



Your Ref:
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Contact:

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia
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Dear Premier

CONTROLLED BORDER – NEW ZEALAND

I am writing regarding the Controlled Border arrangements with New Zealand (NZ). On 17 August 2021, New Zealand reported one new case of COVID-19. A 58-year-old man became symptomatic on Saturday 14 August 2021 and a positive COVID-19 test result was reported yesterday (Case A). He is believed to have been infectious and active in the Auckland and Coromandel Peninsula areas since 12 August 2021. The original source of this outbreak is unknown, though genome sequencing has linked Case A to the Delta variant outbreak currently being experienced in New South Wales. The Honourable Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand (NZ) has advised that three COVID-19 positive people have arrived in NZ from New South Wales and entered their managed quarantine system since 01 July 2021; one on 09 August 2021 and two on 14 August 2021. Whole Genome sequencing is being undertaken in these cases to determine if there is any link. NZ has also gone into a three-day lockdown

Six further cases of COVID-19 have now been detected. One of the new cases is a workmate of Case A (Case B). Three cases are contacts of Case B, including a fully vaccinated nurse at Auckland City Hospital, who is believed to have completed four hospital shifts while unknowingly infectious. Auckland City Hospital has taken some immediate actions to halt any potential spread, including requiring all staff who worked on the same ward to undertake 14 days self-isolation. All cases are suspected of having the Delta variant and are epidemiologically linked to Case B, who is believed to be one of the index cases.

On 17 August 2021, I advised the State Emergency Coordinator (SEC) that, given the emerging situation, Western Australia (WA) should impose the following testing and quarantine requirements, which were then implemented by Directions:

- Effective immediately, all passengers arriving from NZ will be required to get tested immediately (within 48 hours) and isolate until they have received a

negative result. Any passenger who refuses to get tested will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

- Anyone who has been at the listed NZ exposure venues on the dates and time specified are required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12.
- Anyone from the Auckland and Coromandel Peninsula areas who did not visit the venues and has arrived from the 12-17 August should be advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

As these cases have arisen from an unknown source or sources, who may have been in the community for some time, and have been active in the community while infectious, there is a major risk that further community cases will be detected. On this basis, I recommend that:

- From 12:00pm on 18 August 2021, NZ should move from the 'Very Low' Risk category to the 'Low Risk' category. All travellers arriving from NZ should 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 NZ.
- All passengers arriving from NZ between 6:30pm on 17 August and 12:00pm on 18 August 2021 should still be required to get tested immediately (within 48 hours) and isolate until they have received a negative result. Any passenger who refuses to get tested should be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Anyone who has arrived into Western Australia from NZ from 12-17 August 2021 should monitor for symptoms and present for a COVID-19 test as soon as symptoms develop.
- Anyone who has been to a NZ exposure site at the specific times should self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested within 48 hours and at day 12. It is important that recent travellers from New Zealand familiarise themselves with the latest exposure sites, as contact tracing continues to uncover more sites.

I will continue to monitor the situation in New Zealand and 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

18 August 2021