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

Dear Premier

On 6 May 2021, I recommended that eased restrictions could be implemented from 00:01 am on Saturday 8 May 2021 and remain in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 15 May 2021. This advice was based on having not identified any further community or local acquired cases since the 1 May 2021, despite extensive contact tracing and testing. These measures were implemented in response to two outbreaks, the first related to the Victorian traveller who had undertaken 14 days hotel quarantine in the Mercure hotel in Western Australia (WA) and tested positive for COVID-19 on 23 April 2021 in Victoria (Victorian case), and two related WA community cases (Cases 984 and 986), and the second to an outbreak related to a case of COVID-19 detected on 1 May 2021 in a 22-year-old man who was working as a security guard at the Pan Pacific quarantine hotel (Case 1001) and two related community cases in close household contacts (Cases 1003 and 1004).

At that time, I advised that the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) had identified 115 close contacts of Cases 1001, 1003 and 1004, all of whom tested negative for COVID-19 and were instructed to self-isolate for 14 days. The PHEOC had also identified 508 casual contacts, all of whom had been contacted, with 364 (71.7%) contacts testing negative for COVID-19 and results for the remaining 144 (28.3%) contacts pending. All contacts had been directed to attend the COVID Clinic at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) from 6 May 2021 for follow up testing.

I also advised that we had not identified any further community or local acquired cases related to the Victorian Case. 397 close contacts were identified related to this cluster, 396 (99.7%) of whom had been contacted and tested negative for COVID-19. 276 (69.5%) of the casual contacts had been classified as 'cleared' as they had completed 14 days of quarantine, returned a negative test towards the end of their quarantine period and were asymptomatic. The PHEOC identified 898 casual contacts related to this cluster and I confirmed that they had all been contacted, 882 (98.2%) of whom presented for testing and had a negative result.

I can now advise that no further cases have been detected related to these clusters. Regarding the Victorian case, I can advise that all close and casual contacts have now been deemed cleared, as all are now 14 days or more from their date and time of exposure. The investigation of this cluster has ended.

An additional 7 close contacts of Cases 1001, 1003 and 1004 have been identified (122 total), all close contacts have now had an initial negative COVID-19 test and 100 (82%) have had a negative post 5-day test. End of quarantine testing for close contacts has begun and 13 (10.7%) have been 'cleared'. A further 105 casual contacts were identified, giving a total of 469, and 464 (98.9%) of these have now had an initial negative COVID-19 test and 396 (84.4%) have had a negative post 5-day test. A follow-up SMS has been sent to all contacts who had an initial test within the first 5 days after exposure to request that they attend the RPH COVID clinic for mid-point testing. 15 (3.2%) of the casual contacts identified have now passed day 14 since the date of exposure and been cleared. In addition to active contact tracing, there has been extensive testing with 55,791 tests done between 25 April and 01 May and a further 37,616 tests done between 02-08 May 2021.

On this basis, and given that WA will reach 14 days on 14 May 2021 with no further cases in the community, I recommend that the restrictions contained in the 'Safe Transition for Western Australia Directions (No.4)' be relaxed from 00:01 hours on Saturday 15 May 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 4C, as contained within the 'Gatherings and Activities Directions (No.2)', issued under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. These changes, if implemented, will remove the capacity limits for weddings, funerals and at arenas and stadiums and will remove the requirements to wear masks on public transport and at events and major venues. The 'Face Covering Directions (No.5)' and the 'Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions (No.7)' should also be revoked to allow unrestricted visitors at aged care facilities and hospitals and to remove the requirements for face masks to be worn in these facilities.

On 07 April 2021, I recommended that the State move to Phase 4C on or after 10 April 2021 with a review of a possible move to Phase 5 occurring in 1 month. WA moved to Phase 4C on 10 April 2021 but further tightened restrictions after the identification of local acquired cases on 23 April 2021. Given the proposed move back to Phase 4C, I would further recommend a review of a possible move to Phase 5 occurring in 1 month.

Given continuing changes in the epidemiology in other States and the situation in Western Australia, I am happy to re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

12 May 2021