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The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA  
Premier of Western Australia  
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## **EASING OF RESTRICTIONS**

Dear Premier

On 29 April 2021, I advised that, as we had identified no further community or local acquired cases since the 23 April 2021, further easing of restrictions should be implemented from 00:01 am on Saturday 01 May 2021 and remain in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 08 May 2021. Further contact tracing and testing would be undertaken, and, depending on the results of these measures, further easing of restrictions could be considered from 08 May 2021.

Based on the situation at the time, I recommended the following restrictions, which came into force on 01 May 2021:

- All venues, except nightclubs and stadiums, could open subject to the usual 2 square metre and capacity arrangements under Phase 4C. Nightclubs could open subject to complying with the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule. The intent of this was to allow people to socialise, but in restricted numbers to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 from large numbers and mixing, should a case be subsequently identified in the community. Weddings and funerals would be allowed up to 200 persons, with exemptions available for these events with more than 200 people. Music events may continue in accordance with current events guidelines. Where a person wishes to have a gathering at their own premises, this should be restricted to a maximum of 30 guests, given limited physical distancing, mask wearing and contact registers in such settings.
- The requirement for face masks should remain in place, but be further eased. They should remain mandated for public indoor areas (e.g. shopping centres, hospitals, bars, restaurants, churches), on public transport, and required outside where physical distancing is not possible, including stadiums and larger outdoor events. As we remained within the first incubation period of the three cases, further cases could still be detected, and I therefore recommended that the requirement to wear face masks continue, except for primary school students, those with medical

exemptions and those people undertaking exercise. Easing requirements would allow people to remove masks outside in low risk settings, such as when they are not in a mass gathering.

- Regarding healthcare facilities, I recommended that non-urgent category 2 or 3 elective surgery should resume. Visits to aged care facilities and hospitals should remain restricted, but be eased to allow one personal visitor per day. COVID-19 presents risks to older people, who are particularly vulnerable to respiratory diseases. As physical distancing is the most important action to protect vulnerable people from exposure to COVID-19, visitors to aged care facilities should still be restricted as above.
- Arenas could open to 75% capacity with a mandatory requirement for masks. Seated outdoor events are lower risk and any potential spread would be further mitigated by physical distancing from reduced capacity and masks.

On 01 May 2021, a new case of COVID-19 was detected in a 22-year-old man who was working as a security guard at the Pan Pacific quarantine hotel (Case 1001). He had worked shifts at the hotel on 24, 25 and 26 April 2021, had negative saliva tests for each of those days, and had developed symptoms on the evening of 29 April 2021. He had received the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on 23 April 2021. He had a routine weekly PCR test on 30 April 2021, which was positive. He was working on the floor on 24 April during the arrival of passengers from an international flight, two of whom subsequently tested positive. Review of CCTV does not identify any breaches or reasons for his subsequent infection. There were no cases on the floors that he worked in subsequent days. The man has been placed in hotel quarantine. Whole genome sequencing is expected to be available late on 02 May 2021.

Case 1001 was sharing a house with seven other friends. All these close contacts were tested and two of the man's close contacts also tested positive (Cases 1003 and 1004). The five other close social contacts tested negative. All have been placed in hotel quarantine for 14 days. A further 11 close social contacts, who had attended various venues with the cases, have all been confirmed as negative. They will be placed in quarantine for 14 days.

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) has been progressively identifying the close and casual contacts of Cases 1001, 1003 and 1004 and has required them to be immediately tested for COVID-19 and to quarantine for 14 days at home if a close contact. 21 initial close contacts have been identified and are being tested, with 16 contacts negative on testing. 113 casual contacts have been identified and are being tested, with 28 yet to be interviewed. Extensive testing has commenced, with 3,295 tests yesterday. While the previous restrictions on capacity numbers and the requirements for mask use are anticipated to have mitigated the spread of the virus, there are a number of venues that people attended, including the Mirrabooka Mosque: Masjid Al Taqwa, the Perth College of Business and Technology and some food delivery services, including the restaurants and the clients they serve, that need to be further investigated and the people present at the identified times tested, which warrants further restrictions in crowd sizes and mixing.

With these results in mind, I now recommend that the restrictions be further modified as follows:

- All venues, except nightclubs, the Casino and stadiums, can remain open subject to the usual 2 square metre and capacity arrangements under Phase 4C. Nightclubs and the Casino should be closed. The intent of this is to allow people to socialise in smaller numbers in restaurants and clubs, but to restrict the size of gatherings to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 from large numbers and mixing with non-household contacts, should other cases be subsequently identified in the community. Weddings and funerals should continue to be allowed up to 200 persons, with exemptions available for these events with more than 200 people. Where a person wishes to have a gathering at their own premises, this should continue to be restricted to a maximum of 30 guests, given limited physical distancing, mask wearing and contact registers in such settings.
- The requirement for face masks should remain in place, but return to the previous requirements. They should remain mandated for public indoor areas (e.g. shopping centres, hospitals, bars, restaurants, churches), on public transport, and when outside. The wearing of masks, particularly where there may still be community transmission and we have reopened venues, can provide extra protection. As we are in the early stages of the incubation period of the three cases, further cases may still be detected, and I therefore recommend that the requirement to wear face masks continues, except for primary school students, those with medical exemptions and those people undertaking exercise.
- Arenas should be closed with matches allowed without spectators. While seated outdoor events are lower risk, transit to and from the events at large grounds can assist in the spread of the disease and is not recommended while further community cases are possible. Music events may continue in accordance with current events guidelines, but should all be subject to a review of their COVID event plans if they involve over 500 people.

I recommend that these eased restrictions become effective immediately on Sunday 02 May 2021 and are in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 08 May 2021.

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**

02 May 2021