



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 ARRANGEMENTS - QUEENSLAND

I am writing to provide updated advice on Western Australia's controlled border arrangements with Queensland. At the current time, Queensland is deemed to be a 'very low' risk jurisdiction, which allows travellers to freely enter Western Australia (WA) without the need for a travel exemption or quarantine on arrival.

On 10 December 2021, Queensland reported nine new cases of COVID-19; three cases were detected in people in quarantine, having arrived from international and interstate locations, and six cases were community cases. Of the six new community cases, one is a partially vaccinated man who recently moved from interstate and has been infectious and active in the community for five days. A female close contact has also tested positive. Three further cases are members of the same family: a woman who works in the Queensland border zone with New South Wales and has been infectious for eight days; her partner, who has been infectious for six days, and their child, who has also been infectious for six days. The child is a student at Broadbeach State School, which was closed yesterday as a precautionary measure. The final case is a musician and disability worker in his 30s, who lives on the Gold Coast and recently visited Byron Bay. He was infectious in the community for three days. Three close contacts of this case who flew to WA are in self-quarantine and tested negative on initial tests. A further case, who has been infectious for 5 days in the community, was reported on 11 December 2021 and is from the Mudgeeraba area on the Gold Coast.

In response to the detection of these cases, Queensland Health are undertaking contact tracing and testing and a public health alert has been issued for several new exposure sites including supermarkets, shopping centres and cafes. Anyone who has been to a close contact location in Queensland at the relevant times is considered a close contact and is required to immediately travel by private transport directly to their home or accommodation, quarantine for 14 days and get tested at their earliest opportunity. Casual contacts are required to be tested at their earliest opportunity and quarantine until a negative COVID-19 test result is obtained. There are currently 44 active cases.

The source of these cases is unknown at this time and it is therefore not known if there is a single source case or multiple source cases. Given the locations and activity of the known cases, it is expected that multiple source cases will be identified and that further cases will be detected. In addition, Queensland will open its border to fully vaccinated travellers from all other States and Territories and safe travel zone countries at 1:00 am on Monday 13 December 2021, without a requirement to undertake a period of quarantine. Travellers from other countries will be required to home or hotel quarantine for 14 days, and there are pre and post-arrival testing requirements for people coming from 'hot spot' areas and overseas. It is expected that Queensland will experience further increases in COVID-19 community case numbers at that time, as seen recently in South Australia, and that this arrangement will allow for the importation and spread of the Omicron variant. Queensland is already managing two Omicron variant cases.

On this basis, it is recommended that:

- Effective from 00:01 Hrs on Monday 13 December 2021, Queensland should move from the 'very low' to the 'low' risk category, with travellers entering WA being required to self-quarantine for 14 days in suitable accommodation and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12.
- Anyone who arrived in WA on or after the 01 December 2021 and has been at the Queensland exposure sites at the times specified between 01 December 2021 and 00:01 Hrs on 13 December 2021 should be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12.
- Anyone from the Queensland who did not visit the venues and has arrived from 01 December 2021 until 00:01 Hrs on 13 December 2021 should be advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

I will continue to monitor the situation in Queensland and provide further advice when it is appropriate to do so.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Robertson CSC, PSM
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

11 December 2021