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AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry welcomed new Queensland Health guidelines to protect health workers on the front line in moderate risk areas, including Metro South, Metro North and West Moreton Hospital and Health Services.

“All doctors, patients and visitors to hospitals and GP clinics in the Greater Brisbane area will be required to put on a mask before entering the facilities,” he said.

“This will help keep our health workers safe so they can continue caring for the most vulnerable in our community.”

While Queensland Health recommended GPs followed the same protocols in the Greater Brisbane area, Dr Perry said the supply of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to GP clinics and other primary health facilities in the community was already low.

“The Federal Government supplies PPE for distribution to the primary care sector and we are calling for a boost in stock so that our GPs and other frontline health workers in the community can also feel safe,” he said.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was working closely with Queensland Health to ensure clear and transparent communication to all frontline health workers in the community regarding access to and distribution of PPE.

“GP supplies are not sufficiently reliable and there is no transparency about the availability of PPE for GPs, nor what type of PPE is available - information that is crucial for our frontline health workers to do their jobs safely,” he said.

Dr Perry said the unexpected outbreak of COVID cases stemming from a Brisbane detention centre employee was a stark reminder of the danger we face with this virus.

“It’s critical that anyone with symptoms call their GP immediately so they can be tested for COVID,” he said.

Dr Perry said Queenslanders had done an incredible job looking out for each other and could not afford to drop their guard.

“We all must remember to keep our social distance, wash our hands and if you’re feeling even a little but unwell, call your GP, get tested and STAY AT HOME.”

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