



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

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

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

Dear Premier

CONTROLLED BORDER CONTROLS - VICTORIA

On 12 July 2021, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) advised that an infected removalist, who lived in the Fairfield area of Sydney, had travelled to Melbourne on 8 July 2021 and worked in two households, including a 78-unit apartment block in Maribyrnong, where the removalists delivered furniture on 8 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 Melbourne, but subsequently tested positive between 11-13 July 2021 in home quarantine in Coolaroo. Both clusters were infected with the COVID-19 Delta variant currently circulating in Sydney.

On 14 July 2021, DHSS reported a further 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. I consequently recommended that Victoria move from the 'Very Low' risk category to the 'Low' Risk category, which came into effect at 1pm on 14 July 2021, and required all passengers arriving from Victoria, who have been in Victoria on or after 08 July 2021, to be tested immediately (within 48 hours) on arrival, self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premise and be tested again on day 11. The requirements under previous advice from the 12 July 2021 that anyone in WA, who had been at the listed venues at the specified times on or after 08 July 2021, be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11, also continued.

On 16 July 2021, DHSS reported a further 10 locally acquired cases related to the outbreak, which takes the outbreak to 24 active cases. The Victorian Government had also announced a 5-day lockdown for all of Victoria commencing at midnight on 15

July 2021. The DHSS has expanded its contact tracing and testing, with 33,129 test results received in the 24 hours to midnight 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. Victoria has declared more than 120 exposure sites, including the Melbourne Cricket Ground and AAMI Stadium, three schools, shopping centres and several bars and restaurants. While most of these sites are in the greater Melbourne area, there is concern that this will spread to Geelong and other regional areas.

I am satisfied that the Victorian Government are taking all steps necessary to control and abate this risk; however, as there is an increasing number of cases, including non-household and non-work cases linked to exposure sites, nearly 120 identified exposure sites and this outbreak is linked to the more transmissible Delta variant, I recommend that:

- From 00:01 hrs on Saturday 17 July 2021, Victoria should move from the 'Low' risk category to the 'Medium' risk category. This will mean that travellers from Victoria are not permitted entry unless an exemption is granted. All exempt travellers arriving from Victoria will be required to be tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours of arrival and on day 11 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 Victoria. 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 12 July 2021, anyone who had been identified as a close or casual contact by the Victorian DHSS, or has been at the listed venues at the specified times, should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11.

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

16 July 2021