



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

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

The Honourable Roger Cook MLA
Acting Premier of Western Australia
13 Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

CONTROLLED BORDER CONTROLS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Acting Premier

On 30 November 2020, the Chief Health Officer recommended that on or after 4 December 2020, and subject to no further community outbreaks in Victoria or New South Wales (NSW), Victoria and NSW should be moved from the Low Risk category to the Very Low Risk category, as per Attachment 1, and the current 'Controlled Borders for Western Australia Directions' should be applied. These proposed changes came into force on 8 December 2020. Until yesterday, 30 December 2020, Victoria had not recorded any cases of community-acquired COVID-19 since that date.

Three community-acquired COVID-19 cases were reported in Victoria yesterday and some further cases in close contacts of the initial three cases since. Further cases are expected. Early indications are that the source of the infections was a restaurant in a suburb in south-western Melbourne. It is not yet known whether the cluster is linked to the outbreak occurring in NSW, centred on the Northern Beaches area of Sydney. The cases are all from metropolitan Melbourne but are geographically dispersed. There are numerous venues across Melbourne, and one in regional Victoria (the Mornington Peninsula south-west of Melbourne), that are designated as potential infection exposure sites and this list is expected to expand significantly.

Given the potential for this outbreak of COVID-19 to rapidly spread in Victoria, and as was discussed at the teleconference meeting this morning at 9 45 am today, the risk of importation of COVID-19 to WA from that state is now assessed as having moved from low risk to medium risk and that Victoria should move from the Very Low Risk category to the Medium Risk category, as per Attachment 1.

As of 0001 hours on 1 January 2021, it is recommended that changes be made to the controlled border arrangements. Travellers arriving in WA from Victoria, or those who had been in Victoria since 21 December 2020, will be restricted to those who have received exemptions. Exempted travellers would be required to self-quarantine in suitable premises for 14 days and to undertake testing on arrival and on day 11.

With regards to Victorian travellers who remain in WA after having arrived on or after 21 December 2020, it is recommended that they self-quarantine in suitable premises for a period of 14 days after arrival in WA, undertake a COVID-19 PCR test on day 11, and be released from self-quarantine after 14 days if a negative test result is confirmed.

Given the early stage of this outbreak in Victoria, the situation may change rapidly and I am happy to re-consider the above advice in one week's time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Armstrong', written over a faint blue horizontal line.

Dr Paul Armstrong
ACTING CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

31 December 2020