



Dear 

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act) received by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on Tuesday 22 December 2020.

This application requested access to:

“Correspondence to and from the Chief Health Officer, including emails, and documents prepared, between December 17 2020 and December 21 2020 inclusive on the following topics:

- *advice on the effect of the Northern Beaches COVID outbreak on the ACT*
- *measures regarding stopping travellers from areas designated as COVID hotspots from going to the ACT*
- *Correspondence to and from ACT Policing on border measures*
- *Correspondence regarding the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region.”*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of ACTHD under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. ACTHD was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Friday 12 February 2021**.

I have identified 101 documents holding the information within the scope of your access application. This is outlined in the schedule of documents included at [Attachment A](#) to this decision letter.

Decisions

I have decided to:

- grant full access to 32 documents;
- grant partial access to 57 documents; and
- refuse access to 12 documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as [Attachment B](#) to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- Views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Full Access

I have decided to grant full access to 32 documents at reference 1-3, 6, 12, 13, 15, 32, 35-37, 39, 43-45, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58, 59, 62, 65-67, 69, 71, 74, 88, 89, 96 and 97.

Partial Access

Documents at reference 5, 68 and 85 contain information disclosure of which is taken to be contrary to the public interest as set out in Schedule 1, 1.2 Information subject to legal professional privilege.

I have decided to grant partial access to 68 documents at references 4, 5, 7-11, 14, 20-26, 28-31, 33, 34, 38, 40-42, 46-50, 53, 56, 57, 60, 61, 63, 64, 68, 70, 75, 79-81, 83-86, 90-95 and 98-100.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy, or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*;
- Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) prejudice intergovernmental relations; and
- Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(xi) prejudice trade secrets, business affairs or research of an agency or person.

Consistent with section 38 of the FOI Act, Information Officers must take reasonable steps to consult with relevant third parties such as the Commonwealth before deciding to give access to information. As such, ACTHD conducted a consultation process across jurisdictions and relevant third parties and considered any objections put forward.

The information that has been redacted is related to ACT Government employees' mobile numbers and the personal information of non- ACT Government individuals including third parties. These contact details have been redacted as this does not further the objects of the Act. External employee names do not add anything of substance to open discussion of public affairs and in most cases these employees are not the decision makers in these matters. Third party feedback states that exemption of public servant names and contact details below the Senior Executive Service (SES) level is a standard practice. Additionally, non-SES staff who perform administrative roles rather than decision making, have been subject to inappropriate telephone calls from members of the public relating to the coordination of COVID-19 responses. In the current circumstances, it is reasonable to expect that if the names of non-SES employees are disclosed, this could result in interference with the personal privacy of individuals, and potentially prejudice the health, safety and wellbeing of those officers. Therefore, on balance, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Document at reference 34 includes a redaction made to a Qantas password, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the business affairs of the company. Therefore, on balance, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information. Further redactions have been made to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's (AHPPC) meeting papers. These documents were designed to

provide advice and guidance on the deliberative process of the AHPPC with State Governments and the Commonwealth Government. ACTHD is not the author of these documents but is privy to hold this information due to its representation at this Committee. All documents include deliberative material and material communicated in confidence between governments in response to the coronavirus public health emergency. These meetings papers were drafted for the purpose of deliberations by the AHPPC and were communicated and recorded in a confidential forum. The release of this information could reasonably be expected to damage the intergovernmental relationships between the ACT Government and other jurisdictions. On balance, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Refused Access

Documents at reference 16-19, 27, 72, 73, 76-78, 82, 87 contain information disclosure of which is taken to be contrary to the public interest as set out in Schedule 1, 1.2 Information subject to legal professional privilege.

Document at reference 101 contains confidential public health related information communicated between Governments. The release of this information could reasonably be expected to damage the intergovernmental relationships between the ACT Government and other jurisdictions. On balance, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, ACTHD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman review

The decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Shadbolt', written in a cursive style.

Associate Professor Bruce Shadbolt
Executive Branch Manager
Centre for Health and Medical Research

11 February 2021

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information>

APPLICANT NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	FILE NUMBER
[REDACTED]	<p>"Correspondence to and from the Chief Health Officer, including emails, and documents prepared, between December 17 2020 and December 21 2020 inclusive on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice on the effect of the Northern Beaches COVID outbreak on the ACT • measures regarding stopping travellers from areas designated as COVID hotspots from going to the ACT • Correspondence to and from ACT Policing on border measures • Correspondence regarding the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region." 	FOI20/66

Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1-2	Email: Re: Statement on Northern Beaches outbreak for morning	17/12/2020	Full release		Yes
2.	3	Email: Northern Beaches LGA cluster and ACT Response	17/12/2020	Full release		Yes
3.	4-5	Email: Fwd: Statement for morning re: Northern Beaches outbreak	17/12/2020	Full release		Yes

4.	6-14	Email: NSW Health PHRB Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sitrep 331- 17 December 2020 with attachment	17/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i>	Yes
5.	15-21	Email: FW: Public Health Direction with attachment	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2 Information subject to Legal Professional Privilege	Yes
6.	22-26	Email: ACT COVID-19 Update- 18 December 2020	18/12/2020	Full release		Yes
7.	27-29	Email: RE: COVID-19 Update- New Public Health Directions for the Northern Beaches of Sydney	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
8.	30-35	Email: FW: Updated Chief Health Officer alert regarding COVID-19 with attachment	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
9.	36-43	Email: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
10.	44-50	Email: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
11.	51-53	Email: RE: Approval for targeted asymptomatic testing until 21 December 2020	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
12.	54-56	Email: 18 December	18/12/2020	Full release		Yes
13.	57-59	Email: FW: daily jurisdictional COVID-19 update- 18 th December 2020	18/12/2020	Full release		Yes
14.	60-63	Email: Health Emergency Control Centre – Coronavirus- Situation Report #211 with attachment	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
15.	64	Email: Health Emergency Control Centre – Coronavirus- Situation Report #211 with attachment at reference 14.	18/12/2020	Full release		Yes

16.	65-72	Email: RE: Urgent Public Health Direction No 6 with attachment – Draft Public Health Emergency Direction 2020 (No 6)	18/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 1, 1.2 Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	No
17.	73-76	Email: RE: Urgent Public Health Direction No 6	18/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 1, 1.2 Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	No
18.	77-85	Email: RE: Urgent Public Health Direction No 6 with attachment	18/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
19.	86-95	Email: RE: Urgent Public Health Direction No 6 with attachment	18/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
20.	96-106	Email: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify with attachments	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
21.	107-108	Email: RE: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
22.	109	Email: RE: Holding lines for weekend	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
23.	110-111	Email: Re: NSW cluster and ACT response- update and weekend response	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
24.	112-115	Email: Northern Beaches Exemptions for this weekend with attachment	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
25.	116-117	Email: Re: Northern Beaches Exemptions for this weekend	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
26.	118-120	Email: Re: Updated Advice for residential Aged Care Facilities, Disability Care facilities and Home Care Services	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes

