



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

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia
13 Floor, Dumas House
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WEST PERTH WA 6005

CONTROLLED BORDER CONTROLS – NEW SOUTH WALES

Dear Premier

On 17 June 2021, the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Health reported a case of COVID-19 in a driver who transports international flight crew. The source of infection of this case is still under investigation. Genomic testing results show that the driver has the Delta variant (B.1.617.2). The same sequence has not been seen in Australia thus far but closely matches one uploaded from the United States of America. Close and casual contacts are urgently being contacted and asked to isolate and get tested. I advised the State Emergency Coordinator (SEC) on 17 June 2021 that anyone from NSW who had been at the listed venues should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11.

On 19 June 2021, NSW Health reported 5 new COVID-19 cases related to the transport worker in the Bondi Junction area of Sydney. The last three cases were unknown to the worker and appeared to have been the result of chance meetings within the shopping centre between 12-13 June 2021. The exposure sites had continued to increase and included, at that stage, the whole of the Westfield Shopping Centre in Bondi Junction and other sites in Sydney and Wollongong.

After briefing the Minister and the DG of Health on 19 June 2021, I recommended the following:

- Effective immediately, all passengers arriving from NSW should be required to get tested immediately (within 48 hours) and isolate until they have received a negative result. Any passenger who refused to get tested should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- As per previous advice, anyone who has been at the listed venues at the specified times should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11.

- Anyone from the Sydney and Wollongong areas who did not visit the venues and has arrived from the 11-18 June 2021 should be advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

Airport testing was arranged at both domestic terminals from 20 June 2021 and both public and private COVID Clinics were expanded to deal with the additional testing.

On 23 June 2021, NSW recorded 16 new locally acquired cases, 14 of which were linked to the Bondi cluster, with a further 2 cases unlinked. Ten of these cases are linked to a party in West Hoxton. There are now 33 cases linked to this outbreak, although this number is expected to increase. NSW has tightened up capacity, mask and physical distancing restrictions across 7 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in greater Sydney, and both Queensland and Victoria have closed their borders to people travelling from these LGAs.

NSW Health has expanded its contact tracing and testing, with 44,640 test results received in the 24 hours to midnight yesterday. Extensive contact tracing continues for all the individuals who have tested positive to COVID-19, and their close and casual contacts, and new public exposures sites are being identified. NSW has declared more than 126 exposure sites, including the Bondi Junction Shopping Centre, a school in Waverly, and several bars and restaurants. While most of these sites are in the greater Sydney area, there have been venues identified in Wollongong and the Shoalhaven areas.

I am satisfied that the NSW Health are taking all steps necessary to control and abate this risk; however, as there is an increasing number of cases, including non-household and non-work cases linked to exposure sites, nearly 130 identified exposure sites and this outbreak is linked to the more transmissible Delta strain, I recommend that:

- Effective immediately, NSW should move from the Very Low Risk category to the Medium Risk category. This will mean that travellers from NSW are not permitted entry unless an exemption is granted. All exempt travellers arriving from NSW will be required to be tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours of arrival and on day 11 of quarantine, or at any point when symptoms develop, and to self-quarantine in suitable accommodation for 14 days from the date they were last in NSW. As per my advice of 07 April 2021, a person, who has been in a restricted location in the 14 days before they enter WA, should be required to self-quarantine for a 14-day period from the day they left the restricted location, which includes time they have spent in a very low risk jurisdiction as long as they have spent the most recent period before coming to WA in a very low risk jurisdiction.
- As per previous advice of 17 June 2021, anyone who had been identified as a close or casual contact by the NSW Health, or has been at the listed venues at the specified times, should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11.
- Anyone from NSW who did not visit the venues and arrived in Western Australia from the 11-22 June 2021 should be required to get tested immediately (within 48 hours) and isolate until they have received a negative result.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

23 June 2021