



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
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Premier

CONTROLLED BORDER - VICTORIA

I am writing with regards to strengthening the restrictions on entry to Western Australia (WA) for travellers who have been in Victoria in the previous 14 days. Victoria has reached the threshold number of new cases per day (greater than 500 new cases per day over a 5-day rolling or 14-day rolling average), which triggers consideration as to whether the risk profile of that jurisdiction should change from 'high risk' to 'extreme risk'.

On 31 August 2021, I recommended that Victoria move from a 'medium risk' category to a 'high risk' category. At that time, the outbreak in Victoria had continued to grow despite extensive lockdowns, with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reporting 72 new cases on 30 August 2021 and a 5-day moving average of 77.6 cases per day and a 14-day moving average of 60 cases per day. In addition, Victoria had a major outbreak in Shepparton, with 9 new cases reported on 30 August 2021.

Unfortunately, the outbreak in Victoria has not abated despite lockdowns. On 21 September 2021, Victoria recorded 603 new locally acquired cases. Today, 22 September 2021, Victoria recorded 628 new locally acquired cases, with a 5-day rolling average of 568 cases per day and a 14-day rolling average of 479 cases per day. While the numbers of travellers entering WA from Victoria is low, the risk posed by individual travellers continues to rise as COVID-19 becomes more widespread in Greater Melbourne and regional areas of Victoria. On this basis, I recommend that Victoria move from the 'high risk' category to the 'extreme risk' category.

With the 'COVID Safe (Phase 5) Directions' in WA coming into effect on 23 June 2021, which removed the final restrictions on physical distancing and significantly increased the numbers and mixing at high risk venues, including at bars, nightclubs, music venues, stadiums and events, WA's susceptibility to a future sustained outbreak rose

significantly. The current modelling shows WA as the most susceptible of all the jurisdictions to a major outbreak, due to the increased numbers of people moving around in our society and the mixing between non-family groups. The emergence of the highly transmissible Delta variant has increased this susceptibility further, particularly among household and work groups. While vaccine uptake is starting to reduce this susceptibility, WA's susceptibility to a major outbreak is expected to remain very high over the next three months.

On 16 August 2021, I recommended changes to the 'Trigger Points for Reviewing Border Controls' table that set out the different risk levels, the point at which they would apply to other jurisdictions and the conditions that would be placed on travellers (Attachment 1). The conditions that apply to the 'extreme risk' category include:

1. hotel quarantine for travellers;
2. the requirement to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test in the 72 hours prior to departure;
3. proof of receipt of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, where eligible;
4. testing at days 1, 5 and 12; and
5. exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only.

Given the requirements to have a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the 72 hours prior to departure and to have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, where eligible, prior to arriving in WA, I would recommend that there be at least 5 days from announcement to allow this testing and vaccination to occur. Consequently, I recommend that Victoria should be moved from the 'high risk' category to the 'extreme risk' category on or after 0001 hours on 28 September 2021.

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

22 September 2021

Trigger Points for Reviewing Border Controls - Revised

Risk of importation from affected jurisdiction (as at 16 August 2021)	Trigger Point for Review	Proposed amendments to current conditions	Recommended review date and proposed action
Extreme Risk	Greater than 500 new community cases per day, on 5-day or 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hotel quarantine for travellers 2. Negative COVID-19 PCR test 3. Receipt of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible 4. Exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only 5. Testing at days 1,5 and 12 	2 weeks. If risk falls to a high risk, implement high risk conditions
High Risk	Greater than 50 new community cases per day, on 5-day or 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative COVID-19 PCR test 2. Receipt of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible 3. Home quarantine for travellers 4. Mandatory use of the G2G Now app 5. Limited travel to a place of self-quarantine 6. The requirement for any other individual in the suitable accommodation to quarantine for 14 days, undertake Day 12 testing and use G2G Now app 7. Exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only 8. Testing at days 2 and 12 	2 weeks. If risk falls to a medium risk, implement medium risk conditions
Medium Risk	5 to 50 new community cases per day, on 5-day or 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home quarantine for travellers 2. Limited travel to a place of self-quarantine 3. Testing at days 2 and 12 4. Exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only 	2 weeks. If risk falls to a low risk, implement low risk conditions
Low Risk	Less than 5 new community cases per day, on 5-day or 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home quarantine for travellers. 2. Limited travel to a place of self-quarantine 3. Testing at day 12. 	2-4 weeks. If risk falls to a very low risk, implement very low risk conditions

Risk of importation from affected jurisdiction (as at 16 August 2021)	Trigger Point for Review	Proposed amendments to current conditions	Recommended review date and proposed action
		4. General exemptions may be considered if community cases are still occurring	
Very Low Risk	No community cases, from either an unknown source or where the contacts of a case were not in quarantine, for 14 days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No quarantine or testing required. 2. Declaration that visitor has been in a very low risk jurisdiction for last 14 days 3. Health screening. 	4 weeks. If all jurisdictions meet the very low risk criteria, implement the negligible risk conditions
Negligible Risk	No community cases, from either an unknown source or where the contacts of a case were not in quarantine, for 28 days in all jurisdictions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open all interstate borders 	