



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Your Ref:
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Contact:

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia
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EASING OF CONTROLLED BORDER CONTROLS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Premier

The current WA controlled border arrangements are designed to manage the risk from COVID-19 outbreaks currently or previously occurring in New South Wales (NSW), Victoria and Queensland. The 'Controlled Border for Western Australia Directions' came into force on 14 November 2020.

Queensland

On 7 January 2021, Queensland Health advised that a cleaner in one of their quarantine hotels had tested positive for COVID-19. The cleaner had developed symptoms on 04 January and tested positive on 06 January 2021. Queensland Health subsequently advised that she was infected with the United Kingdom B.1.1.7 variant strain. On 08 January 2021, on my advice, changes were made to the controlled border arrangements to move Queensland from the Very Low Risk category to the Medium Risk category, as of 1000 hours on 08 January 2021. On 12 January 2021, Queensland Health reported that the partner of the cleaner, who had been quarantining since 07 January, had tested positive for COVID-19. Genomic sequencing subsequently linked these cases to two separate groups of international arrivals (2 from the UK and 2 from Lebanon) then in hotel quarantine.

On 21 January 2021, after no community cases were detected despite extensive contact tracing and community testing, I recommended that, on or after the 25 January 2021, changes be made to the controlled border arrangements to move Queensland travellers from the Medium Risk category to the Low Risk category, as per Attachment 1. This proceeded on 25 January 2021. I further recommended that, subject to no further community cases, changes be made to the border arrangements to move Queensland travellers, on or after the 01 February 2021, from the Low Risk category to the Very Low Risk category.

Queensland has had no further locally acquired or community cases since 06 January 2021, despite extensive contact tracing, targeted community testing and wastewater testing over the last 23 days. Prior to this, there had been no community spread since a small outbreak on 09 September 2020, which was rapidly brought under control. Queensland lifted all its remaining restrictions on 22 January 2021 and all other jurisdictions have lifted their border restrictions on Queensland.

As there have been are no further locally acquired or community cases, my recommendation of 21 January 2021 remains applicable and I recommend that changes be made to the controlled border arrangements to move Queensland from the Low Risk category to the Very Low Risk category, on or after 01 February 2021, which will remove the requirements for 14 days quarantine and day 11 testing.

Victoria

On 30 December 2020, Victoria reported three community cases after having no community cases for 60 days. As of the 13 January 2021, there were 27 locally acquired cases linked to the Smile Buffalo Thai Restaurant in Black Rock. These cases are genomically linked to the NSW Avalon cluster. An additional locally acquired case was reported on 06 January 2021, which was separately genomically linked to the Avalon cluster. Testing of close contacts, targeted testing in the likely affected community and wastewater testing has been undertaken, but no further cases have been identified as of 29 January 2021, with now 23 days of no further community cases. The 5- and 14-day rolling case averages are both zero. All jurisdictions now allow entry from Victoria.

On 13 January 2021, I recommended that, on or after the 15 January 2021, Victoria travellers should move from the Medium Risk category to the Low Risk category, as per Attachment 1. On 18 January 2021, Victoria moved from the Medium Risk category to the Low Risk category in WA. They are currently anticipated to reach 28 days of no community cases on 03 February 2021 and should be considered for further easing of restrictions on or after that date.

Proposed amendments to Border Controls

For the reasons outlined above, I recommend that, on or after the 01 February 2021, changes be made to the controlled border arrangements to move Queensland travellers from the Low Risk category to the Very Low Risk category, as per Attachment 1. If approved by the WA Government, the following would occur in accordance with that risk rating:

- Day 11 testing and quarantine requirements would be removed for travellers arriving from Queensland; and
- Queensland travellers arriving in WA would be required to undertake the health screening requirements of Very Low Risk jurisdictions.

With regards to Victoria, I further recommend that changes be made to the border arrangements to move Victorian travellers, on or after the 03 February 2021, from the Low Risk category to the Very Low Risk category, as per Attachment 1. If approved by the WA Government, the following would occur in accordance with that risk rating:

- Day 11 testing and quarantine requirements would be removed for travellers arriving from Victoria; and
- Victorian travellers arriving in WA would be required to undertake the health screening requirements of Very Low Risk jurisdictions.

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



Dr Andy Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

29 January 2021

Trigger Points for Reviewing Border Controls

Risk of importation from affected jurisdiction (as at 29 January)	Trigger Point for Review	Proposed amendments to current conditions	Recommended review date and proposed action
High Risk	Greater than 20 new community cases per day, on 5-day and 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hotel quarantine for travellers 2. Exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only 3. Testing at days 2 and 12. 	
Medium Risk	5 to 20 new community cases per day, on 5-day and 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home quarantine for travellers 2. Testing at days 1 and 11. 3. Exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only 	2 weeks. If risk falls to a low risk, implement low risk conditions
Low Risk	Less than 5 new community cases per day, on 5-day and 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home quarantine for travellers. 2. Testing at day 11. 3. General exemptions may be considered if community cases are still occurring 	4-6 weeks. If risk falls to a very low risk, implement very low risk conditions
Very Low Risk	No community cases, from either an unknown source or where the contacts of a case were not in quarantine, for 28 days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No quarantine or testing required. 2. Declaration that visitor has been in a very low risk jurisdiction for last 14 days 3. Health screening. 	4 weeks. If all jurisdictions meet the very low risk criteria, implement the negligible risk conditions
Negligible Risk	No community cases, from either an unknown source or where the contacts of a case were not in quarantine, for 28 days in all jurisdictions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open all interstate borders 	