no longer be subject to occupant density requirements [note - universities only had density requirements in large lecture settings].
  - Under the amended direction, universities are non-restricted businesses and undertakings.
- There are no changes in the requirement for people to be vaccinated to attend vulnerable settings, or hospitality venues such as cafes and restaurants. Further:
  - Restrictions around healthcare settings are still in place
  - Event requirements are still in place as per the P&F process and in line with the Direction.

Returning to UQ

1. With the above in mind, the overarching principle is for management and staff to plan to return to campuses, where possible, in line with conversations with their local manager and their local area business continuity plan.¹
2. Staff and students can return to work on campus (staff in accordance with their normal work patterns / flexible work arrangements) in an environment where vaccination rates are higher than in the general Queensland community.
3. Masks may be worn by a person where they want to and feel comfortable in doing so.
4. Staff can access a P2 (N95) disposable respirator, including fit testing of such. Further information is available on the website.
5. Encourage the observation of physical distancing of 1.5m between persons to the extent possible - managers to discuss with staff on the best way to manage this. Where physical distancing is not possible, the use of a face mask is strongly encouraged. In these instances, local managers may discuss other options with staff to promote physical distancing e.g., flexible work arrangements.
6. HSW can deploy air quality monitors to monitor high density areas in local areas to ensure good ventilation. Adjustments will be made to HVAC or space numbers if required. Further information is available on the website.
7. Rapid Antigen Test kits are available in certain circumstances. Further information is available here.
8. Any vulnerable or high-risk individuals should notify their supervisors so that alternative working arrangements or adjustments can be made.
9. Staff and students to stay home when sick, even when having only mild COVID symptoms, or when deemed a close contact to a diagnosed case.
10. All staff should observe high levels of personal hygiene e.g. cough etiquette, regular cleaning of hands etc.

¹ Australian workplaces will be experiencing higher rates of absenteeism. What provisions can local managers put in place to ensure business continuity?