

April 2020 | No. 21

## A word from Alistair

The global response to the COVID-19 situation has indeed tested us all.

The COVID-19 response has brought about historic, nation-wide and state-wide border restrictions, closures of public facilities and limits on public gatherings. These unprecedented measures have in turn, also required of us a united response from government, our community, local business and industry.

We've seen an outstanding response from our front-line workers, our doctors, nurses and health workers, police, and emergency services, councils, NGOs and many more who have been working tirelessly to keep Queenslanders safe.

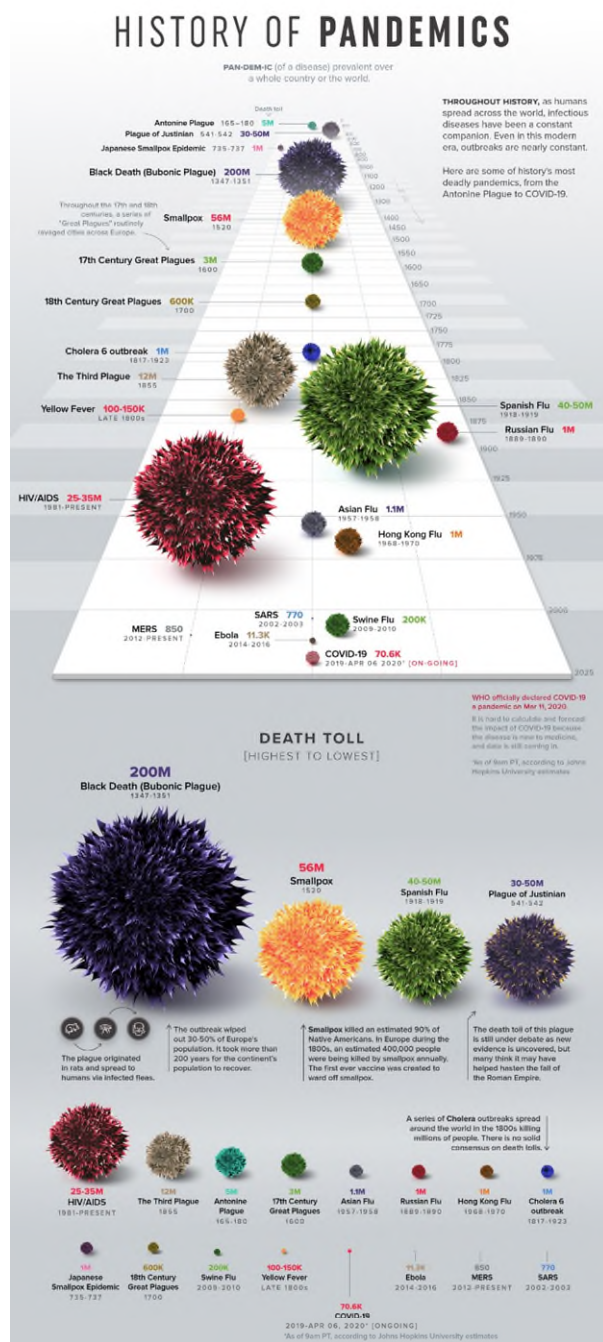
They need our support. We can make their jobs that bit easier by heeding the public health warnings from government. Limiting all non-essential travel, observing social distancing, and staying at home this Easter could have a profound effect on the spread of the virus, with positive results achieved to date.

Queensland businesses have stepped up to the plate to manufacture and deliver a local supply of hand sanitizer and face masks. By doing a little, we can all have a big impact on the global response.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Easter. Stay safe and look after yourself and your loved ones.

**Alistair Dawson APM**  
Inspector-General Emergency Management

Nicholas LePhan from the Visual Capitalist has created a timeline of pandemics, which records three Coronaviruses occurring since 2002 including SARS, MERS and COVID-19. In his article, LePhan noted, [Visualising the History of Pandemics](#) "the more civilized humans became – with larger cities, more exotic trade routes, and increased contact with different populations of people, animals, and ecosystems – the more likely pandemics would occur."



## Postponed Events

The recently introduced social distancing measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19 has sadly meant several planned events have been postponed.

- Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum
- Disaster Management Officers' Forum

Our Office will use this time to plan for and continue to identify ongoing networking opportunities and connect with our disaster management stakeholders right across the sector including local councils, LGAQ, QFES, QPS, QRA, not for profit organisations and many others into the future.

Stay tuned for updates regarding the rescheduled events soon: via our website: [www.igem.qld.gov.au](http://www.igem.qld.gov.au)

## 2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey

The office understands, many of our stakeholders right across the disaster management sector are busily responding to the COVID-19 situation. In recognition of this, we have placed our annual customer satisfaction survey on hold.

## Emergency Management Assurance Framework

Given the ongoing operational response to the COVID-19 situation, the Office has also postponed the rollout of the EMAF which was due 1 July 2020.

The Office will review this on a regular basis and continue to work closely with the sector to support your efforts during this time.

We would like to thank you for your tireless efforts in responding to COVID-19.

## International Women's Day awardees

The Office would like to congratulate the following 2020 International Women's Day Champion of Change Awardees. Winners were announced on Friday 6 March, at the Public Safety and Associate Agencies' International Women's Day event in Brisbane. The awards are as follows:

### Individual - Champion of Change Award

- **Highly Commended- Individual Champion of Change Award:** Dr Allison Rifai
- **Winner - Individual Champion of Change Award:** Associate Professor Cheryl Desha

### Community - Champion of Change Award

- **Highly Commended – Community Champion of Change Award:** Mapping Approaches to Community Engagement for Preparedness in Australia
- **Joint Winners – Community Champion of Change Award**
  - Queensland Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
  - Sunshine Coast Get Ready Schools Program