27.	121-125	Email: RE: Urgent request for Declaration: Word doc of Hotspots No XX	18/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
28.	126-131	Email: Public Health Direction (Hotspots) number 6 with attachment signed hotspot direction 6	18/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
29.	132-137	Email: RE: Victorian border	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
30.	138-139	Email: Re: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) prejudice intergovernmental relations	Yes
31.	140-141	Email: Fwd: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
32.	142-145	Email: For action- On-Call Officer Briefing Minutes with attachment	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
33.	146-147	Email: RE: MEDIA Response	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
34.	148-150	Email: Re: Australian NFP Notification- Part 2 of 2 (NIR#2238-T114-06)	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(xi) prejudice trade secrets, business affairs or research of an agency or person	Yes
35.	151-152	Email: RE: For action- On-Call Officer Briefing Minutes	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
36.	153	Email: Interim Minutes – Saturday 19 December On-Call CHO Briefing with attachment at reference 32.	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
37.	154-157	Email: Fwd: URGENT: Social post for this evening	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
38.	158-162	Email: AHPPC outcomes- 19 December 2020 with attachment	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
39.	163-168	Email: Re: URGENT: Social post for this evening	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
40.	169-174	Email: Re: URGENT: Social post for this evening	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes

41.	175-176	Email: Re: Confidential Tasmanian Border Update	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
42.	177-179	Email: RE: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
43.	180-186	Email: Re: URGENT: Social post for this evening	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
44.	187-193	Email: Re: URGENT: Social post for this evening	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
45.	194-195	Email: Urgent Action- Agenda and Discussion for On-Call Officer Briefing – 1000hrs Sunday 20 December with attachment Agenda	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
46.	196-197	Email: Re: Confidential Tasmanian Border Update	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
47.	198-206	Email: Fwd: NSW Health PHRB Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sitrep 332 – 18 December 2020 with attachment	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
48.	207-214	Email: RE: URGENT: Social post for Sunday morning	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
49.	215-223	Email: RE: URGENT: Social post for Sunday morning	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
50.	224-229	Email: RE: URGENT: Social post for Sunday morning	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
51.	230-231	Email: FW: Interim Minutes – Saturday 19 December On-Call CHO Briefing with attachment at reference 32.	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
52.	232-233	Email: Re: **URGENT** Covid information – Stromlo Leisure centre	19/12/2020	Full release		Yes
53.	234-238	Email: Re: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update	19/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
54.	239-243	Email: For review- HECC On-Call Officer Minutes with attachment	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes

55.	244-251	Email: Interim Minutes – Sunday 20 December On-Call CHO Briefing #2 with attachments	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
56.	252-261	Email: Fwd: NSW Health PHRB Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sitrep 333- 19 December 2020 with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
57.	262	Email notes	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
58.	263-268	Email: FW: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update- 20 December 2020	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
59.	269-272	Email: CHO alert high risk settings with attachments	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
60.	273-275	Email: COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
61.	276-280	Email: RE: COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
62.	281-284	Email: For review- HECC On-Call Officer Briefing Minutes with attachment	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
63.	285-286	Email: For Info- Proposed Greater Sydney LGAs	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
64.	287-290	Email: RE: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
65.	291-297	Email: CHO alert for clearance with attachments	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
66.	298-304	Email: RE: CHO alert for clearance with attachments	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
67.	305	Email: Interim Minutes- Sunday 20 December On-Call CHO Briefing #3 with attachment at reference 62.	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
68.	306-320	Email: FW: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify with attachments	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	Yes

69.	321-327	Email: RE: CHO alert for clearance with attachments	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
70.	328-332	Email: RE: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
71.	333-339	Email: RE: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update – 20 December 2020	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
72.	340-345	Email: RE: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify	20/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
73.	346-359	Email: FW: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify with attachment	20/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
74.	360-364	Email: ACT COVID-19 Update- 20 December 2020	20/12/2020	Full release		Yes
75.	365-369	Email: Updated: COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW- Updated 20 Dec-1745 with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
76.	370-376	Email: FW: Public Health Direction number 7 – request to PCO to notify with attachment at reference 73.	20/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
77.	377-384	Email: RE: Public Health Direction number 7 – request to PCO to notify	20/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
78.	385-400	Email: FW: Public Health Direction number 7 – request to PCO to notify with attachment	20/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
79.	401-403	Email: FW: Hotels factsheet- 20 December with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
80.	404-406	Email: Essential worker words for the direction: Transit questions with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
81.	407	Email: Fwd: NSW order	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
82.	408-414	Email: Fwd: Public Health Direction number 7- request to PCO to notify	20/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No

83.	415-416	Email: Re: Essential worker words for the direction: Transit questions	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
84.	417-425	Email: FW: Sitrep 334- 20 December 2020 COVID-19 with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
85.	426-436	Email: FW: Hotspots Directions – No 8 – 20.12.20 at 8.00pm with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	Yes
86.	437-440	Email: Note: Outcomes from AHPPC meeting- 20 December 2020 with attachment	20/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
87.	441	Email: Fwd: Hotspots Directions – No 8 – 20.12.20 at 8.00pm with attachment at reference 85.	20/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 1, 1.2	No
88.	442-443	Email: New Public Health Directions- for Greater Sydney (inc. Blue Mountains), Central Coast and Wollongong Local Government Areas	21/12/2020	Full release		Yes
89.	444	Email: RE: Shoalhaven and Illawarra LGA	21/12/2020	Full release		Yes
90.	445-447	Email: FW: Hotels factsheet – 20 December with attachment	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
91.	448-451	Email: RE: Extension of GPRC testing asymptomatic people	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
92.	452-456	Email: FW: Extension of GPRC testing asymptomatic people	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
93.	457-458	Email: RE: Oral direction re Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 8)	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
94.	459-461	Email: RE: testing of asymptomatic people	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
95.	462-465	Email: Health Emergency Control Centre – Coronavirus – Situation Report #212 with attachment	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes

96.	466	Email: Health Emergency Control Centre – Coronavirus – Situation Report #212 with attachment at reference 95.	21/12/2020	Full release		Yes
97.	467-471	Email: RE: FOR APPROVAL- ACT COVID-19 Update- 21 December 2020	21/12/2020	Full release		Yes
98.	472-476	Email: CHO- COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW- Updated 21 Dec 1710hrs with attachment	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	Yes
99.	477-486	Email: FW: Direction signed with attachment	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
100.	487	Email: RE: Direction signed with attachment at reference 97.	21/12/2020	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
101.	488-496	Email: Health Situation Report #274 Novel Coronavirus with attachment	21/12/2020	Not for release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x)	No
Total Number of Documents						
101.						

