

Enquiries to: Office of the Chief Health Officer  
and Deputy Director-General  
Queensland Health  
File Ref: C-ECTF-20/13688-058



Queensland Health

██████████  
Director-General  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Dear ██████████

**Approval for farmers and agribusiness workers to move across the Queensland border by air or road for farming and agribusiness – *Border Restrictions Direction (No.55)* or its successors**

I, Dr Peter Aitken, Chief Health Officer, have provided an exemption on the conditions set out below for farmers and agribusiness workers as an exempt class of persons under *Border Restrictions Direction (No.55)* or its successors, including from the general quarantine requirements set out in part A of Schedule 2 of the Direction, or unless amended or revoked, for the farmers and agribusiness workers described below.

**This approval does not apply to workers involved in picking, packing, sorting, and meat processing, and does not permit farmers and agribusiness workers to enter Queensland for any other purpose per the *Border Restrictions Direction (No.55)* or its successors.**

1. This exemption applies until **17 December 2021**, unless it is amended or revoked.
2. In this document:
  - (a) ***border zone resident*** means a person whose primary place of residence is in the ***restricted or non-restricted border zone***;
  - (b) ***COVID-19 hotspot*** means a COVID-19 hotspot declared by the Queensland Chief Health Officer;
  - (c) ***COVID-19 PCR test*** means an oropharyngeal and deep nasal swab for a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test approved for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration to detect whether a person has the COVID-19 virus.

*Note: A COVID-19 PCR test does not include a self-test.*

- (d) ***COVID-19 vaccine*** means a vaccine approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia or endorsed by WHO-COVAX if obtained overseas;

- (e) **emergency officer (public health)** means an emergency officer (general) or emergency officer (medical) appointed under the *Public Health Act 2005*;
- (f) **farmers and agribusiness workers** means those persons listed in Schedule 1 of this class exemption;
- (g) **fully vaccinated** means the person has received the prescribed number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine;
- (h) **interstate exposure venue** means a place that is:
  - i. identified by the relevant government authority for a State or Territory or **safe travel zone country** as a venue where a person who was present at that venue during an exposure period is required to quarantine, isolate or be tested for COVID-19 and isolate until they receive a negative result or for another period due to potential exposure to COVID-19; and
  - ii. published on the Queensland Health website.

*Note: an interstate exposure venue includes all venues identified by a relevant government authority including venues identified as either close contact venues or casual contact venues. These venues are published on the Queensland Health contact tracing website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/contact-tracing>.*

- (i) **non-restricted border zone** means the local government areas listed in the *COVID-19 Hotspots and Border Zone Declaration*. These areas are also represented visually on a map published on the Queensland Health website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/covid19/travel-declaration-map>;
  - (j) **Queensland resident** is a person whose primary place of residence is in Queensland.
  - (k) **restricted border zone** means the local government areas listed in *COVID-19 Hotspots and Border Zone Declaration*. These areas are also represented visually on a map published on the Queensland Health website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/covid19/travel-declaration-map>;
  - (l) **symptoms consistent with COVID-19** has the same meaning as in the *Border Restrictions Direction (No.55)* or its successors; and
3. This class exemption applies to **farmers and agribusiness workers** who are **Queensland residents** or **border zone residents** entering or re-entering Queensland from the **restricted border zone** as outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5.

#### Queensland residents

4. This class exemption applies to **Queensland residents** who are **farmers and agribusiness workers** entering Queensland by air or road after entering the **restricted border zone**:
- (a) to perform essential agribusiness services for the agriculture supply chain or farming activities or critical agriculture maintenance work that can only be performed in the **restricted border zone**; or
  - (b) to access or provide timely veterinary services, or to provide care for livestock, that can only be accessed or provided in the **restricted border zone**, or
  - (c) as a parent or guardian transporting their children, to attend face to face schooling, or to attend a childcare facility, in the **restricted border zone**.

#### New South Wales border zone residents

5. This class exemption applies to New South Wales **border zone residents** who reside in the **restricted border zone**, or have been in the **restricted border zone** in the preceding 14 days, and who are **farmers and agribusiness workers** entering Queensland by air or road

- (a) to perform essential agribusiness services, farming activities or critical agriculture maintenance work that can only be performed in Queensland; or
  - (b) to access or provide timely veterinary services, or to provide care for livestock, that can only be accessed or provided in Queensland; or
  - (c) as a parent or guardian transporting their children, to attend face to face schooling, or to attend a childcare facility, in Queensland.
6. **Farmers and agribusiness workers**, and who are a **Queensland resident** or New South Wales **restricted border zone resident** as described in paragraph 4 or paragraph 5 are permitted to travel between Queensland and the **restricted border zone** for permitted purposes, including work, provided they are not a person to which paragraph 10 applies.

### Surveillance Testing

7. **Farmers and agribusiness workers** covered by this exemption must not enter Queensland unless:
- (a) they have evidence of a negative **COVID-19 PCR test** result received within 7 days prior to entering Queensland; and
  - (b) they have maintained a rolling 7-day testing cycle while they continue to travel into and out of the **restricted border zone**; and
  - (c) they can provide evidence of their compliance with the testing obligations in subparagraphs (a) and (b) to an **emergency officer (public health)** if requested.

### Recordkeeping

8. **Farmers and agribusiness workers** entering Queensland who have been in the **restricted border zone** in the previous 14 days under this exemption must:
- (a) collect and maintain written records of close contacts while in either Queensland or the **restricted border zone** including:
    - i. date, time and location of where the close contact occurred; and
    - ii. if available, name and phone number or email of the close contact.
  - (b) provide the records to an **emergency officer (public health)**, contact tracing officer or an officer of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries if requested.

