



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 5 July 2021, I provided updated advice on the restrictions in place in the Perth-Peel region in response to the cluster of community 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). At that time, 6 cases of COVID-19 had been detected in the Perth-Peel region related to this; Case 1022 and 5 further linked cases. The first 3 detected cases had been active in the community prior to detection, while the last 3 cases had been in home quarantine prior to the commencement of their infectious period and subsequent diagnosis. On that basis, I recommended a relaxation of restrictions for six days, until 12.01am on 12 July 2021, with a further review to then be undertaken prior to 12 July 2021.

I can now advise that, since that time, no further cases of COVID-19 have been detected related to this outbreak. The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) identified a total of 398 close contacts of Case 1022 and the 5 linked cases. All close contacts were required to present for testing and, apart from 3 cases outlined above, all received an initial negative test result and are undertaking 14 days quarantine. 394 of the 398 close contacts have presented for follow up testing on Day 5 and have received a negative result and 227 have now completed their period of quarantine and received a final negative test result. The PHEOC is arranging final testing for the remaining close contacts when their period of quarantine ends.

The PHEOC also identified a total of 2802 casual contacts, reduced from the previously advised figure of 2815 following further investigation, 2737 of which have presented for initial testing and received a negative result and 2451 of which have presented for a subsequent Day 5 test and received a negative result. 1929 casual contacts have now been cleared by public health.

Current modelling shows that if WA moves to Phase 5, even after the current lockdown and subsequent restrictions, it will remain one of the most susceptible of all the larger jurisdictions to a major outbreak, due to the expected increased numbers of people moving around in our society and the mixing between non-family groups. This susceptibility has increased in recent modelling due the predominance of the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, which have estimated increased transmissibility of 100% over the original virus and has been implicated in the recent Victorian, NSW, Queensland, Northern Territory and WA outbreaks. While this susceptibility needs to be considered, the four recent outbreaks in WA have shown the effectiveness of managing the outbreaks through robust contact-tracing, testing, contact registers, mask wearing and short-term restrictions on movements, activities and gatherings. In the last six months, we have had four outbreaks of disease and, in each case, WA Health's contact tracing and testing teams have worked effectively, containing the number of cases to one in the first outbreak, three in the second, three in the third and six in the fourth. As a result, we were able to take all steps necessary to control and abate the risk and to quickly reduce and remove the restrictions imposed on the WA community.

The recent case importation from NSW, and the requirement for current border controls with NSW, Queensland, NT and ACT in response to various outbreaks, highlights the ongoing importance of robust border controls to prevent importation of cases, particularly while a large percentage of the population remains unvaccinated.

On this basis, and noting that WA will reach 14 days with no active cases in the community on Sunday 11 July 2021, I am confident that this outbreak has been contained and that no further linked community cases will be detected. I therefore recommend that the 'Outbreak Restrictions (Transitional) Directions (No 2)' be revoked on or after 12.01am on 12 July 2021. At that time, the Perth-Peel region should revert to Phase 5 conditions, as detailed in the 'COVID Safe (Phase 5) Directions'. These changes, if implemented, will remove the capacity limits for weddings, funerals, hospitality venues and at arenas and stadiums and will remove the requirements to wear face masks indoors and on public transport. The 'Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities (Outbreak Restrictions (Transitional)) Directions' 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.

This advice is subject to no further community cases being detected and 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

9 July 2021