

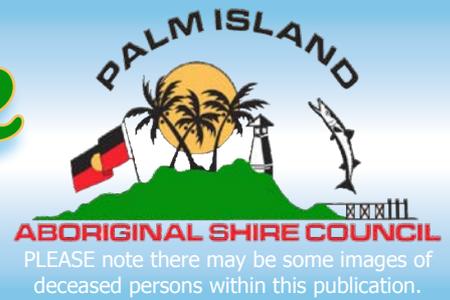
Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 341.1

Monday 20 December 2021



Vaccinations are all that can protect you – DON'T WAIT

Have no doubt: COVID-19 is on its way to Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam says – it's just a question of how long.

“Tomorrow? Next week? January? It is on the way,” he said.

Seven active cases have been identified in Townsville less than a week since the borders opened and skyrocketing cases interstate mean the arrival of COVID-19 on Palm is guaranteed.

“Mask mandates, check-in measures and only letting vaccinated people into pubs, clubs, sporting events etc,

may slow the spread but it won't stop it,” Mayor Sam said.

“The only real protection is vaccination.

“Our Local Disaster Management Group's (LDMG's) advice is many people will have this virus and not know it, as their symptoms will be so mild they won't even get tested.

“However there are still nearly 1,000 Palm Residents not vaccinated which means

we will get much sicker, spread the virus much faster and more of us may face hospitalisation and death.

“The facts are unless we get vaccination rates on Palm as high as the mainland – and that means aiming for 90% – all the health advice we have says we will have deaths on Palm Island.

“It is a tragedy in waiting that we can avoid – and we must”

HOW TO LINK YOUR VACCINATION STATUS

1 UPDATE YOUR APP

Update your Check In Qld app using the **App Store** or **Google Play store**.

2 OPEN THE APP

Open the app, select the menu in the top left corner, and select **COVID-19 Digital Certificate**.

3 ADD CERTIFICATE

Next, select **Add certificate via myGov** at the bottom of your screen.

4 LOG IN TO MYGOV

Now **log in to myGov**. You may need to answer a secret question or enter a security code.

5 GO TO MEDICARE

Scroll to Quick links and select **Go to Medicare**. On the next screen, select **View history**.

6 SHARE WITH CHECK IN APP

At the bottom of the screen select **Share with check in app** and select **Share** again.

7 ACCEPT AND SHARE

On the following windows, select **Accept and share** and then **Accept**.

YOU'VE GOT YOUR GREEN TICK. YOU'RE GOOD TO GO!



For a full list of venues and advice on what to do if you've been to one, visit <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/tracing>.

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, get tested immediately. To find your closest location, visit <https://qld.health/TestingFeverClinics>.

Vaccination is the only way to properly protect yourself against COVID-19. To find your nearest vaccine clinic, visit <https://www.covid19vaccine.qld.gov.au/>.



Careers with Queensland Health

Operational Services Officer

Palm Island

The Joyce Palmer Health Service is currently seeking **Operational Services Officers** to join their team on a casual basis.

About the role

You will work alongside clinical staff to maintain a clean, safe and accessible facility through which health services are delivered to the Palm Island Community.

This is achieved through a range of housekeeping services within Joyce Palmer Health Service and staff accommodation areas. These service include cleaning, food preparation, laundry and transport duties.

Requirements

- Demonstrated skills in washing walls, damp/dry dusting of furniture, cleaning and polishing of corridor floors to hospital standard.
- Demonstrated skill in cleaning toilets and handbasins using industrial techniques and chemicals, with infection control protocols, to hospital standard.
- Current driver's licence or ability to obtain would be highly desirable.
- Qualifications in commercial cookery or similar is highly desirable.
- Highly desirable: Identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander with a Palm Island address.
- Ability to operate with a degree of independence, prioritizing duties to achieve pre-set goals.
- Possession of effective communications and interpersonal skills, including the ability to liaise effectively with staff and clients using tact and discretion and maintaining confidentiality.

It is a condition of employment for all prospective and existing health service employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19, as per Health Employment Directive 12/21 and Queensland Health Human Resources Policy B70.

Generous casual rates of \$33.65 to \$35.90 p.h. (OO2), 12.5 % employer contribution to superannuation. Other employment benefits may include: professional development, salary sacrificing options, shift and locality allowances, corporate discounts, wellness programs and the Employee Assistance Program.

