



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

## **UPDATED ADVICE: RESTRICTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PERTH OUTBREAK**

Dear Premier

I am writing to you to provide an update on the situation surrounding the community COVID-19 case that was notified yesterday and provide additional advice regarding restrictions that I feel are warranted in response to this rapidly evolving situation.

Yesterday, I wrote to inform you of a person who was found to be SARS CoV-2 positive who had been in the Perth community during their infectious period. The exposure sites included two nightclubs, a music event, shops and various public venues. Testing of attendees at the music event has found five secondary cases, as of 12:30pm today. Based on this finding, the music event has been deemed to be a 'high transmission' event and all persons who were in attendance at that venue are now considered to be 'close', rather than 'casual', contacts. As a consequence, they will require to be quarantined for 14 days and undertake regular testing. Given there is now a total of six cases not all from the same household, an outbreak has been declared in the Perth Metropolitan Region.

As of 12:30pm today, our contact tracing team has identified a total of 455 close contacts and 580 casual contacts. These numbers are expected to markedly increase. Testing of the contacts is ongoing. Additional exposure sites will be added to the current list as they are identified.

The increase in cases due to the music event highlights the risk inherent in night clubs, dancing venues and music events. Similar high transmission events have been seen in these types of venues overseas and interstate, a notable example occurring this month in Newcastle, New South Wales, where more than 200 people contracted COVID after attending a nightclub there. In my advice provided yesterday, I recommended that nightclubs not open and large music events not be allowed, to prevent further spread through interactions at these venues. It is recognised that venues that serve beverages to patrons who are standing also present high

transmission risk, as they are less conducive to physical distancing, the density of people is higher, and unintended close interactions are more likely to occur.

Based on the circumstances of this outbreak, and to reduce the likelihood of further community transmission of COVID-019 occurring, I now recommend that ***all hospitality venues allow seated services only***. I recommend that this restriction comes into effect from 1800Hrs today and remain in place until 0600Hrs, Tuesday 28 December, 2021.

This outbreak is evolving, and the public health advice needs to be responsive and adaptive. I will continue to monitor the outbreak and circumstances leading to transmission events and will re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Armstrong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Paul Armstrong  
**ACTING CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER**

24 December 2021