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 10:17 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Whitley, Amanda; Nikolic, Emma; COVID-19 Media
Subject: Re: Statement on Northern Beaches outbreak for morning

Thanks Trace - the only change is the first sentence re overnight... i don't think we can say the increase is overnight, as we know about it already and we probably won't have any more notification before this goes out - should we say reported by NSW Health Thursday evening?

K

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:09 pm
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Whitley, Amanda; Nikolic, Emma; COVID-19 Media
Subject: Statement on Northern Beaches outbreak for morning
 Hi Kerryn

See below for your review. Once you have cleared, I'll provide to MO.

Approach at this time:

- Issue at 6am to media and set up ABC radio interview for 8.30am.
- Social to go out at 6.30 and statement to be updated on covid website.
- Media doorstep with Minister at 11.30am at Assembly.

Media statement:

Strengthened travel and health advice on Northern Beaches outbreak

There has been a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Northern Beaches outbreak reported by NSW Health overnight.

Given this increase and the evidence of community transmission, we are strengthening our health and travel advice to all Canberrans.

All Canberrans are advised not to travel to the Northern Beaches area of Sydney at this time.

Any Canberrans who have been in the Northern Beaches area from Friday 11 December 2020 need to immediately self quarantine and get tested.

In addition, anyone who has been in an affected location identified by NSW Health should contact the ACT Communicable Disease Control team on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.

“We know this will be difficult news for people so close to Christmas,” ACT Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerryn Coleman said.

“However, it is important we act quickly to respond to this outbreak while NSW continue with their contact tracing and assess the extent of the local transmission that is occurring.

“This is a timely reminder that as we make plans to come together with our family and friends in the coming weeks, or travel over the summer holidays, we must be COVID-Safe and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms,” Dr Coleman said.

NSW Health advice and the list of affected locations is available at: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates

ACT Health is monitoring the situation and working closely with NSW Health. As this is a quickly evolving situation, we will issue further advice as required.

ENDS

Cheers

Trace

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 10:29 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Hare, Merryn (Health); Sloane, Jen (Health); Hall, Seriden (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Cc: HECC Operations; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Jonasson, Kylie (Health); Brighton, Meg (Health); HECC Controller
Subject: Northern Beaches LGA cluster and ACT Response

Dear all

Overnight we have responded to a cluster in the Northern Beaches LGA by strengthening our travel and health advice. There is clear community transmission in this LGA with 17 cases to date, 2 main transmission events/locations (11th RSL, 13th Bowling Club), contact tracing continuing with more cases and venues to be identified.

We will go strong with our protective measures while further assessment is conducted of the extent of transmission in Sydney.

Key messages:

- do not travel to Northern Beaches LGA
- If in this LGA from 11 Dec must self-quarantine and get tested
- Additionally, if you have been in one of the identified locations please call ACT Health

Actions:

- Tracey - Strong comms messaging starting first thing in the morning. I will do radio in am, likely media doorstep with MSS 11.30am (anticipate public health direction announcement at that point if agree to continue with implementation)
- I have notified Bernadette tonight re potential increase demand for testing, CHECC implications
- Merryn - public health direction identifying northern beaches LGA as an area of concern/transmission... whatever language the direction use - requiring anyone from 11 dec to quarantine for 14 days... This is urgent and will need to be signed mid-morning
- Tracey - road signage - clear specific message on road in and out to Sydney re northern beaches...
- Merryn/Seriden - organise for exemption database to be checked for a government official who arrived flight from LA on 1 Dec into Sydney and exempted from hotel quarantine... check if this person completed quarantine, if they were exit tested and result please
- Vanessa J - organise follow up with NSW about ACT contacts
- VJ - i offered our contact tracers to NSW (for practice...)
- VJ - advice to CHECC, RACF etc to exclude northern beaches LGA. We will not provide the relaxation advice to RACF's given this issue.
- Note - there is no plan to introduce any border controls, nor the declaration process

I won't do medical students graduation breakfast so will be in the office.
 Can we please update at 9am Huddle.

Thanks, K

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Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 10:31 PM
To: Jonasson, Kylie (Health); Cross, Rebecca; Engele, Sam; Leigh, Kathy
Cc: Brighton, Meg (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer
Subject: Fwd: Statement for morning re: Northern Beaches outbreak

FYI

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From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:25 pm
To: Cook, Caitlin
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Whitley, Amanda; COVID-19 Media; Nikolic, Emma
Subject: Statement for morning re: Northern Beaches outbreak
Hi Caitlin

See below the statement that has been drafted on the Northern Beaches outbreak. Cleared by CHO and for your review.

Suggested media approach:

- Issue at 6am to media and set up ABC radio interview with CHO for 8.30am.
- Social post to go out at 6.30am and statement to be updated on covid website.
- Media doorstep with Minister and CHO in AM (timing TBC) at Assembly or at Bowes St.

Media statement:

Strengthened travel and health advice on Northern Beaches outbreak

There has been a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Northern Beaches outbreak reported by NSW Health on Thursday evening.

Given this increase and the evidence of community transmission, we are strengthening our health and travel advice to all Canberrans.

All Canberrans are advised not to travel to the Northern Beaches area of Sydney at this time.

Any Canberrans who have been in the Northern Beaches area from Friday 11 December 2020 need to immediately self quarantine and get tested.

In addition, anyone who has been in an affected location identified by NSW Health should contact the ACT Communicable Disease Control team on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.

"We know this will be difficult news for people so close to Christmas," ACT Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerryn Coleman said.

"However, it is important we act quickly to respond to this outbreak while NSW continue with their contact tracing and assess the extent of the local transmission that is occurring.

"This is a timely reminder that as we make plans to come together with our family and friends in the coming weeks, or travel over the summer holidays, we must be COVID-Safe and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms," Dr Coleman said.

NSW Health advice and the list of affected locations is available at: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates

ACT Health is monitoring the situation and working closely with NSW Health. As this is a quickly evolving situation, we will issue further advice as required.

STATEMENT ENDS

Cheers

Trace

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Annabelle Stevens (Ministry of Health) [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 10:35 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc:

Subject: NSW Health PHRB Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sitrep 331 - 17 December 2020
Attachments: Sitrep 331 17 December 2020 COVID-19.pdf

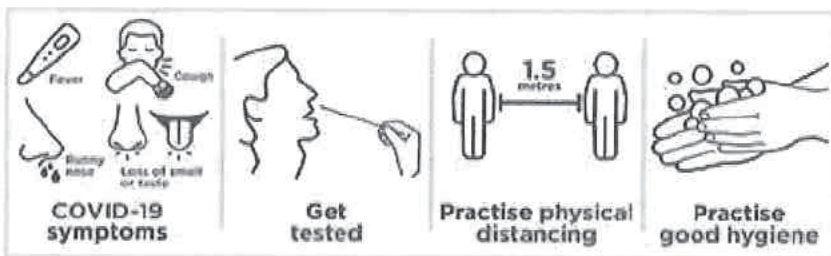
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Colleagues

Please find attached the Public Health Response Branch Situation Report #331 - 17 December 2020.

