



Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia
5 Floor Dumas House
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WEST PERTH WA 6005

CONTROLLED BORDER CONTROLS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Premier

Earlier today, on 17 December 2020, I recommended that the 'Controlled Border for Western Australia Directions' not be amended to move NSW from the Very Low Risk to the Low Risk category today, but that this position should be reviewed in 24 hours once additional information was available. It was further recommended, effective immediately at that time, that anyone who has arrived in WA from or through NSW on or after 11 December 2020 needed to self-quarantine in a suitable premise as soon as possible, undertake a COVID-19 PCR test within 24 hours and then remain in self-quarantine until a negative test result was confirmed.

NSW is now reporting 17 COVID-19 cases connected to the Avalon RSL and Avalon Bowling Club, who have been picked up on testing. Whole Genome Sequencing has linked these cases to an overseas United States traveller in hotel quarantine, although the intermediate links to the northern beaches cluster are currently unknown and are being further investigated. Queensland has now reported a case in a NSW traveller from the northern beaches area.

Given the current rapid increase in cases in NSW and recent importation into Queensland, the risk of importation to, and subsequent community cases in, WA is now assessed as having moved from very low to low risk. On these grounds, it is recommended that changes be made to the controlled border arrangements to move NSW from the Very Low Risk category to the Low Risk category, as of 0001 hours on 18 December 2020. All NSW travellers will be required to self-quarantine in a suitable premise for 14 days on arrival and to undertake day 11 testing.

With regards to NSW travellers arriving on or after 11 December 2020 and prior to midnight on 17 December 2020, it is recommended that they self-quarantine in a suitable premise as soon as possible, undertake a COVID-19 PCR test within 48 hours and then remain in self-quarantine until a negative test result is confirmed. In addition, they should be required to undertake further testing 11 days after arrival in WA.

Given continuing changes in the epidemiology in other States and the situation in Western Australia, I am happy to re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Robertson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Andy Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

17 December 2020