

[REDACTED] (DELWP)

From: Finn Romanes (DHHS) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2020 4:54 PM
To: Andrea Spiteri (DHHS); Chris B Eagle (DELWP)
Cc: Pamela Williams (DHHS); [REDACTED] (DHHS); Braedan Hogan (DHHS);
 Meena Naidu (DHHS); Merrin Bamert (DHHS); [REDACTED] (DHHS); Annaliese
 Van Diemen (DHHS); Brett Sutton (DHHS)
Subject: Request - Governance and Planning for Mandatory Quarantine Programme (aka
 Operation Soteria)
Importance: High

Dear State Controller and Deputy State Controller

There has been a range of good work by colleagues across DELWP, DHHS, EMV and elsewhere to bring into effect – at short notice – a mandatory quarantine (detention) programme in relation to COVID-19 since midnight Saturday 29 March, including that a number of people have been placed into mandatory quarantine.

There appears to be a lack of a unified plan for this program, and there is considerable concern that the lead roles have not had an opportunity to be satisfied there is a policy and set of processes to manage the healthcare and welfare of detainees, for whom this program is accountable.

There are now a considerable complexity and considerable risk that unless governance and plans issues are addressed there will be a risk to the health and safety of detainees.

Governance

The Chief Health Officer and Deputy Chief Health Officer are formally requesting an urgent review governance of the mandatory quarantine (detention) programme, also known as Operation Soteria, to be conducted this afternoon, with **new and clear arrangements to be established by 8pm this evening**. These arrangements should provide for:

- A clear lead, who could remain the Deputy State Controller Health (currently Chris Eagle)
- A direct line of accountability to the Deputy Chief Health Officer of all sectors of the response, as the role that is legally responsible for this detention regime
- A sector for healthcare and welfare (including a clearly named lead role, which could be the Deputy State Health Coordinator)
- A sector for compliance (which could be the Executive Lead Compliance)
- A sector logistics, including accommodation and transport (which could be Pam William's role or wrap in other agencies as well).

Plan for the mandatory quarantine program (aka Operation Soteria)

The Chief Health Officer and Deputy Chief Health Officer require a **single plan to be produced for review by 10am tomorrow morning Friday 10 April**. This plan must include:

- Arrangements for provision of healthcare and welfare to people in mandatory quarantine;
- Arrangements for compliance oversight and operations in relation to people in mandatory quarantine;
- Arrangements for logistics including accommodation and transport.

The plan will require endorsement by the Deputy Chief Health Officer (Public Health Commander) before provision to any overall lead officer.

The plan will need to show all processes and policy decisions, and manage health and safety of detainees.

It should provide for ways that the Public Health Commander can receive up to date reports on the health and welfare of all detainees.

We are very grateful for all the hard work of the team, and appreciate your help in advance for establishing these necessary steps in the governance and oversight of this program.,

Regards

Finn
Dr Finn Romanes
Deputy Public Health Commander - Planning
Novel Coronavirus Public Health Emergency

[REDACTED]
(03) 9096 8630
[REDACTED]

Department of Health and Human Services
State Government of Victoria

This email contains confidential information intended only for the person named above and may be subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying or use of this information is prohibited. The Department provides no guarantee that this communication is free of virus or that it has not been intercepted or interfered with. If you have received this email in error or have any other concerns regarding its transmission, please notify Postmaster@dhhs.vic.gov.au
