



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

I am writing to provide updated advice on Western Australia's (WA) controlled border arrangements with Tasmania and Northern Territory.

Tasmania

On 15 December 2021, Tasmania opened its border to all Australian states and territories under specific arrangements. The following day, Tasmania reported a single case of COVID-19 in the community. On 17 December 2021, Tasmania reported two further cases. Both cases were suspected Omicron cases. Effective from Monday 20 December 2021, I recommended that Tasmania should be moved from the 'very low' to 'low' risk category, with travellers entering WA from Tasmania being required to self-quarantine for 14 days. Since then, the case numbers have continued to escalate, and they are expected to increase further. On 22 December 2021, Tasmania reported 12 cases, bringing their total local cases to 26. While their 5-day moving average number of cases is 5.2 per day, I expect this to increase in the coming days and I would recommend acting on the increasing risk now.

I therefore recommend, as Chief Health Officer, that:

- Effective from 00:01Hrs on Sunday 26 December 2021, Tasmania should move from the 'low' risk to 'medium' risk category. This will mean travellers from Tasmania are not permitted entry into WA unless they are fully vaccinated, and an exemption is granted.
- All exempt travellers will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory (NT) is also currently deemed to be a 'low risk' jurisdiction. Unfortunately, since my last advice regarding NT, it has continued to have cases associated with the outbreak in Katherine, with incursions into other areas including Lajamanu, Binjari, Rockhole and Tennant Creek. On 21 December 2021, NT reported 14 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases in the current outbreak to 123. On 22 December 2021, the NT reported a further 5 cases. The state has confirmed it has a total of 13 cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, the most recent two being diagnosed in Yulara, where they had arrived from Brisbane. The current 5-day moving average number of cases in NT is 6.6 and this is increasing daily.

As the number of cases in NT continues to increase and they have confirmed 13 cases of the Omicron variant, I recommend, as Chief Health Officer, that:

- Effective from 00:01Hrs on Sunday 26 December 2021, NT should move from the 'low' to the 'medium' risk category. This will mean that travellers from NT are not permitted entry into WA unless they are fully vaccinated, and an exemption is granted.
- All exempt travellers will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12.

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

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

22 December 2021