



Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Contact:

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

## **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.

On 19 December 2020, the Acting Chief Health Officer (CHO) recommended that changes be made to the controlled border arrangements to move NSW from the Low Risk category to the Medium Risk category, as of 0001 hours on 20 December 2020. NSW had moved from the Very Low to Low Risk category on 18 December on the advice of the CHO after the reporting of the outbreak in Avalon.

On 31 December 2020, the Acting CHO recommended to the Acting Premier that, from 1 January 2021, Victoria should be moved from the Very Low Risk category to the Medium Risk category, as per Attachment 1, and the current 'Controlled Borders for Western Australia Directions' should be applied. Victoria had previously moved from the Low Risk category to the Very Low Risk category on 8 December 2020. The Acting CHO recommended that this advice be reviewed in a week.

On 08 January 2021, in response to the reporting of a locally acquired case of the more transmissible B.1.1.7 variant, I recommended that changes be 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. All Queensland travellers would 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. This came into effect at 0001 hours on 09 January 2021. Queensland travellers who remained in WA, having arrived on or after 2 January 2021, and before 1000 hours on 08 January 2021, were required to self-quarantine in suitable premises for a period of 14 days after arrival in WA, undertake a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours and again on day 11, and be released from self-quarantine after 14 days if a negative test result was confirmed.

## Border Controls

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, but the source of acquisition remains unknown. Testing of close contacts, targetted testing in the likely affected community and wastewater testing has been undertaken, but no further cases have been identified as of 13 January, with now 7 days of no further cases. The 5- and 14-day rolling case averages are now zero and 2 respectively. Most jurisdictions now allow entry from Victoria, although South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland still require visitors to quarantine for 14 days if you have been in a hotspot area in Victoria.

## Proposed amendments to Border Controls

As Victoria has not identified any further community cases, despite extensive testing and contact tracing, and has placed restrictions on entry from the hotspot areas in NSW that were the source of the imported case, I recommend 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. If approved by the WA Government, the following would occur in accordance with that risk rating:

- exemption requirements would be removed for travellers from Victoria;
- Victorian travellers arriving in Western Australia would be required to home quarantine and to be tested at Day 11; and
- persons who travelled from other jurisdictions, but had been in Victoria in the last 14 days, would have the same conditions apply to them.

With regards to NSW and Queensland, the current advice of 19 December 2020 and 08 January 2021 should remain in force, given the ongoing reporting of locally acquired cases in NSW and the ongoing testing and tracing of contacts of the variant B.1.1.7 cases in Queensland. It is recommended that this advice be reviewed in one week, particularly if Queensland has no subsequent locally acquired cases.

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**

13 January 2021

### Trigger Points for Reviewing Border Controls

Risk of importation from affected jurisdiction (as at 13 January)	Trigger Point for Review	Proposed amendments to current conditions	Recommended review date and proposed action
<b>High Risk</b>	Greater than 20 new community cases per day, on 5-day and 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hotel quarantine for travellers</li> <li>2. Exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only</li> <li>3. Testing at days 2 and 12.</li> </ol>	
<b>Medium Risk</b>	5 to 20 new community cases per day, on 5-day and 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Home quarantine for travellers</li> <li>2. Testing at days 1 and 11.</li> <li>3. Exemptions restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only</li> </ol>	2 weeks. If risk falls to a low risk, implement low risk conditions
<b>Low Risk</b>	Less than 5 new community cases per day, on 5-day and 14 day rolling average	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Home quarantine for travellers.</li> <li>2. Testing at day 11.</li> <li>3. General exemptions may be considered if community cases are still occurring</li> </ol>	4-6 weeks. If risk falls to a very low risk, implement very low risk conditions
<b>Very Low Risk</b>	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"> <li>1. No quarantine or testing required.</li> <li>2. Declaration that visitor has been in a very low risk jurisdiction for last 14 days</li> <li>3. Health screening.</li> </ol>	4 weeks. If all jurisdictions meet the very low risk criteria, implement the negligible risk conditions
<b>Negligible Risk</b>	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"> <li>1. Open all interstate borders</li> </ol>	