



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

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRICTIONS**

Dear Premier

Two key issues relating to the diagnosis and management of COVID-19 have arisen in Western Australia (WA) over the last 24 hours.

### **Sydney Case**

Late on 26 June 2021, WA Health was advised of a positive COVID-19 case. The case is a female in her 50s, who travelled to New South Wales with her husband on 15 June and returned to Perth on 20 June. She had a meal at the Lyfe Café in Bondi on 19 June with her husband and son. She and her husband followed public health requirements on arriving in WA and had an initial COVID-19 test on 21 June, which was negative.

Between 22-24 June 2021, she worked as a physiotherapist, visiting clients in a gym, a special skills school and a primary school. She also visited a restaurant, a shopping centre and various grocery stores during that period. On Thursday afternoon, she began developing symptoms and remained home on Friday. She is assessed as being infectious from 22 June 2021. On 26 June 2021, realising that a place she had visited in New South Wales had now been added to the list of NSW hotspots, she presented for a COVID test. She is suspected of being infected with Delta variant, but this will be confirmed by whole genome sequencing. Her partner has been tested today (via domiciliary testing at home) and is negative. She had previously been vaccinated with one dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Given her confirmed COVID-19 disease, the potential for community spread of the SARS-CoV2 Delta variant between 22-24 June 2021, including to vulnerable populations, schools and hospitality venues, and the high susceptibility of WA to an outbreak, I recommend that, from 12 noon on 27 June 2021, Level 1 restrictions be implemented in the Perth-Peel region, which would require:

- Public events that cannot be restricted to 150 people be cancelled or played without spectators, including the Chicken and Beer Festival and AFL West Coast Eagles vs Western Bulldogs match at Optus Stadium. The match can proceed, but without spectators.
- Masks be made mandatory indoors and on public transport. Masks would also be mandatory in outdoor public areas where physical distancing is not possible.
- Hospitality, entertainment venues (including casino and nightclubs), beauty/hairdressers, recreation centres (including gyms, Pilates, yoga, dance and swimming pools) and places of worship can remain open, but must comply with the 2 square metre rule, with a maximum of 150 patrons.
- Community sport is permitted.
- Wedding and funerals can also proceed but will be limited to a maximum of 150 attendees.
- Hospitals and Residential Aged Care Facilities would have a maximum of four personal visitors permitted per person per day – masks would be mandatory for staff and visitors.
- Anyone who entered a regional area from the Perth-Peel region would be required to wear a mask, and travel should be minimised.
- Travel to remote Aboriginal Communities would be restricted.

### **Granites Gold Mine**

On 26 June 2021, Northern Territory (NT) Health reported an infectious community COVID-19 case employed at the Newmont-owned Granites gold mine in the Tanami Desert, around 540 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs. The worker, who is believed to have been infected with Delta variant at the Airport Novotel Langley quarantine hotel in Brisbane, was potentially infectious from June 18 to June 24. Approximately 900 workers are believed to have left the mine during that period. NT Health is managing those currently at the mine.

After briefing the Minister and the Director General of Health on 26 June 2021, I recommended the following:

- Anyone who has travelled to WA from Granites Gold Mine and was at the mine between 18 – 25 June 2021 should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11.
- Anyone from the Northern Territory who was not at the mine and has arrived after 18 June 2021 should be advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

There have been three flights from the mine site to Perth during this period with 252 passengers arriving. The 177 passengers who arrived on the flights on the 22 June and 25 June are considered close contacts. The 75 passengers who arrived on the flight on the 18 June are considered casual contacts. These casual contacts are of lower risk given the limited or non-existent period of exposure to the case, which occurred when the case was less likely to be infectious. Recent advice from Public Health Operations suggest that the flight on 18 June 2021 to Perth departed on or slightly after the arrival of the suspect case. Given that he was only exposed the

previous evening, it is very unlikely that he was infectious at this time or had contact with this group.

WA Health has sent text messages to all who arrived on these flights. WA Health is currently in the process of ringing all these arrivals also. 127 of the 177 close contacts have been contacted. All close contacts were asked to immediately quarantine for 14 days and get tested within 48 hours via a text message and this message is being reinforced via a phone call. All casual contacts were asked to get tested and quarantine until they received a negative result via text message and they will also be called. WA Health expects to receive most results later today and on Monday. At this stage, nearly all identified contacts have been in metropolitan Perth. WA Health is also checking that no contacts have come via other jurisdictions.

Contacts from this mine site appear to be residents of several states around Australia. Six cases have now been described around Australia related to this case – 4 in NT (the original case, 2 colleagues at the mine-site, and 1 in Palmerston in Darwin, 1 in Queensland and 1 in NSW). Queensland is also reporting 2 new community cases linked to their Alpha variant cluster. NSW is reporting 30 new cases linked to the Bondi Junction cluster. South Australia is closing its borders to Queensland, WA, NT and the ACT. Currently, NSW is classified as a Medium Risk state and Victoria as a Low Risk state.

Given the emerging risks in NT and Queensland from the Tanami and Alpha variant outbreaks, and the potential risks of COVID-19 disease emerging in ACT from the NSW outbreaks, it is recommended that:

- Northern Territory, Queensland and ACT be moved from Very Low to Low Risk category, which will require passengers to home quarantine and be tested at Day 11;
- there are no changes to Victoria or NSW at this stage; and
- South Australia and Tasmania remain in the Very Low Risk Category.

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**

27 June 2021