



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Contact:

Mr Chris Dawson  
Commissioner of Police  
State Emergency Coordinator  
Western Australia Police Force

Dear Commissioner Dawson

## **RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS**

On 31 January 2021, I provided verbal advice to the State Government of Western Australia (WA) to enact a 5-day lockdown of the Perth, Peel and South West regions in response to the detection of B.1.1.7 variant COVID-19 in a State Quarantine Facility worker (hereafter referred to as Case 903). On 4 February 2021, I advised that the restrictions implemented during the 5-day lockdown of the Perth, Peel and South West regions could be eased. At that time, close and casual contacts of Case 903 had been identified, quarantined and required to undertake immediate testing; extensive contact tracing and testing of the public had been undertaken, with all the people, who visited the list of locations on the dates and times that Case 903 attended, instructed to get tested as soon as possible, and all of the people who lived or worked in the Falkirk Avenue and Maylands shopping centre precinct were strongly encouraged to be tested. This resulted in over 50,000 people being tested for COVID-19 with no positive test results received. On this basis, I recommended that the lockdown restrictions could be relaxed in the Perth and Peel regions and removed completely in the South West region. The relaxations in the Perth and Peel region saw some restrictions imposed, including a move to the 4 square metre rule for all venues, capacity limits of a maximum of 150 patrons at all venues and an ongoing requirement for face masks to be worn in public areas. Most businesses and schools recommenced their operations. The relaxation of the lockdown and the imposition of the new restrictions occurred at 6pm on 05 February 2021.

Since the imposition of the restrictions, further contact tracing, quarantining of close contacts and extensive testing of close and casual contacts of Case 903 and the public, has continued to occur. We have now conducted over 90,000 tests since 31 January 2021 and the close contacts of Case 903 have undertaken follow up testing. All tests have been negative and there have been no further COVID-19 community cases in WA. Case 903 will have completed 14 days since diagnosis on 13 February 2021. WA Health has also reviewed its hotel quarantine operations in the light of this case and has further augmented personal protective equipment, testing requirements, employment conditions and quarantine staff protocols.

For the reasons outlined above, I recommend that the restrictions contained in the 'Safe Transition for Western Australia Directions' be relaxed from 00:01 hours on Sunday 14 February 2021, pending no detection of further community COVID-19 cases. I further recommend that, at that time, the whole of the State reverts to the restrictions in Phase 4A, as contained within the 'Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Directions (No 13)', issued under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. These changes, if implemented, will remove the capacity limits and replace the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule with the 2m<sup>2</sup> rule as outlined in the Directions, will remove the requirements to wear masks in all public places and will allow some venues, such as nightclubs and the casino, to reopen. The 'Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions (No.6)' should also be revoked to allow other visitors to visit aged care facilities.

I am happy to re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Robertson  
**CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER**

11 February 2021