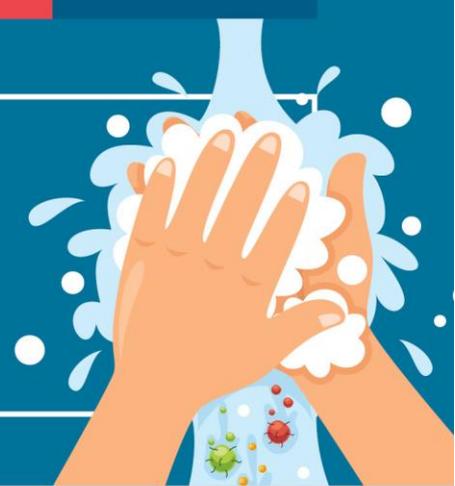


# COVID-19 Fact Sheet



## SOCIAL DISTANCING – OPEN SPACES, OFFICE AREAS AND WORK VEHICLES

On the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Prime Minister of Australia issued a direction in a national statement that read – “**The highest priority should be placed on social isolation measures**”. Again, on the 29/03/2020, the Prime Minister reinforced this message and introduced further social isolation restrictions.

Qld has now introduced legislation to make it an offence to breach social distancing requirements. For Council, we must meet the requirement to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between employees. This requirement applies to the entire workplace **including work vehicles**.

Social distancing includes ways to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases. It means less contact between you and other people. Social distancing is important because COVID-19 is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious or in the 24 hours before their symptoms appear;
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes or;
- touching objects or surfaces (such as doorknobs, tables, insides of vehicles) contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

The more space between you and others, the harder it is for the virus to spread. Along with restricting gatherings, Council must ensure there is 1.5 metres between employees, this includes travelling in work vehicles. As an employee, you also have an obligation to maintain a distance of 1.5m between yourself and other people.

For work vehicles this means:

- light vehicles (sedans, utilities, job trucks <4.5t) **only one occupant – the driver**;
- dual cab job trucks >4.5t – **only two occupants**, one driver and one rear left hand seat passenger.

For all other work environments this includes:

- maintaining a distance of 1.5m between each other when waiting for your shift to start, during meal breaks and at the end of your shift;
- spacing out work desks and work areas to a distance of 1.5m;
- meeting via skype/phone calls or when absolutely essential for face to face, meet in open areas or in larger meeting rooms where 1.5m can be maintained.