Kind regards,
Annabelle Stevens

COVID-19 Operational Policy Team | **Public Health Response Branch**
NSW Ministry of Health | 1 Reserve Road, St Leonards NSW 2065
www.health.nsw.gov.au



Visit the [NSW Health website](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) for the latest information on COVID-19.

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of NSW Health or any of its entities.

NSW Health Public Health Response Branch COVID-19

Situation Report

Report details			
SITREP #	331	Date of issue	17/12/2020 20:00
Last SITREP	16/12/2020 20:00	Next SITREP	18/12/2020 20:00
The Public Health Response Branch (PHRB) remains operational. Australia remains at pandemic phase 'targeted response'.			
Distribution	Minister's office MOH Executive NSW Health Agency Executive NSW Health PHUs	State Emergency Operations Controller State Health Emergency Operations Centre (SHEOC) NSW Police NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet ACT Health	

Surveillance																																													
Key data	As at 8pm 17 December 2020																																												
Additional information is available in the Appendix	<p>Table 1: Daily and cumulative COVID-19 case and testing data summary</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cases in the last 24 hours*</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tests in the last 24 hours*</td> <td>7,531</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deaths in the last 24 hours*</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Cases</td> <td>4,493</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Tests¹</td> <td>3,652,163</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Deaths</td> <td>55</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Notified since 8pm 16 December 2020. ¹ PCR tests are defined as one test per person per day, up to and including a positive detection (i.e. excludes tests for confirmed cases after their first positive test)</p> <p>Table 2: Daily and cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by likely source of infection in NSW, reported up to 8pm 17 December 2020</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Likely source of infection</th> <th>Cases last 24 hours*</th> <th>Cases last 7 days**</th> <th>Cases all</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overseas</td> <td>1</td> <td>28</td> <td>2,515</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interstate</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Locally acquired - linked to known case or cluster</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1,437</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Locally acquired - no links to known case or cluster</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>433</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Locally acquired – investigation ongoing</td> <td>15</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under initial investigation</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>16</td> <td>46</td> <td>4,493</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: Case counts reported for a particular day may vary over time due to ongoing investigations and case review. *notified since 8pm on 16 December 2020 **from 11 December up to 8pm 17 December 2020</p> <p>Epi data is available on the NSW Health website: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/recent-case-updates.aspx</p>	Cases in the last 24 hours*	16	Tests in the last 24 hours*	7,531	Deaths in the last 24 hours*	0	Total Cases	4,493	Total Tests ¹	3,652,163	Total Deaths	55	Likely source of infection	Cases last 24 hours*	Cases last 7 days**	Cases all	Overseas	1	28	2,515	Interstate	0	0	90	Locally acquired - linked to known case or cluster	0	0	1,437	Locally acquired - no links to known case or cluster	0	0	433	Locally acquired – investigation ongoing	15	18	18	Under initial investigation	0	0	0	Total	16	46	4,493
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LIMITED DISTRIBUTION TO IDENTIFIED RECIPIENTS LISTED - NOT FOR PRESS

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	<p>The latest weekly report has been released and is available at https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/weekly-reports.aspx.</p> <p>There are no cases in ICU.</p> <p>In total there are 64 COVID confirmed patients admitted in NSW Health (incl. ICU, other ward types, hospital in the home, and other out of hospital care). Most (95%) are in non-acute out of hospital care.</p> <p>A full report on sewage surveillance is published in the COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance in NSW reports. The weekly reports are available at: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/weekly-reports.aspx</p>																																																																																																																			
International travellers	<p>Quarantine Hotel Surveillance</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Tested</th> <th>Pending</th> <th>Positive</th> <th>%Positive</th> <th>Refused (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6">Symptomatic (since 29 March 2020)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-Dec</td> <td>31</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>7,998</td> <td>0</td> <td>166</td> <td>2.1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 2 (since 30 June 2020)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13-Dec</td> <td>363</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>14-Dec</td> <td>349</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> <td>1.4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-Dec</td> <td>294</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-Dec</td> <td>327</td> <td>28</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>59,062</td> <td>28</td> <td>343</td> <td>0.6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 10 (since 15 May 2020)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-Dec</td> <td>504</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-Dec</td> <td>386</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>71,216</td> <td>2</td> <td>163</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>264 (0.4%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>New Zealand passengers symptomatic or tested on arrival since October 16 2020:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Collection date</th> <th>Tested</th> <th>Pending</th> <th>Positive</th> <th>%Positive</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17-Dec</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>21</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>International Airport arrival passenger screening:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date of screening</th> <th>Number of arrivals screened for symptoms</th> <th>Symptomatic arrivals transferred to hospital for further evaluation and testing</th> <th>Percent evaluated and tested</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15 Dec 2020</td> <td>886</td> <td>15</td> <td>1.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 Dec 2020</td> <td>782</td> <td>10</td> <td>1.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total since 02 Feb 2020</td> <td>195,708</td> <td>2,283</td> <td>1.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Tested	Pending	Positive	%Positive	Refused (%)	Symptomatic (since 29 March 2020)						16-Dec	31	0	0	0.0		Total	7,998	0	166	2.1		Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 2 (since 30 June 2020)						13-Dec	363	0	1	0.3		14-Dec	349	0	5	1.4		15-Dec	294	0	1	0.3		16-Dec	327	28	0	0.0		Total	59,062	28	343	0.6		Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 10 (since 15 May 2020)						15-Dec	504	1	0	0.0	0.0%	16-Dec	386	1	0	0.0	0.0%	Total	71,216	2	163	0.2	264 (0.4%)	Collection date	Tested	Pending	Positive	%Positive	17-Dec	0	0	0	0	Total	21	0	0	0	Date of screening	Number of arrivals screened for symptoms	Symptomatic arrivals transferred to hospital for further evaluation and testing	Percent evaluated and tested	15 Dec 2020	886	15	1.7	16 Dec 2020	782	10	1.3	Total since 02 Feb 2020	195,708	2,283	1.2
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Clusters and high-risk settings	<p>LOCALLY-ACQUIRED CASES</p> <p>There are 15 new cases reported today who acquired COVID-19 locally.</p> <p>NORTHERN BEACHES CLUSTER</p> <p>There are now 17 cases linked to this cluster. The source of the cluster remains under investigation. The cases attended multiple venues and contract tracing is underway. 9 cases are linked to the Avalon RSL and 5 cases are linked to the Avalon Bowling Club. Investigations are ongoing. Two of the cases live at a retirement village in Avalon who are also linked to the venues.</p>																																																																																																																			

