

# FAQs FOR HOMESTAY PROVIDERS DURING COVID-19

Updated 22 February 2022

## What should I know before accepting a student placement?

The department seeks to inform you of the risks and requirements of homestay during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before placement, schools have requested to seek your informed consent regarding the placement of homestay students during COVID, and your willingness to host a COVID positive student.

## What should I do if I or anyone in my house is feeling sick, unwell, a confirmed close contact or positive for COVID-19?

### *Prior to student placement*

Please contact the school as soon as possible during regular business hours or contact 1800Qstudy (1800 778 839) after hours. Depending on the timing and other relevant factors, it is likely that your student will be placed in emergency homestay until your family and household have recovered, tested negative or completed isolation requirements as per Queensland Health protocols. Please follow the Queensland Health process relating to those who have been [confirmed as COVID-19 positive or close contacts](#).

### *After student placement*

Please contact the school as soon as possible either during regular business hours or on the 1800Qstudy (1800 778 839) service if after hours. If you, your household members or your student tests positive to COVID-19, it is highly likely you will all be considered close contacts

As a close contact, you need to immediately quarantine yourself at your home, or other suitable accommodation, for 7 full days from the date you last had contact with the person that has COVID-19. Read about [how to quarantine if you are a close contact](#).

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, even mild, when you find out that you are a close contact, you must [get tested](#) using a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or a PCR test. If you test positive, follow the [first steps if you have COVID-19](#).

## What to expect on the day of student arrival and what are my responsibilities?

This will depend on your preference and the arrangement supported by your school. You will be provided by your school with two options prior to placement. In some cases, your school may make these arrangements on your behalf. This arrangement is documented as per the **Student Arrival Form**.

### **Option 1: Approved Transport Chaperone**

Upon arrival at Brisbane International airport, the student will be met and greeted by an approved transport chaperone. Before departing the airport, transport chaperone will assist the student to

undertake a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT). If the student produces a negative result the transport chaperone will proceed to the homestay's residence.

If the student produces a positive result the transport chaperone will inform the school and EQI and manage the situation as per the DEI incident management procedure. The EQI responder will call the homestay provider and school principal to decide if emergency accommodation is required. Upon a negative RAT result the student can travel to your home.

### **Option 2: Homestay elects to pick up student from airport**

You may elect to meet the student at the airport. In this instance you will be responsible for assisting the student with taking their RAT test within 24 hours of their arrival. If the student tests positive, you will provide the student with adequate isolation facilities and accept that you and members of your household will also need to isolate as per Queensland Health requirements.

### **How am I to assist the student with taking a Rapid Antigen Test?**

It is an expectation that an adult should always complete the test for children or supervise children who are using a RAT kit. RAT kits can be used at home and should give a result within 15-30 minutes.

For more information please see <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/exposed-to-covid/covid-testing-in-queensland/about-the-testing-process>

If the result is positive, follow the [first steps if you have COVID-19 process](#), including [reporting your positive RAT result](#) to Queensland Health.

### **Do I have to provide evidence of my vaccination status, including boosters as a requirement of being a homestay provider?**

The QLD Government encourages all eligible persons to be vaccinated as per Queensland Health advice. EQI will not request vaccination information, however, we may be required to ask for vaccination status if requested by student/parent for placement purposes.


### **Can the student participate in a non-routine travel activity on weekends? For example, a day trip or overnight stay at an accredited homestay provider residence?**

Yes. Please refer to [non-routine travel procedure](#) for requirements and approval.

### **What will the students Overseas Health Cover (OSHC) provider cover if the student contracts COVID-19?**

The students OSHC provider should be contacted immediately to find out what they are covered for. This will depend on the provider's policies and the student's level of cover. For students whose OSHC provider is Allianz Global Assistance, you can find important information for customers about COVID-19 [here](#).

### **Can I host if vulnerable, immunocompromised or have young children that are not vaccinated?**



Before homestay placement, EQI will seek your acknowledgement, consent and approval regarding hosting a student. If you have concerns about your health, or the health of anyone in your family, you should seek advice from a medical practitioner.

**Will the student I am hosting be vaccinated?**

The Commonwealth Government requires a student on a student visa (subclass 500) to be fully vaccinated if under 18 years of age and travelling unaccompanied, unless they are medically exempt or accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult.

You will be informed if the student is unvaccinated/medically exempt before confirming the homestay placement.

**Will the student have access to a RAT and will my household be provided with some when required to test?**

As part of pre-departure requirements, students must have one RAT to be used within 24 hours of arrival in Queensland.

If you are having trouble accessing a RAT, please contact your school for assistance.