



Advice for workers with health concerns

Queensland  Council of Unions

COVID-19
FACT SHEET

Information for at-risk workers

Employees Considered Vulnerable to COVID-19

Queensland Health advice is that any employee is considered a vulnerable person to COVID-19 if they:

- are 70 years or older
- are 65 years or older with chronic medical conditions
- are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who is 50 years or older with one or more chronic medical conditions
- are significantly immunocompromised or taking immunosuppression therapy
- have a medical condition and their doctor has advised in writing that they are at an increased risk and require work adjustments
- have chronic medical conditions such as:
 - » chronic renal failure
 - » coronary heart disease or congestive heart failure
 - » chronic lung disease including severe asthma (for which frequent medical consultations or the use of multiple medications is required), cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis, suppurative lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or chronic emphysema
 - » poorly controlled diabetes
 - » poorly controlled hypertension.

Current health advice recommends vulnerable people self-quarantine in their homes and limit contact with those outside of their immediate household members as much as possible.

This advice may create challenges for employees in the workplace and to ensure an employee's health and safety is maintained, workplaces should consider a number of alternate arrangements.

If the work can be performed at or from home, then all workers, including vulnerable persons should work from home.

Where this is not reasonably practicable to do so, and vulnerable employees are concerned at the potential additional risk to their health, they should raise the matter with their supervisor.



Queensland Council of Unions

For further information, contact the QCU via:

Email: info@qcu.asn.au

Phone: (07) 3010 2555

Post: 5/16 Peel Street,
South Brisbane Qld 4101

queenslandunions.org



Queensland



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A risk assessment should be undertaken and steps taken to eliminate or minimise the risk of harm to the employee.

Responses could include:

- assigning other work that can be undertaken remotely in line with the employee's skill set, experience, and existing level
- temporarily transferring the person to an alternate, non-customer contact role
- negotiate suitable changes to hours of work, or patterns of work that minimise the employee's contact with others
- providing special paid leave

Contact your union for further advice and information.

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