



Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia
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Dear Premier

CONTROLLED BORDER – 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 recently returned from NSW on 08 July 2021. The man had been in Argentina with his daughter before completing two weeks of hotel quarantine in New South Wales (NSW). While in quarantine, he had a fall and spent ten days in a NSW hospital, before travelling to his home in South Australia on 8 July 2021. He or his daughter are suspected of becoming infected in the NSW hospital, hotel quarantine or in transit to SA. On 18 July 2021, he presented to the Modbury Hospital in Adelaide with symptoms of COVID-19 and a positive test result was received. His daughter and six close contacts were immediately placed into quarantine and tested for COVID-19. Two close family contacts subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 on the 19 July 2021.

In response to this, I recommended that anyone who has travelled from South Australia to Western Australia and has been at any of the exposure sites listed by the SA Health at the specified times should;

- self-quarantine for 14 days;
- be tested within 48 hours and on day 12; and
- wear a mask when transiting to self-quarantine premises and presenting for COVID-19 testing.

These measures were announced and implemented yesterday.

I can now advise that today, 20 July 2021, two further cases of COVID-19 have been identified in South Australia, which are related to this cluster. The fourth case is a close family contact of the original case, who has tested positive after being taken into quarantine. The fifth case is 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. Partial genome sequencing has identified this as the Delta variant, with full genome sequencing expected this evening, which will allow for further linking of these cases to other

outbreaks. As this indicates that transmission of COVID-19 has occurred in a community setting, the SA Government are implementing a lockdown period for 7 days from 18:00 hrs this evening.

Given the additional cases, and that this outbreak is linked to the more transmissible Delta variant strain, further measures are recommended. The seeding of a single case of a more transmissible variant could have significant consequences. The Delta variant strain is estimated to be 100% more transmissible than the original COVID-19 strain. Such increases in transmissibility could require much more stringent public health measures to control an outbreak, as highlighted by the current greater NSW and Victoria outbreaks. WA, having returned to Phase 5 restrictions, would be highly susceptible to such an outbreak. While both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines appear to be effective against the Delta variant, only 33.6% of the eligible WA adult population have received their first dose and 11.37% are fully vaccinated, which leaves a significant percentage of the population susceptible.

After briefing the Emergency Management Team this morning (20 July 2021), I recommend that SA move from the 'Very Low' risk category to the 'Low Risk' category. I further recommend that:

- effective immediately on 20 July 2021, all passengers arriving from SA, who have 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, 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 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

20 July 2021