



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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Dear Premier

## **BORDER RESTRICTIONS - VICTORIA**

On 25 June 2021, Victoria reported two community cases, diagnosed on 24 June 2021, one of whom had returned to Victoria from Sydney infected with the COVID-19 Delta variant. Both cases were immediately placed in quarantine and contact tracing was undertaken. All close and casual contacts related to these cases have tested negative. On 05 July 2021, I recommended that, as Victoria had no further community cases and would reach the milestone of no community cases for 14 days on 08 July 2021, Victoria should move from the 'Low Risk' category to the 'Very Low Risk' category from 00.01 am on or after 09 July 2021, which duly occurred.

On 12 July 2021, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) advised that a removalist, who lived in the Fairfield area of Sydney, had travelled to Melbourne on 8 July 2021 and worked in two households. These included a 78-unit apartment block (123 residents) in Maribyrnong where the removalists delivered furniture on 8 July 2021. Due to the propensity for the spread of the Delta variant in this setting, all occupants of the apartment block were being treated as close contacts. It also appears that these removalists stopped at a truck stop in Ballan and visited a McDonalds and service station on route. The removals truck then travelled to South Australia for another job, stayed overnight and then travelled back to Sydney on 9 July 2021. He tested positive on 11 July 2021. DHSS also advised of a family of four travelling on the red zone permit system from Sydney. Three travelled by air on 4 July 2021 and one by car on 8 July 2021. All tested negative shortly after arrival. In quarantine in Coolaroo, two family members became symptomatic and tested positive on 11 July 2021. Further family member tested positive on 12 July 2021 and 13 July 2021. I subsequently recommended to the State Emergency Coordinator (SEC) on the afternoon of the 12 July 2021 that, effective immediately, travellers who have recently returned to WA who had visited exposure sites in Victoria or South Australia should be required to be tested within 48 hours, quarantine for 14 days and get tested again at day 11. A second removalist was reported to be infected on 13 July 2021.

On 14 July 2021, DHSS reported on 7 cases related to the two outbreaks. One case in a Craigieburn shop was linked to the Coolaroo cluster. The other 6 cases were related to the Maribyrnong apartment block. One involved a family of three who had contact with the removalists and the other related to a man in his 60's in the apartments, who subsequently infected two other family members outside the apartments. These people had been in the community while infectious, including at shopping centres, bars and the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Given the additional cases, and that this outbreak is linked to the more transmissible B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant strain, further measures are recommended. The seeding of a single case of a more transmissible variant could have significant consequences. A strain with a 50% (or greater) increase in transmissibility could require much more stringent public health measures to control an outbreak, as highlighted by the current greater Sydney outbreak. The Delta variant strain is estimated to be 100% more transmissible than the original COVID-19 strain. Modelling to assess the impact of the Alpha and Delta variants, should they spread in WA, supports rapid public health action to control such outbreaks. WA, having recently returned to Phase 5 restrictions, would be highly susceptible to such an outbreak. Fortunately, both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines appear to be effective against the Delta variant.

After briefing the Director General of Health and the SEC this morning (14 July 2021), I recommend that Victoria move from the "Very Low" risk category to the "Low Risk" category. I further recommend that:

- effective immediately on 14 July 2021, all passengers arriving from Victoria, who have been in Victoria 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 11;
- as per previous advice, 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 11; and
- anyone from Victoria who did not visit the venues and has arrived from the 8-13 July 2021 should be advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

Airport testing is being arranged for both domestic terminals and both public and private COVID Clinics will be expanded to deal with the additional testing.

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 Andy Robertson  
**CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER**

14 July 2021