

## Questions without Notice

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**Name:** Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC

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### Questions:

Regarding the reopening of the NWRH and the NWPH in Burnie:

- 1 What requirements and/or protocols regarding the movement of any inpatients within and between the two hospitals are in place;
- 2 What protocols and processes related to restrict the movement of staff to the area where they are rostered to work within the NWRH;
- 3 How is the staffing levels within the NWRH managed to ensure adequate nursing and other health care staff are available;
  - a) How many overtime hours have been worked by nurses at the NWRH since reopening;
  - b) How many double shifts have been worked by nurses at the NWRH;
- 4 Have all staff completed the PPE update/training prior to recommencement of duties; and
- 5 How are the infection control measures, including movement of staff and patients, overseen at the NWPH since effective control has been handed back to the NWPH management?

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**Answered by:** Hon Leonie Hiscutt MLC  
Leader of Government

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### Answers:

- 1 Tasmanian Health Service and Ambulance Tasmania have the following protocols in place:
  - 1.1 Time Critical Patient Transfer
  - 1.2 Maternity Transfer and Bypass Protocol
  - 1.3 Helicopter Arrival and Departure - MCH
  - 1.4 Acuity Based Ambulance Redirection and Early Retrieval Activation
  - 1.5 COVID-19 Patient Transfer

All patient transfers require a consultant-to-consultant discussion prior to accepting the patient. In addition, a clinical handover is provided from the hospital to the retrieval or transporting team.

- 2 A staff memo has been circulated to staff in order to minimise the footprint of those staff who routinely work across areas. Rosters have also been developed to minimise cross over of staff.

In the clinical areas staff rostered to work on a COVID-19 ward are required to work the entire shift in that area.

- 3 There has been no impact with regard to staffing areas at this time.

I am advised that during this time there has been no impact on overtime hours, and there have been no double shifts worked.

- 4 All staff who have returned to work must have completed the new additional Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) training.

These requirements include an online education program on hand hygiene, PPE, and COVID-19 infection control. Importantly, staff must also demonstrate evidence of completing these requirements, and have an observer certify their competency in donning and doffing PPE.

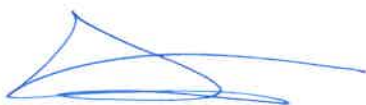
These mandatory requirements are documented for each staff member.

- 5 North West Private Hospital must meet Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare standards around infection control to maintain their accreditation as a health facility.

Staff have been required to complete additional PPE training as part of return to work arrangements, and documentation to that effect has been received by the Regional Health Commander.

A staff and visitor screening program is in place and commenced two weeks prior to the outbreak. The screening tool currently in place is consistent with the THS tool and also requires a temperature check.

Measures including signage and tape have been put in place to ensure social distancing is observed and hand sanitiser stations are placed around the hospital including the foyer, and in every patient room and assessment area.



Sarah Courtney  
**Minister for Health**