



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 AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA MOVE TO EXTREME RISK JURISDICTIONS**

I am writing to provide further updated advice on Western Australia's (WA's) controlled border arrangements with Queensland and South Australia (SA).

### **Queensland**

On 24 December 2021, as the Acting Chief Health Officer, I wrote to you with advice that, with respect to Western Australia's (WA's) controlled border arrangements, Queensland should move from the 'medium risk' to the 'high risk' category. This was in response to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 across Queensland and the increasing notification of the Omicron variant. It was clear at that time that case numbers would increase rapidly over the ensuing days. Since 24 December, Queensland have reported greater than 500 cases per day. Today (29 December) Queensland reported 1,589 cases and the 5-day rolling average is now 1,002 cases per day. Queensland Health has reported that contact tracing will be reduced as case numbers increase, with a general acceptance that not every case will be found and contact tracing will be focused on higher risk contacts and venues.

Therefore, as Acting Chief Health Officer, I recommend that Queensland move from the 'high risk' to 'extreme risk' category, effective from 6:00pm Friday 31 December.

### **South Australia**

On 24 December, I also recommended that South Australia (SA) be moved from 'medium risk' to 'high risk', due to a rapidly increasing number of case and an estimated 70% of cases thought to be due to the Omicron variant. At that time the 5-day rolling average was 198 cases per day.

The case numbers in SA have continued to grow rapidly, with more than 500 cases per day reported since the 24 December 2021. Today (29 December) SA reported 1,472 cases and the 5-day rolling average is now 943 cases per day.

As a result of the continued increase in number of cases and the predominance of the Omicron variant, as Acting Chief Health Officer, I recommend that SA should move from the 'high risk' to the 'extreme risk' category, effective from 6:00pm Friday 31 December.

### **Restrictions on travel from Queensland and South Australia**

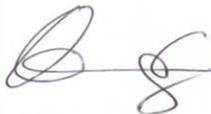
In accordance with the requirements for 'extreme risk' jurisdictions, travellers from Queensland and SA would not be permitted to enter WA unless they have been provided with an exemption. Travellers who are permitted to enter WA will be required to quarantine for 14 days in a State Quarantine Facility.

Under the 'extreme risk' category, travellers would be required to:

1. quarantine in a State Quarantine Facility for 14 days;
2. provide proof of a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test in the 72 hours prior to departure;
3. provide proof of receipt of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, where eligible;
4. undertake PCR testing at days 1, 5 and 12 of quarantine; and
5. be exempt to enter WA, which is restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only.

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

Yours sincerely



Dr Paul Armstrong  
**ACTING CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER**

29 December 2021