	<p>SOUTH SYDNEY CASE One newly reported case from 16 December is a driver who transports flight crew to and from the airport and their hotels. Investigations into possible transmission from flight crew to this case are underway.. Close contacts are being identified, tested and isolated.</p> <p>INTERSTATE/OVERSEAS ACQUIRED There is 1 new case reported today who acquired COVID-19 overseas.</p> <p>A list of venues attended by cases where people may be at risk of infection is available at https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates.</p>
Policy	
Key updates	<p>The Minister has made the <u>Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) Amendment Order</u> which commences today.</p> <p>The Amending Order amends the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) 2020 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the reference to the checklists so that a COVID-19 safety plan under the Order must address the matters in the relevant checklist as updated from time to time • Update the definition of agricultural field days (as the current definition doesn't appropriately capture field days) • Remove the references to "regional" from the provisions relating to regional agricultural shows, so that it is clear that the relevant provisions apply to all agricultural shows • Include a new provision requiring the organiser of an outdoor rehearsal or performance to ensure all persons attending as spectators are assigned to a specific seat or seating area. <p>The <u>Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities) Order (No 4) 2020</u> The No 4 Order will replace the existing Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities) Order (No 3) 2020 and will the No 4 Order will continue most of the restrictions and requirements in the No 3 Order (relating to limiting entry and requiring person permitted to enter to be screened prior to entry), the No 4 order will loosen the restrictions that apply in residential aged care facilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing the restrictions on the number of care and support visitors a resident can receive at one time (that is, residents will no longer be limited to two visitors per visit) • removing the requirement for persons entering to provide a care and support visit to have the flu vaccination • allowing a person to enter a residential aged care facility to provide a "welfare or wellbeing" visit to residents or to accompany a prospective resident. Such visitors do not have to have a flu vaccination. <p>However, the No 4 Order will require the operator of a residential aged care facility to consider the advice of the Chief Health Officer in deciding the number of visitors who can enter the premises.</p> <p>The Minister has made the <u>Public Health (COVID-19 Maritime Quarantine) Order (No 4) 2020</u> which commenced on 14 December.</p> <p>The No 4 Order is substantially the same as the current Public Health (COVID-19 Maritime Quarantine) Order (No 3) apart from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a person disembarks a vessel or leaves a quarantine facility because of an emergency, they must comply with directions of the Commissioner of Police, • A person who is allowed to temporarily embark on a vessel to perform functions or provide services must disembark immediately after providing the functions or services, • Minor changes are also made to define a "wharf" (under the Order, the occupier of the wharf must develop and comply with a COVID-19 safety plan),

- The use of a hire care will be considered “appropriate transportation” for transporting crew between a vessel and a quarantine/medical facility or an airport.

The Minister has made the Public Health (COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine) Order (No 4) 2020 which commenced on 14 December.

The No 4 Order continues the existing restrictions in the current Public Health (COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine) Order (No 3) 2020, subject to certain amendments:

- a “designated quarantine facility worker” cannot carry out services, or continue to carry out services, at a quarantine facility unless the person has been tested for COVID-19 in accordance with the NSW Testing Program for that class of workers. Similar restrictions apply to a “designated transportation worker”. The NSW Testing Program will be set out in the Quarantine Worker Surveillance and Testing Program, which must be approved by the Chief Health Officer. The NSW Testing Program sets out when different categories of worker must be tested – if a worker in that category is not tested in accordance with the Program, they cannot provide services at the quarantine facility until they have been tested. On 14 December, the only category of workers that will be required to be tested in order to provide services will be persons providing security services (but not police officers). The category of workers included in the Testing Program may expand as time goes on.
- The No 4 Order also requires a person who leaves a quarantine facility because of an emergency to comply with the directions of the Commissioner of Police.
- The Order also requires designated air crew who are self isolating to comply with the *Air Transportation Guidelines* as updated from time to time.

The No 4 Order will commence at the beginning of 14 December 2020.

The Minister has made the Public Health (COVID-19 Sydney New Year's Eve Arrangements) Order 2020

- The Order will set the arrangements that will apply to “restricted zones” and “declared zones” during the NYE period. The NYE period is 5pm 31 December to 5 am 1 January 2020. The restricted zones and declared zones are set by a map (you can find details at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/major-events/new-years-eve>).
- A person can only enter a restricted zone during the NYE period if they fall within a relevant class (residents and their visitors, attendees of a registered event, persons attending work) AND the person holds an entry pass.
- A person in a declared zone or a restricted zone must leave the area if asked to do so by a police officer or an authorised officer (for residents, leave the area means go back to their place of residence).
- A person must also provide true and accurate information to a police officer or authorised officer if asked in order to determine whether the person should be in the restricted zone.
- People will be able to seek an entry pass for a restricted zone from 7 December.

The Minister has made the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) 2020 which commenced on 7 December.

The No 7 Order repeals the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 6) 2020 and puts in place an easing of COVID-19 related restrictions.

Under the No 7 Order:

- There can be up to 50 residents at a premises
- Up to 100 people can gather in an outdoor public place, subject to a number of exemptions including
 - Gatherings on premises that are required to have a COVID-19 safety plan
 - up to 3,000 people (subject to 1 person per 2 square metres) can gather for community sport, outdoor performances & rehearsals, and outdoor protests