Contact details: Glenn Carey 0457 531 862

Job Ad Reference: TV400299

For further information or to submit an online application:

<https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV400299>

Closing Date: Monday, 10 January 2022

M2576

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

*A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job.
A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.*



Careers with Queensland Health

Cook

Palm Island

The Joyce Palmer Health Service is currently seeking a **Cook** to join their team on a permanent full-time basis.

The position will be responsible for the production and distribution of meals for the Joyce Palmer Health Service.

Key duties include;

- Ensure the food processing is compliant with the *Food Act 2006* (Qld), AS/NZS Food Standards and Queensland Health (QH), ACHS/EQUIP National Accreditation Standards and Townsville HHS policy, procedure, and guidelines.
- Coordinate the production and distribution of meals for internal and external wards in line with agreed processes, standards and time frames.
- Ensure portion control and recipes are compliant with Queensland Health Nutrition Standards for Meals and Menus.
- Ability to work as part of a team and display good communication skills, both written and verbal.

Requirements

- There are no mandatory requirements qualifications for this position, however tertiary or trade qualifications in cooking would be beneficial.
- Food Safety Supervisors Certificate or ability to acquire this certification within 6 months of engagement.
- Highly desirable: qualifications in commercial cookery or similar.
- Current drivers' licence or ability to obtain would be highly desirable.
- Highly desirable: Identifying as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander with a Palm Island address.

It is a condition of employment for all prospective and existing health service employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19, as per Health Employment Directive 12/21 and Queensland Health Human Resources Policy B70.

Generous remuneration package value up to \$70,417 p.a. comprising salary range of \$59,079 to \$61,717 p.a. (OO3), 17.5% leave loading, 12.75 % employer contribution to superannuation. Other employment benefits may include: professional development, salary sacrificing options, shift and locality allowances, corporate discounts, wellness programs and the Employee Assistance Program.

Contact details: Glenn Carey 0457 531 862

Job Ad Reference: TV400311

For further information or to submit an online application:

<https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV400311>

Closing Date: Monday, 10 January 2022.

M2577

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

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COVID-19 will change everything – Mayor

Mayor Sam said the arrival of COVID will fundamentally change our lifestyle here.

“Only life threatening cases will be able to go to the hospital for emergency care,” he said.

“Any and everything else will have to be treated at another site so we can try keep all COVID infected people at one location.

“We won’t be able to visit our loved ones in hospital if it is a COVID positive site – even if they are near end of life.

“All the planning in the world, won’t help protect residents if our vaccination rate stays as low as it is.

“Palm has been slack compared to the mainland for mask wearing and using the check-in app – we need to fix that – immediately.

“Every time we go to the fish and chip shop, or the supermarket, or to an office like Council, we need to use the check-in app.

“Every time we go to the Bistro we have to prove double vaccinations on our phones.

“Every time we catch the ferry, we have to use our masks, and **KEEP THEM ON**, not just while boarding or when someone is watching.”

“This week extra ferry services mean thousands will come and go, back and forwards – every trip is an exposure risk.

“Protecting yourself and your loved ones is everything now.

“The numbers are clear interstate – the people by far who end up in hospital or dying are those not vaccinated.

“It’s a fact.

“We all know we have too many funerals now, there is no excuse for more to die needlessly just because they won’t get vaccinated and follow the health advice.

“I can’t urge you enough – talk to your health professional and get the shot.

“Wear your mask and use the check-in app.”

What to expect?

When a positive COVID-19 case is identified on Palm Island, there will be strict isolation and quarantining imposed on the household which will prevent people from leaving their yards. It will apply to the infected person and everyone who lives there for two weeks. It will prevent everyone from going out or leaving the home for any reason.

How to prepare your household for isolation

- Ensure enough food and water for every person in the house for at least 14 days (cereal, tinned and long-life goods, rice, pasta, sauces and spreads, store meat, vegetables and bread in the freezer).
- Put together a first aid kit with the basics (eg Panadol for adults and children, face masks, cotton balls, gloves, band-aids etc.)
- Ensure large garbage bags are on hand to keep rubbish under control.
- If you have a chronic illness, speak with your Doctor now to ensure you have enough medication for at least one or two months.
- Ensure there is a supply of soap and/or hand sanitiser to keep hands clean.
- Ensure there is a supply of disinfectant and disposable cloths to clean and wipe down household surfaces.
- Ensure there is bleach, washing powder and dishwashing liquid on hand.
- Ensure enough nappies and/or pull-ups for children for at least 14 days.
- Ensure enough toilet paper, tissues, women’s sanitary products, deodorant and wet wipes are available for the entire family.
- Nominate someone in the family to ensure there is power cards, internet access and mobile phone credit available during isolation.
- Watch for COVID-19 Symptoms!

