

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 30/20
Ref: COVID - 19 Update
18/03/2020

COVID - 19 Update - Citytrain

Dear members,

This morning the AFULE met with Queensland Rail management to discuss the current situation with COVID-19 and what steps the organisation are taking to minimise the risk to Traincrew.

As of today the Australian & Queensland Governments, on advice of the Australian Chief Medical Officer have notified that there is no imminent downgrade of public transport services. This is being reviewed on a daily basis on available information and advice as it comes to hand. Your state office is in regular contact with government officials.

QR is currently sourcing additional cleaning products for traincrew which has been difficult to order, however, it is expected that there will be additional hand sanitiser and anti bacterial wipes available later this afternoon.

In addition to normal daily cleaning, trains are undergoing daily surface cleaning which includes using a disinfectant solution to wipe down surfaces within the train (including cabs). Additional measures have been recently implemented to increase focus on hard touch points (handles, seats, door touches etc) utilising anti-bacterial cleaning wipes.

Yesterday, a trial commenced for sanitisation to be sprayed throughout the cabs and carriages. We are awaiting feedback from these trials.

Members have raised concerns that there is not enough time to sufficiently wash hands and complete on time running performance. We have been informed that the company will not discipline any member of Traincrew who uses a reasonable amount of time to wash their hands before recommencing their duties.

Travelling spare will continue in it's current form however, is being reviewed. At this time Traincrew when travelling spare are requested to maintain a safe social distance.

Training is currently continuing and social distancing where possible is encouraged. Where members feel uncomfortable with the distances observed under direct tuition, they are encouraged to request the halt of the in cab training.

Modelling has been completed to deliver reduced services if the situation worsens. Where a downgrade in services is necessary, the 58 hour roster may be suspended and replaced with a 24 hour roster. If this were to eventuate, Traincrew will be given at least 58 hours notice of the roster downgrade.

As published yesterday, medical professionals are encouraging a number of measures we can do in our workplaces and at home to help stop the spread of COVID -19;

1. Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.
2. Regularly clean down your driving console
3. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing.
4. Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth. And avoid shaking hands.

Traincrew representing Traincrew

5. Stay home if you are unwell.
6. Avoid contact with anyone who is unwell – try to stay 1.5m away from anyone coughing or sneezing

For further information you can follow these government links;

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/coronavirus-prevention>

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-news-and-media>

Queensland Rail have updated their intranet outlining special leave entitlements for employees that are required to isolate or have contracted the virus. We encourage members to familiarise yourselves with these updates and leave provisions.

We will ensure to keep you updated as more information comes to hand.

Please contact your state office on 3844 9163 or statesecretary@afule.org.au if you would like further information.

In Solidarity,



Michael McKittrick
State Secretary