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION TO IDENTIFIED RECIPIENTS LISTED - NOT FOR PRESS

H20/5829-665

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ controlled outdoor community events (i.e. enclosed/fenced, tickets and seated) can have up to 3,000 people where allocated to a seated area, or 5,000 people with people allocated to specific seats. ○ regional agricultural shows and field days with no upper limit, but still subject to 1 person per 2 square metres ● There are general restrictions on the number of persons in most premises, being 1 person per 2 square metres (calculated using only publicly available areas) once more than 25 people are on the premises, except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gyms and nightclubs (which will be a subject to a 1 person per 4 square metres cap) ○ Major recreation facilities and entertainment venues, which will be allowed to have the greater of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 person per 2 square metres, ○ 100% of fixed seated capacity where outdoors, ticketed and seated, or ○ 75% of fixed seated capacity where indoors, ticketed and seated. ○ Exempted gatherings listed in Schedule 2 ● Indoor dance floors are limited to 50 people while outdoor dance floors are limited to 500 people ● There are requirements for gyms, nightclubs and hospitality venues to have COVID-19 safety marshals ● Premises and events listed Schedule 1 are required to have a COVID-19 safety plan that address the matters in the relevant checklist (the checklists have all been updated for the new order) ● Premises listed in Schedule 3 must electronically capture people's contact details. However, a premises (other than a gymnasium, nightclubs or hospitality venue, other than take away) is not required to electronically record people's details if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The premises are within, and only accessible through, another premises (the main premises); and ○ The main premises is required to keep electronic records under the Order. <p>Since commencement, there are no longer any limits to the number of people at corporate events, weddings, funerals, religious services and the prohibition on nightclubs and music festivals have been removed. While these limits have all been removed, these activities will all need to comply with other more general limits that apply to gathering and movement, including the density limits that apply at the different premises and have an appropriate COVID-19 safety plan.</p> <p>There are transitional provisions in place so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any existing exemption given under the No 6 order remains in effect, and ● Any previous delegation remains in effect
COVID-19 National Guidelines	<p>The COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units (COVID-19 SoNG) V3.11 was published on 10 December 2020. Changes from the last version have been highlighted within the link.</p> <p>https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm</p>
Communications	
Public Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSW Health website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daily case updates https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx, https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-nsw.aspx, https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-local.aspx and https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/recent-case-updates.aspx ▪ Updated advice

- Residential aged care facilities
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx> linked from
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/aged-care.aspx>
- Disability support providers
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-latest-advice.aspx> linked from
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-support.aspx>
- Home care services <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/home-care-latest-advice.aspx> linked from
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-support.aspx>
- Updated case locations
 - Areas and suburbs with increased testing added – Northern area of Northern Beaches (i.e. Collaroy and north of Collaroy) <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#increased-testing>
 - Close contact venues added – Avalon RSL club, Avalon Bowlo, Bangkok Sidewalk Restaurant in Avalon Beach, Barramee Thai Massage and Spa in Avalon Beach, Sneaky Grind Café in Avalon Beach, Kirribilli Club, Palm Beach female change rooms, Coast Palm Beach Café in Palm Beach, Penrith RSL Club <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#self-isolate>
 - Casual contact venues added – Hungry Ghost Café in Avalon, Woolworths in Avalon Beach, Oliver’s Pie in Avalon Beach, Bing Lee in Mona Vale, Gannons Park (Forest Rangers FC, Little Rangers session) in Peakhurst <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#monitor>
- New Aboriginal health safe gatherings video added
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/aboriginal-resources.aspx#video>
- Public Health Orders and Restrictions page updated with Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) 2020 <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#gathering>
- Festive season information updated (advice changed to avoid crowded shopping centres to align with advice around stadiums and hospitality venues)
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/festive-season-advice.aspx>
- DCS website
 - Updated case locations
 - Areas and suburbs with increased testing added – Northern area of Northern Beaches (i.e. Collaroy and north of Collaroy) <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>
 - Close contact venues added – Avalon RSL club, Avalon Bowlo, Bangkok Sidewalk Restaurant in Avalon Beach, Barramee Thai Massage and Spa in Avalon Beach, Sneaky Grind Café in Avalon Beach, Kirribilli Club, Palm Beach female change rooms, Coast Palm Beach Café in Palm Beach, Penrith RSL Club <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#self-isolate-and-get-tested>
 - Casual contact venues added – Hungry Ghost Café in Avalon, Woolworths in Avalon Beach, Oliver’s Pie in Avalon Beach, Bing Lee in Mona Vale, Gannons Park (Forest Rangers FC, Little Rangers session) in Peakhurst <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#monitor-for-symptoms>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stakeholder communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewed additional Aboriginal health gathering and testing videos (longer form gathering video and 5 x 15-second testing videos) ● Social <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Live: Dr Jan Q&A, press conference ○ Posts: Daily case numbers, daily video update (Dr Jeremy McNulty), Public Health Alert (Forest Rangers FC, Little Rangers session at Gannons Park and Northern Beaches), Public Health Alert (new case locations in the northern area of the Northern Beaches), testing clinics open during the festive season, new pop-up COVID-19 testing clinic in Avalon, new Northern Beaches pop-up COVID-19 testing clinics (Avalon, Newport, Frenchs Forest), Public Health Alert (new venues – Avalon RSL club, Penrith RSL club, Kirribilli club) ○ Scheduled posts: New Year’s Eve tiles ● Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daily case numbers issued https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201217_00.aspx ● Video update (Dr Jeremy McNulty) https://vimeo.com/491852276/e65aa486b4 ● 1pm press conference (Minister Hazzard and Dr Chant) https://vimeo.com/491903885/1e156fcf81 ● Public Health Alert: (New case: Forest Rangers FC, Little Rangers session at Gannons Park) https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201216_02.aspx ● Public Health Alert (Northern Beaches) https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201216_03.aspx ● Public Health Alert (Northern Beaches – further venues) https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201216_04.aspx ● NSW Public Health Alert - New Venues (Avalon RSL club, Penrith RSL club, Kirribilli club) https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201217_01.aspx ● SBS radio language interviews with bilingual contact tracers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thai SBS Radio language program interview with Nui Attatorn https://www.sbs.com.au/language/thai/audio/nsw-covid-test-contact-tracing-q-a ▪ Sinhalese SBS Radio language program interview with Achini Kuruppuarachchi https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/audio/what-is-contact-tracing ▪ Urdu SBS Radio language program interview with Fouzia Jabeen in English https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/audio/why-contact-tracing-is-vital-against-spread-of-covid-19 and Urdu https://www.sbs.com.au/language/urdu/audio/why-contact-tracing-is-vital-against-spread-of-covid-19 ▪ Arabic SBS Radio language program interview with Wassim Dakarmanji and Jasmin Mansour https://www.sbs.com.au/language/arabic/audio/contact-tracing-team-members-in-nsw-explain-how-they-do-their-job ▪ Tamil SBS Radio language program interview with Devika Varnakulasingham https://www.sbs.com.au/language/tamil/audio/how-contact-tracing-works
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Sitrep issued by:	Annabelle Stevens PHRB Operational Policy	Authorised by:	Dr Chatu Yapa Deputy PHRB Controller
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Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 11:13 AM
To: Brighton, Meg (Health)
Subject: FW: Public Health Direction
Attachments: Hotspots Directions - No 6 - 18.12.20 at 10.48 am.docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601
 E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 10:59 AM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Cc: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Harris, Miranda (Health) <Miranda.Harris@act.gov.au>; Manzoney, Lisa <Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au>; Masters, Skye <Skye.Masters@act.gov.au>
Subject: Public Health Direction

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kerryn,

GSO have drafted the public health direction as per attached (thank you Lisa and Skye).

Confirmed with Miranda we go with wording 'declared COVID-19 affected area' as per SA direction although the direction is Hotspot Direction #6.