People with COVID-19 can have all or just a few symptoms which may cause mild to severe illness.

Symptoms can include:

- Fever (a temperature of 37.5°C or higher).
- Chills or night sweats.
- Headache.
- Cough and/or sore throat.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Feeling tired (fatigue).
- Muscle pain (myalgia) or body aches.
- Loss of taste and sense of smell.
- Loss of appetite.
- Congestion (blocked nose) or runny nose.
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.

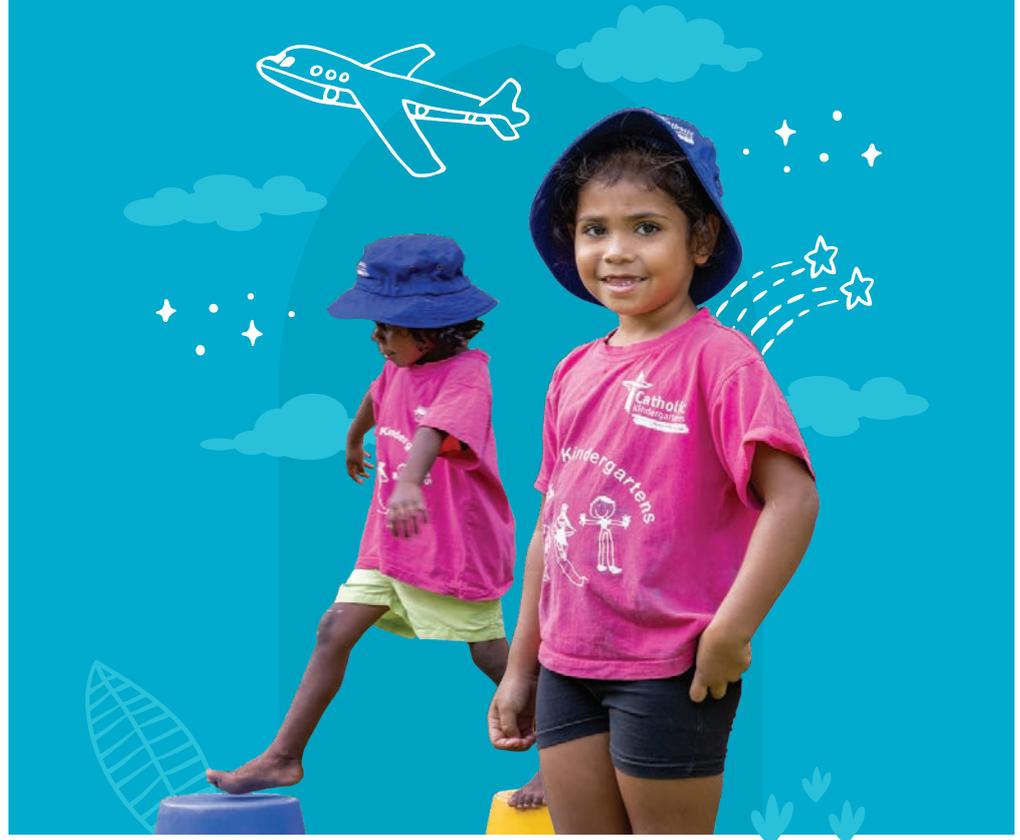
Caring for COVID-19 symptoms at home

- Good hand hygiene.
- Plenty of rest.
- Fever reducing medication (such as Panadol).
- Drink plenty of water.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces regularly.



**Palm
Island
Aboriginal
Shire
Council
will close
for the
2021-22
Christmas/
New Year
break from
2pm
TODAY
until
**Monday 4
January****

ENROL NOW FOR
KINDY IN 2022!



MARY
MACKILLOP
CHILDCARE NQ

Contact us today!
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mccnq.catholic.edu.au
Phone. 4726 3299

**OUR FIRST DEADLINE* for 2022 (Issue 342)
will be Thursday 6 January
for publication on **MONDAY 10 January!****

The **Palm Island Voice** is published *weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor, Christine Howes. You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,773 'likes'!

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

Operating Hours for Palm Island Council are Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm

If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 4,738 'followers' on Facebook!!!

