

## RE: COVID positive passengers - Cohorting in one hotel

**From:** "Merrin Bamert (DHHS)" <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** "Braedan Hogan (DHHS)" <[REDACTED]> "Finn Romanes (DHHS)" <[REDACTED]>  
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**Date:** Tue, 07 Apr 2020 14:41:04 +1000  
**Attachments:** Process for transferring quarantined passengers to hospital (1) MB edits.pptx (1.41 MB)

Hi here is our process for if a person who is unwell and needing a transfer from hotel to hospital for ED assessment or planned appointments for Chemotherapy or dialysis for example.

Kind regards

Merrin

### Merrin Bamert

Director, Emergency Management and Health Protection  
 South Division  
 Department of Health and Human Services  
 Level 5 / 165-169 Thomas Street, Dandenong, 3175

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**From:** Braedan Hogan (DHHS) <[REDACTED]>  
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**Subject:** RE: COVID positive passengers - Cohorting in one hotel

Great thanks – once we determine the hotel can [REDACTED] work with you in standing up?

Does this include patient transport from other hotel to COVID hotel?

**Braedan Hogan** | DHHS Agency Commander

Deputy Director, Strategy and Policy  
 Emergency Management Branch | Regulation, Health Protection and Emergency Management  
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Trying to cohort COVID-19 positive people at one single hotel has many advantages from a public health risk management perspective and is – as long as logistics can be handled – the favoured public health model.

This approach reduces the low (but material) risk that as a result of detaining well individuals in a hotel, we then create a risk that they acquire COVID-19 from the environment of the hotel, akin to what occurred on Diamond Princess.

It has been our assessment to date that the strict quarantine to rooms has reduced the in-hospital transmission risk to negligible. But it does start to increase the greater the number of people who are in the hotel who are positive, eventually to a point where it is material.

Thus, cohorting positive cases is a good strategy. Great work!

Finn

Dr Finn Romanes  
Public Health Commander  
Novel Coronavirus Public Health Emergency

REDACTED

Department of Health and Human Services  
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**From:** Braedan Hogan (DHHS) <REDACTED>  
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**Subject:** COVID positive passengers - Cohorting in one hotel

Hi Finn,

Keen for your thoughts and endorsement of the following course of action.

We have just been made aware that SYD is no longer taking flights so MEL and BNE will be receiving additional passengers.

Currently we are utilising a whole floor of hotels for 'red floors' taking out hotel capacity from the overall system.

We are proposing to stand up the Novotel, which is under contract, to house COVID positive passengers to release capacity in the system, stand up a suitable model of care in one location to support these positive cases and negate issues with exiting as we discussed earlier.

Noting that the Novotel isn't suitable to accept large passenger arrivals due to lobby size etc.

We will work through the logistics but seeking your endorsement and your advice on standing up this arrangement.

Braedan

**Braedan Hogan** | DHHS Agency Commander

Deputy Director, Strategy and Policy

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m[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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