Northern Beaches LGA the location – suburbs will be included on the website. Tracey drafting words just now.

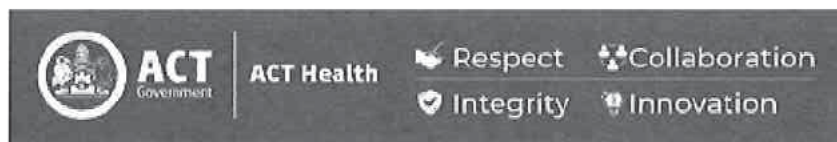
If you are happy with this a hard copy has been printed for your signature and Karen Moxon in PCO awaiting receipt of signed document to process.

Kind regards,

Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior ManagerEmail: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: COVID-19 Media
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 1:13 PM
Cc: COVID-19 Media
Subject: ACT COVID-19 Update – 18 December 2020

Categories: For CHO information

UNOFFICIAL



COVID-19 update



ACT COVID-19 Update – 18 December 2020

Confirmed cases update

There have been **no new cases** of COVID-19 recorded in the ACT in the past 24 hours, leaving the ACT's total at **117**. There are **no active cases** in the ACT.

A total of **114 cases** have recovered from COVID-19 in the ACT.

There are **no** COVID-19 patients in Canberra hospitals.

The ACT has recorded **three (3)** deaths.

The number of negative tests recorded in the ACT is now **127,532**

Update on travel and health advice for Northern Beaches outbreak

There are now 28 cases confirmed cases linked to the Northern Beaches, as reported by NSW Health on Friday morning.

Our travel and health advice to the community remains the same. We are asking people to do three things:

1. Do not to travel to the Northern Beaches area of Sydney at this time. People from the Northern Beaches area should also not travel to the ACT.
2. Anyone who has visited the Northern Beaches area from Friday 11 December 2020 must self-quarantine for 14 days from the date they were last there and get tested, even if they do not have symptoms. People must stay in quarantine for the whole 14 days even if they have a negative test result.
3. Anyone who has been in an affected location identified by NSW Health should follow the advice on the NSW website and contact the ACT Health COVID-19 team on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.

Given the increase in cases and the evidence of community transmission, a new Public Health Direction that has been put in place from 11.59am this morning, declares the Northern Beaches Local Government Area as a COVID-19 affected area. Under the Direction, those who have been in the Northern Beaches from Friday 11 December 2020 are legally required to self-quarantine for 14 days from the date they were last there. Further information on requirements for quarantine is on the [ACT COVID-19 website](#).

With demand for testing currently at high levels, we ask those impacted by this direction to immediately quarantine, organise their testing for later in the day and be patient with staff at our testing clinics. For information on testing clinics please visit the [COVID-19 website](#).

“We are acting quickly to respond to this outbreak as is NSW Health and we are working closely with our counterparts in NSW. We know this is difficult but we need the community to work with us and follow the health and travel advice closely,” Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Coleman said.

“This remains a rapidly evolving situation and we will keep the community informed as more information comes to hand.

“As we make plans to come together with our family and friends in the coming weeks, or travel over the summer holidays, we must be COVID-Safe and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms,” Dr Coleman said.

NSW Health advice and the list of affected locations is available at: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates

Weston Creek Walk-in Centre resumes normal operations

The Weston Creek Walk-in Centre has returned to its usual health service operations. It will also continue to be a COVID-19 Testing Clinic.

Weston Creek Walk-in Centre, which just celebrated its first birthday, has been a key testing site throughout the pandemic. There have been more than 29,000 presentations to the Centre in its first 12 months.

Walk-in Centres are free and open daily from 7.30am to 10.00pm, including Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. They are best for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries such as colds and flu, cuts and sprains, fractures and infections.

Children under two years and people with complex conditions should see their GP.

For further information visit walkincentre.act.gov.au

General information

It is everyone’s responsibility to follow the health advice and do what we can to ensure we keep ourselves and the community safe. We ask Canberrans to:

- Physically distancing from other groups whenever possible
- Continue good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Stay home if you are unwell
- Get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

The ACT Government has a dedicated COVID-19 website for all information about the health and economic response to the pandemic in the ACT. For further information visit www.covid19.act.gov.au.

The ACT Government also has a helpline to assist Canberrans through the challenges of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Helpline is (02) 6207 7244 and is available between 8am and 8pm daily.

Statement ends


Media contact:

COVID-19 media

M 0435 258 508

E COVID-19media@act.gov.au

 GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

 13 22 81

 www.covid19.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:27 PM
To: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Subject: RE: COVID-19 Update – New Public Health Directions for the Northern Beaches of Sydney

OFFICIAL

They are not legally required to get tested – it was changed from the media statement, so this message is wrong if it says that

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601
 E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:26 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: COVID-19 Update – New Public Health Directions for the Northern Beaches of Sydney

OFFICIAL

Hi Kerryn

Rebecca C and Vanessa J querying the advice below stating people are now “legally required to get tested” despite this not being in the direction.

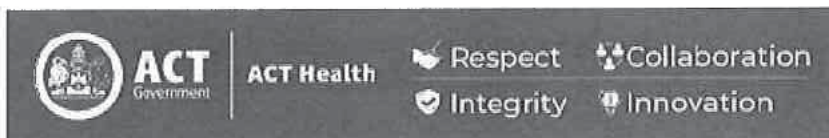
We can update the direction or the advice – thoughts?

Kind regards,

Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior ManagerEmail: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:17 PM

To: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>

Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Update – New Public Health Directions for the Northern Beaches of Sydney

As per our conversation, this says to get tested but the direction you forwarded didn't.

R

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Head Of Service <Head.Of.Service@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 1:44:55 PM

Subject: COVID-19 Update – New Public Health Directions for the Northern Beaches of Sydney

OFFICIAL



18 December 2020

> A message from the Head of Service

Kathy Leigh

2020



COVID-19 Update – New Public Health Direction for the Northern Beaches of Sydney

Colleagues

Many of you will be aware of the growing COVID-19 cluster in the Northern Beaches area of Sydney which today has reached 28. This has prompted a new Public Health Direction to be issued today by the ACT Chief Health Officer that declares the Northern Beaches Local Government Area as a COVID-19 affected area.

The Chief Health Officer is asking us to do three things:

1. Do not to travel to the Northern Beaches area of Sydney at this time. People from the Northern Beaches area should also not travel to the ACT.
2. Under the Direction, anyone who has visited the Northern Beaches area from Friday, 11 December 2020 is now legally required to self-quarantine for 14 days from the date they were last there and get tested, even if they do not have symptoms. People must stay in quarantine for the whole 14 days, even if they have a negative test result. Further information on requirements for quarantine is on the [ACT COVID-19 website](#).