### Other conditions

9. **Farmers and agribusiness workers** entering or re-entering Queensland from the **restricted border zone**:
- (a) must be **fully vaccinated** with a **COVID-19 vaccine**; and
  - (b) must put in place a Quarantine Management Plan (which includes mandatory mask wearing, -use of the Check In app where possible, and keeping records of movement by the applicant which can be provided if requested by a Queensland Government representative); and
  - (c) must monitor their symptoms and get tested if they develop **symptoms consistent with COVID-19** irrespective of where they are in the rolling 7-day testing cycle under paragraph 7(b) of this class exemption; and
  - (d) must travel directly to and from the relevant farm or premises; and
  - (e) must only exit their mode of transport to access rest stop facilities, refuelling, and activities directly related to their agribusiness activity or to meet required regulation activities such as workplace health and safety or fatigue management; and
  - (f) may stay at overnight accommodation when necessary in order to fulfil fatigue management requirements and remain isolated, to the extent reasonably practicable, from the general public; and
  - (g) who are New South Wales **border zone residents** who reside in the **restricted border zone**, or have been in the **restricted border zone** in the preceding 14 days must:
    - i. remain isolated, to the extent reasonably practicable, from the general public at the agribusiness or farm in Queensland until the person departs Queensland or for 14 days, whichever period is shorter; and
    - ii. only remain in Queensland for the time necessary to perform the essential agribusiness, farming activities, or critical agricultural maintenance work.
  - (h) who are **Queensland residents** must:

- i. remain isolated, to the extent reasonably practicable, from the general public at the agribusiness or farm in the **restricted border zone** until the person returns to Queensland; and
- ii. comply with the requirements to stay home in Queensland under Part 6A of the *Border Restrictions Direction (No.55)* when they return to Queensland.

10. The class exemption does not apply to anyone who has:

- been to an **interstate exposure venue** or is a close contact of someone who has been to an **interstate exposure venue**; or
- had known contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
- symptoms consistent with COVID-19, unless cleared by a medical practitioner and able to provide a negative COVID-19 test no greater than 3 days prior to travel; or
- has been in a **COVID-19 hotspot** outside of the **restricted or non-restricted border zone**, unless 14 days have passed since the person was in a **COVID-19 hotspot**.

### **Queensland Border Declaration Pass and documents**

Before travelling to Queensland, **farmers and agribusiness workers** must complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass. You must describe your right of entry as 'I have an exemption granted by the Chief Health Officer' and you will be issued a Queensland Border Declaration-'Z' Pass.

To enter Queensland under this class exemption, **farmers and agribusiness workers** must carry the following documents, and present them if requested by an **emergency officer (public health)**:

- a Queensland Border Declaration 'Z' Pass;
- evidence of their identity confirming their place of residence, for example a driver licence;
- evidence of their employment, contract, property ownership, lease or agistment arrangements;
- evidence that they are **fully vaccinated** with a **COVID-19 vaccine**;
- a copy of this class exemption.

This exemption has been approved based on the Public Health Directions and COVID-19 hotspot declarations in place at the time of approval. It is each farmer's and agribusiness worker's responsibility to review the Public Health Directions and hotspot declarations at the time of their entry to Queensland to determine if they are subject to any amended requirements or obligations.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Aitken  
**Queensland Chief Health Officer**  
**Queensland Health**  
26 November 2021

## Schedule 1 – Farmers and agribusiness workers

- Farmers with contiguous farms dissected by the Queensland-New South Wales border
- Farmers travelling directly to one or more active farm production sites

*Note: this includes farmers who need to cross the border to travel directly between:*

- a site in Queensland and a site in the restricted or non-restricted border zone or vice versa;
  - their residence in Queensland and a site in the restricted or non-restricted border zone; or
  - their residence in the restricted or non-restricted border zone and a site in Queensland.
- Contractors and employees of the above farmers, other than seasonal workers, to the extent they will be undertaking:
    - time critical agricultural operations such as planting, pruning, fertilising, spraying and harvesting broad acre crops; or
    - time critical agriculture maintenance work such as spraying, weeding and fire risk management.
  - Specialist farm machinery operators for time critical agricultural operations such as planting, fertilising, spraying and harvesting.

*Example: specialist farm machinery operators include air and ground agricultural chemical sprayers and operators of farm machinery such as harvesters, chaser bins, spray rigs, and packing, grading and conveying machines.*

*Note: this does not include operators of non-specialised machinery such as farm utes, motorbikes or quadbikes.*

- Specialist agronomists providing time critical crop production advice

*Example: specialised agronomists that provide advice on farming practices and perform activities and services such as collecting and analysing data and samples of produce, feed and soil; identifying crop disease, pests and weeds; and specialised fertiliser application (for example, organic farming).*

- Specialist technicians, including maintenance and repair, for agriculture-specific infrastructure and machinery, for example, a grain silo used for agricultural production storage

*Example: technicians that service feed mills, grain silos, grain elevators, cotton gins, moisture and protein testers and sample takers, stock mill operators, bulk grain handlers, cotton bailers, packing, grading and conveying machines, tradespeople with specialist expertise in agribusiness infrastructure or machinery, including for nurseries.*

*Note: this does not include technicians that only service non-specialised machinery, such as standard trucks, even if these are used by the agribusiness.*

- Specialist veterinarians and critical support technicians that are entering to prevent significant adverse animal welfare outcomes but only where an animal cannot practicably be transported for treatment.

*Note: this category includes specialist veterinarians and veterinary technicians that treat large animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses as well as veterinarians treating poultry and commercial aquaculture species. It does not include veterinarians treating small 'pets' such as dogs, cats, birds, and fish.*