



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

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia
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RELAXATION OF PERTH-PEEL REGION RESTRICTIONS

Dear Premier

On 02 July 2021, I provided updated advice on two key issues relating to the diagnosis and management of COVID-19 that had arisen in Western Australia (WA). One issue involved the cluster of cases of COVID-19 related to a Western Australian returned traveller from Sydney, who had been exposed at the Lyfe Café in Bondi on 19 June 2021 (Case 1022) and the other related to the potential for COVID-19 positive personnel of the Granites gold mine having travelled to WA. At that time, I advised that I was satisfied that the risk of an outbreak from the Granites gold mine workers had been contained; however, three cases related to Case 1022 had been detected and there remained the potential for further community cases to arise. On that basis, I recommended a relaxation of lockdown restrictions for a minimum of three days, with a further review of them to be undertaken on 05 July 2021.

I can now advise that two further cases related to Case 1022 have been detected, bringing the total number of cases in this cluster to six. The fifth case (Case 1029) is the unvaccinated partner of Case 1024, the man in his 20s who contracted COVID-19 after attending the Indian Ocean Brewery in Mindarie. Case 1029 was considered a close contact by contact tracers as she had accompanied Case 1024 during his visit to the Indian Ocean Brewery and had significant exposure to Case 1024 during his infectious period due to cohabitation. Case 1029 had an initial, negative COVID-19 PCR test on 27 June 2021 and has been in quarantine since. A further PCR test was conducted on 28 June 2021, which also provided a negative result; however, Case 1029 developed symptoms on the evening of 30 June 2021 and subsequently tested positive on 1 July 2021. I am satisfied that Case 1029 has been quarantining since the beginning of their infectious period with no community contacts.

The sixth case (Case 1030) is the unvaccinated partner of Case 1023. Again, Case 1030 was considered a close contact by our contact tracers as they had significant exposure to Case 1023 during their infectious period due to cohabitation. Case 1030 also had an initial negative COVID-19 PCR test on 27 June 2021 and has been in

quarantine since. On 2 July 2021, Case 1030 developed symptoms of COVID-19 and tested positive on 3 July 2021. I am satisfied that Case 1030 has been quarantining since the beginning of their infectious period with no community contacts.

Further to this, I can advise that the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) have identified a total of 398 close contacts of these six cases. All the close contacts have presented for testing and received a negative test result and are undertaking 14 days quarantine. 378 close contacts have presented for follow up testing on Day 5 and have received a negative result. The PHEOC also identified a total of 2815 casual contacts, 2631 of which have presented for initial testing and received a negative result and 1769 of which have presented for a subsequent Day 5 test and received a negative result.

I am confident that the restrictions implemented in the Perth-Peel region have succeeded in preventing further transmission, while allowing for testing and contact-tracing to identify those most at risk. Our tracing and testing results indicate that there are no additional positive cases that have been active in the community during their infectious period. We remain, however, within the 14-day incubation period of the cases in this cluster who were active in the community prior to detection.

Recommendations

On this basis, I recommend that the lockdown restrictions can be relaxed, from 12.01am Tuesday 06 July 2021, as follows:

- Working from home is advised for vulnerable people only.
- The 2 square metre should be applied to all venues.
- Gatherings, including public events, must comply with the 2 square metre rule, up to a limit of 150 people. Where a person wishes to hold a gathering in their own home, a maximum of 30 guests should be permitted.
- As we remain within the first incubation period of these cases, there is a possibility that further cases may be detected, and I therefore recommend that the requirement to wear face masks indoors and on public transport continues, except for primary school students, those with medical exemptions and those people undertaking strenuous exercise inside or outside. Masks should also be mandatory in outdoor public areas where physical distancing is not possible.
- Hospitality, entertainment venues (including bars, casino and nightclubs), beauty/hairdressers, recreation centres (including gyms, Pilates, yoga, dance and swimming pools) and places of worship may open, but must comply with the 2 square metre rule, with a maximum of 150 patrons. Seated service is no longer required in hospitality venues serving food and drink.
- Entertainment venues that offer ticketed, fixed and allocated seating performances should be permitted to operate but must comply with the 2 square metre rule, up to a maximum of 50% patrons. This should include theatres, cinemas and outdoor stadiums.
- Community sport should be permitted.
- Wedding and funerals can proceed but should be limited to a maximum of 150 attendees.

- Visitors to Hospitals and Residential Aged Care Facilities should be permitted but limited to 4 visitors per person, per day. Masks should be mandatory for staff and visitors.
- Travel to remote Aboriginal Communities is not to be permitted

I recommend that these relaxed restrictions are put in place for 6 days until 12:01 am on 12 July 2021, which will be 14 days after the last exposure in the community, when I will then consider a further easing of these restrictions, if appropriate. 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

05 July 2021