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

Dear Premier

On 27 June 2021, I advised of a case of COVID-19 in a returned traveller from Sydney, who had been exposed at the Lyfe Café in Bondi on 19 June 2021 (Case 1022). She had been negative on an initial COVID-19 test on 21 June 2021. 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 Brewery restaurant, two shopping centres, an Ikea store and various grocery stores during that period. After developing symptoms, she was tested on 26 June 2021. The Delta strain has now been confirmed by whole genome sequencing. This is the same strain that was circulating at the Lyfe Café. She had previously been vaccinated with one dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

I also advised of a second outbreak at the Newmont-owned Granites gold mine in the Tanami Desert, around 540 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs. A worker, infected with a different Delta variant strain at the Airport Novotel Langley quarantine hotel in Brisbane, had been potentially infectious at the mine from 18 – 24 June 2021. Approximately 900 workers, including 177 from WA, had left the mine during that period and were managed as close contacts, including testing and 14 days home quarantine.

Given Case 1022's 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, the close contacts from the Granites gold mine and the high susceptibility of WA to an outbreak, I recommended that 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.
- Masks be made mandatory indoors and on public transport. Masks would also be mandatory in outdoor public areas where physical distancing was 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 could remain open, but must comply with the 2 square metre rule, with a maximum of 150 patrons.
- Community sport would be permitted.
- Wedding and funerals could proceed but would 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.

These restrictions were implemented from 12 noon on 27 June 2021.

At the Premier's Emergency Team meeting at 18:30 on 28 June 2021, I advised of two further COVID-19 cases. Case 1023 was a woman in her 30s who attended the Mobius Health and Performance gym in Joondalup on 24 June 2021. After developing symptoms on 27 June 2021, she was tested, and WA Health was notified of a positive PCR test yesterday morning (28 June 2021). Locations that she visited during her infectious period included her workplace, Craigie Leisure Centre and the IGA in Mullaloo. Contact tracing identified that she was a casual contact of Case 1022 at the Mobius Gym. She is currently in isolation at her home address.

Case 1024 was a man in his 20s who attended the Indian Ocean Brewery in Mindarie on 22 June 2021. After PCR and serology testing on 28 June 2021, he was confirmed as a case late yesterday afternoon. Case 1024 was a casual contact of Case 1022 at the Brewery. He is currently in isolation at his home address.

Given confirmed COVID-19 disease in two further cases, both of whom were in the community and were not household or close contacts of Case 1022, and the potential for community spread of the SARS-CoV2 Delta variant from three cases between 22-27 June 2021, including to vulnerable populations, schools and hospitality venues, I reviewed the risk of an outbreak being controlled by the Level 1 restrictions currently in place in the Perth-Peel region. Recent modelling of 16 June 2021, based on the Alpha variant, showed that WA had the highest transmission potential of all the major States, including NSW, and that, without appropriate intervention, would be highly susceptible to a major outbreak. The move to Phase 5 restrictions on 23 June 2021, with increased numbers and mixing of the population, and the presence of the Delta variant, which is even more transmissible than the Alpha variant, has further increased the likelihood of such an outbreak. The two recent cases, however, appear to be in the early stages of the disease and have yet to pass the disease to partners and other household members. On that basis, a lockdown of the Perth-Peel region for a minimum of 4 days has the potential to stop the transmission chains, while allowing for testing and contact-tracing to identify those most at risk.

For the reasons outlined above, I recommended on 28 June 2021 that Level 3 restrictions be implemented in the Perth-Peel region, from 12:01 am on 29 June 2021, for a minimum of 4 days, which would require:

- People to stay home unless required to leave for essential work, to shop for essential goods, for medical or health care needs, for restricted exercise or due to an emergency.
- Masks be made mandatory indoors and on public transport. Masks would also be mandatory in outdoor public areas except for vigorous exercise.
- Hospitality, entertainment venues (including casino and nightclubs), beauty/hairdressers, recreation centres (including gyms, Pilates, yoga, dance and swimming pools), public venues, and places of worship to close.
- Community sport to be not permitted.
- Wedding and funerals can proceed but will be limited to a maximum of 5 people and 10 people respectively.
- No visitors would be permitted at Hospitals and Residential Aged Care Facilities except for exceptional circumstances – masks would be mandatory for staff and visitors.
- Schools and childcare centres can remain open.
- Only essential travel from the Perth-Peel region would be permitted for essential goods and services, for essential workers, for medical or compassionate reasons or for emergency purposes.
- Travel to remote Aboriginal Communities would not be permitted.

Further advice on the Stage 3 restrictions is outlined at: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/4-day-lockdown-introduced-perth-and-peel>

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

29 June 2021