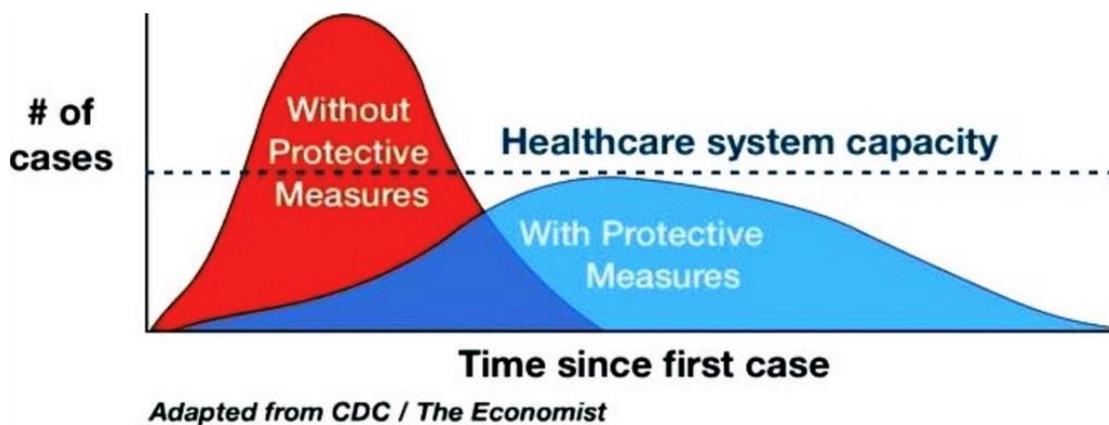


Dear colleagues

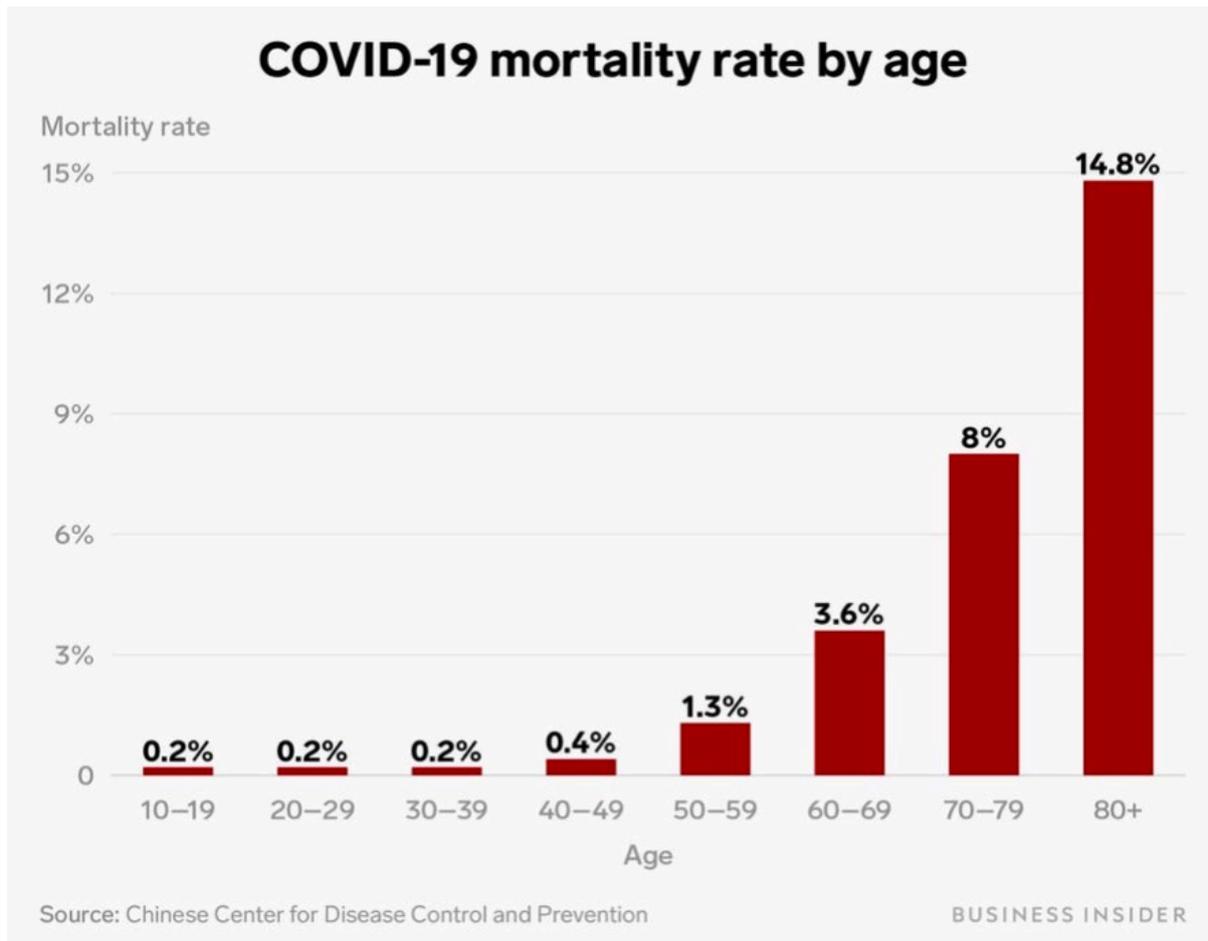
You're no doubt aware that the cornerstones of Queensland Health's COVID-19 response are testing and containment. We do not yet have evidence of local transmission in Queensland, although this has occurred in New South Wales.

Queensland's sustained focus on testing and containment is expected to continue throughout 2020, as we endeavour to prevent our health resources being overwhelmed (as we're currently witnessing in Italy). These protective measures will 'flatten the curve of COVID-19' (see [graph](#) below) and may assist our health services in managing the expected significant increase in demand.



### Critical, new or changed clinical advice

1. As at 09.53 hrs. 11 March 2020, **Australia has 107 confirmed cases of COVID-19** (Source: [John Hopkins University](#)).
2. As at 17.30 hrs. 10 March 2020, there have been **20 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Queensland**.
3. A "close contact" for COVID-19 is defined as requiring:
  - greater than 15 minutes face-to-face contact in any setting with a confirmed case in the period extending from 24 hours before onset of symptoms in the confirmed case, or
  - sharing of a closed space with a confirmed case for a prolonged period (e.g. more than 2 hours) in the period extending from 24 hours before onset of symptoms in the confirmed case.
4. The attached extract from WHO's *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 46* describes the similarities and differences of COVID-19 and influenza.
5. Evidence from China indicates that older patients and those with co-morbidities are at greatest risk should they contract COVID-19 ([Business Insider](#)). To avoid exposing these cohorts to increased risk within health service environments, clinicians are encouraged to investigate the use of Telehealth/remote care or other options.



6. One of our strongest allies as clinicians in containing COVID-19 will be our continuing and dedicated hand-hygiene vigilance. Please take time to revisit this [information](#) and ensure it remains at the forefront of your teams' minds.

For further information for clinicians, please visit our novel coronavirus (COVID-19) [website](#) and [FAQs](#). Additional FAQs will be added to this link today.

Your [feedback and questions](#) are welcome and we'll work with the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre (SHECC) to provide definitive answers and advice.

Kind regards

**Alex Markwell**, Chair, Queensland Clinical Senate

**Liz Kenny**, Chair, Queensland Clinical Networks Executive