



Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Contact:

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

Dear Premier

## **CONTROLLED BORDER CONTROLS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

On 19 July 2021, the South Australian (SA) Department of Health reported COVID-19 infection in an 81-year old man who had returned from New South Wales (NSW) on 08 July 2021. The man had been in Argentina with his daughter before completing two weeks of hotel quarantine in NSW. Whole genome sequencing has confirmed the infection as the Delta variant and linked the case to the Sydney outbreak. He is suspected of becoming infected in the NSW hospital, medihotel quarantine or in transit to SA. On 18 July 2021, he presented to the Modbury Hospital in Adelaide with symptoms of COVID-19 and COVID-19 infection was confirmed. Two close family contacts subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 on the 19 July 2021.

On 20 July 2021, two further cases of COVID-19 were identified, including a further close family contact and a diner who went to The Greek on Halifax restaurant on 17 July 2021 at the same time as a contact of the original case. At 6pm that night, the SA Government implementing a 7-day lockdown period. Based on the community spread beyond household contacts, I recommended that SA move from the 'Very Low' risk category to the 'Low Risk' category. I further recommended that:

- effective immediately on 20 July 2021, all passengers arriving from SA, who had been in SA on or after 08 July 2021, should be required to get tested immediately (within 48 hours) on arrival, self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premise and be tested again on day 12;
- as per previous advice on 19 Jul 2021, anyone who has been at the listed venues at the specified times on or after 08 July 2021 should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12; and
- anyone from SA who did not visit the venues and has arrived from the 8-19 July 2021 should be advised to get tested if they developed any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

This advice was implemented on 20 July 2021.

On 21 July 2021, SA Health reported a further 7 cases in the community. These included a staff member at the Greek on Halifax restaurant and a young child who had a meal there on 17 July 2021. Five new cases were linked to a visit to the Tenafeate Creek Winery in Yattalunga on 18 July 2021, which one of the infected contacts of the original case had visited. Given these two community spreading events, further cases are expected. SA Health has expanded its testing, with 12,899 test results reported 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. WA Health has offered to assist them with contact tracing, which should commence on 22 July 2021. SA has declared more than 60 exposure sites, including the Elizabeth City Centre, schools, shopping centres and several bars and restaurants. While most of these sites are in the greater Adelaide area, there is concern that this will spread to other regional areas.

I am satisfied that the SA Government are taking all steps necessary to control and abate this risk; however, as there is an increasing number of cases, including non-household cases linked to exposure sites, over 60 identified exposure sites and this outbreak is linked to the more transmissible Delta variant, I recommend that:

- From 12 pm on 22 July 2021, SA should move from the 'Low' risk category to the 'Medium' risk category. This will mean that travellers from SA are not permitted entry unless an exemption is granted. All exempt travellers arriving from SA will be required to be tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours of arrival and on day 12 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 SA. 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 19 July 2021, anyone who had been identified as a close or casual contact by the SA Health or has been at the listed Tier 1 and Tier 2 venues at the specified times, should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12.

Given continuing changes in the epidemiology in other States and the situation in Western Australia, I am happy to re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Robertson  
**CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER**

22 July 2021