



Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

The Honourable Roger Cook MLA
Acting Premier of Western Australia
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WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Acting Premier

CONTROLLED BORDER ARRANGEMENTS – TASMANIA AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY TO MOVE TO ‘HIGH RISK’ JURISDICTIONS

I am writing to provide updated advice on Western Australia’s (WA’s) controlled border arrangements with Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Tasmania

On 22 December 2021, the Chief Health Officer wrote to you with advice that, with respect to Western Australia’s (WA’s) controlled border arrangements, Tasmania should move from the ‘low risk’ to the ‘medium risk’ category. This was in response to the increasing number of cases of COVID-19 in Tasmania 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 29 December, Tasmania has reported greater than 50 cases per day. On 31 December, Tasmania reported 137 cases and the 5-day rolling average is now 72 cases per day.

Therefore, as Acting Chief Health Officer, I recommend that Tasmania move from the ‘medium risk’ to ‘high risk’ category, on or after 2 January 2022.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is also currently deemed to be a ‘medium risk’ jurisdiction. As with Tasmania, the ACT has experienced a very rapid rise in cases over the past week. Since 22 December, ACT have reported greater than 50 cases per day. On 31 December, ACT reported 462 cases and the 5-day rolling average is now 259 cases per day.

Therefore, as Acting Chief Health Officer, I recommend that the ACT move from the ‘medium risk’ to ‘high risk’ category, on or after 2 January 2022.

In accordance with the requirements for 'high risk' jurisdictions, travellers from Tasmania and ACT 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 self-quarantine for 14 days in suitable accommodation.

With respect to the previous requirement for interstate arrivals to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the 72 hours prior to departure, this is no longer feasible, owing to pressures on the testing systems in other jurisdictions as a result of high case loads. In place of this requirement, I recommend that the time within which new arrivals from 'medium risk' and 'high risk' jurisdictions are required to undertake a PCR test be shortened from 48 hours to 24 hours.

Therefore, where travel was permitted, travellers from ACT and Tasmania would also be required to:

1. provide proof of receipt of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, where eligible;
2. use the G2G Now App on arrival in WA, unless exempted by an authorised officer; and
3. present for testing within 24 hours of arrival and on Day 12.

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

1 January 2021