3. In addition to the Northern Beaches area, anyone who has been in an affected location identified by NSW Health should follow the advice on the NSW website and contact the ACT Health COVID-19 team on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.

The Chief Health Officer has asked anyone impacted by this Direction to organise their testing for later in the day and be patient with staff at our testing clinics. For information on testing clinics please visit the COVID-19 website.

For information on ACT Public Service staff arrangements for COVID-19 please visit the ACTPS Employment Portal.

At this time I would like to remind anyone planning to travel during the holiday season to maintain your personal responsibilities:

- physically distance from other groups whenever possible
- continue good hand and respiratory hygiene
- stay home if you are unwell
- get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

It is also important you are vigilant about the COVID-19 situation in the jurisdiction you are travelling to, before and after you travel.

Please stay up to date with this rapidly evolving situation by checking the COVID-19 website and following the ACT Health social media channels.

Kathy Leigh
Head of Service

Follow us on



RESPECT INTEGRITY
COLLABORATION
INNOVATION

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Kingsbury, Alison (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:53 PM
To: #ACT Health, HPS Managers; Allard, Kirstie (Health); Bailey, Pauline (Health); Banks, Carolyn (Health); Beissner, Mitchell (Health); Crane, Rachael (Health); Evans, Raleigh (Health); Gaborit, Lorane (Health); Goldrick, Connor (Health); Howard, Chloe (Health); Huggett, Romaine (Health); Kelly, Sam (Health); Marmor, Alexandra (Health); Mead, Sarah (Health); Passaris, Irene (Health); Patten, Isaac (Health); Polkinghorne, Ben (Health); Sgouros, Fotis (Health); Smythe, Julia (Health); Steele, Fiona (Health); Stefanovic, Milica (Health); Surdonjic, Aleksandar (Health); Wynn, Sandra (Health)
Subject: FW: Updated Chief Health Officer alert regarding COVID-19
Attachments: Advice on interstate COVID-19 outbreaks_18122020_final.pdf

OFFICIAL

fyi

Alison Kingsbury
 Senior Director Communicable Disease Control
 Ph: 5124 9255 | Email: alison.kingsbury@act.gov.au
Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate
 25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT, 2611
health.act.gov.au



From: ACT Health COVID-19 Medical Officer Team <Medical.covid@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:05 PM
To: #ACT Health, HPS CDC <#ACTHealthHPSCDC@act.gov.au> [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Bower, Linda (Health) <Linda.Bower@act.gov.au> [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au> [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Matthews, Helen (Health) <Helen.Matthews@act.gov.au> [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Mills-Thom, Sharron (Health) <Sharron.Mills-Thom@act.gov.au>; Svoboda, Anne-Marie (Health) <Anne-Marie.Svoboda@act.gov.au>
Cc: ACT Health COVID-19 Medical Officer Team <Medical.covid@act.gov.au>
Subject: Updated Chief Health Officer alert regarding COVID-19

OFFICIAL

Dear Colleagues

Please find attached an updated alert from the ACT Chief Health Officer regarding COVID-19. Please ensure that this information is distributed through your networks.

In summary, the list of *geographical areas of risk* has been amended to Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area. Please note this link will be updated with the list of included suburbs shortly, in the meantime the full list of suburbs is also available here.

The COVID-19 situation can change rapidly and as such, advice for high-risk settings is subject to change regularly. ACT Health will continue to keep you updated through these Chief Health Officer alerts.

This information is also available on the ACT Health website: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts>.

Key information for general practitioners:

- Current *geographical areas of risk* for COVID-19 transmission are:
 - Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area.
- The ACT border is open to all Australian states and territories. People in ACT are advised not to travel to Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area.
- A Public Health Direction mandating quarantine for individuals who are close contacts of COVID-19 cases remains in place. This may include people who attended specific venues on the same date/time as a confirmed case; these are listed here.
- A new Public Health Direction came into effect today, requiring anybody who has been in Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area from the 11th of December to go into quarantine for 14 days after last being in the area and get tested.
- GPs and other community health practitioners who have recently been in a geographical area of risk (see above), but who are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction, should be particularly vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- Health practitioners should actively seek a patient's travel history and determine if they have been in a geographical area of risk (see above). If yes, the practitioner should be alert to even mild symptoms of COVID-19 and have a low threshold for testing, using appropriate PPE.

Kind regards

ACT Health COVID-19 Medical Officer Team

Ph: (02) 5124 6209 | Email: medical.covid@act.gov.au

COVID-19 Response Team | ACT Health Directorate

Building 2, Bowes St, Phillip ACT 2606 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au

Public health advice for high-risk settings and health professionals regarding interstate COVID-19 outbreaks (new information in red)

Key Points

- The ACT border is open to every Australian state and territory.
- There is a current outbreak of COVID-19 cases associated with the Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area (LGA).
- A Public Health Direction will be in effect from today (at 11.59 AM on 18 December 2020) mandating testing and quarantine for anyone in the ACT who has been in Sydney Northern Beaches LGA from the 11th of December. Quarantine is required for 14 days from the date they were last there.
- Anyone who has been in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA (now classified as an area of geographical risk) in the previous 14 days should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days after leaving the area.
- Anyone in the ACT who has been to any listed locations at the time specified by NSW Health must follow NSW Health advice AND call ACT Health on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.

What is the situation?

- There is a current outbreak of COVID-19 cases associated with the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA. Suburbs in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA are now classified as an area of geographical risk and are listed here.
- The ACT border remains open to every Australian state and territory.
- Canberrans are being advised not to visit the Northern Beaches area of Sydney at this time.
- Anyone in the ACT who has travelled to the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA from the 11th of December must get tested and self-quarantine for 14 days after leaving the area. A Public Health Direction comes into effect today (at 11.59 AM on 18 December 2020) mandating quarantine.
- Anyone in the ACT who has been to any listed locations at the times specified by NSW must follow NSW Health advice AND call ACT Health on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.
- Anyone in the ACT who has recently travelled interstate, including to Sydney, should keep up to date with public health alerts from the jurisdiction they travelled from.
- The advice in this Chief Health Officer alert will be reviewed regularly. The geographical areas of risk in Australia remain subject to change, depending on the COVID-19 situation.

What are geographical areas of risk?

Current **geographical areas of risk** in Australia are:

- Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area

ACT Public Health Directions regarding interstate COVID-19 outbreaks

- Anyone who has been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case during the case's infectious period must quarantine until 14 days after their last contact with the case.
 - Some people who attended specific public locations at the same time as a confirmed COVID-19 case may be considered close contacts. People who have attended any of the listed "self-isolate and get tested" locations on the NSW Health page must get tested and quarantine for 14 days AND call ACT Health (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.
 - A Public Health Direction is in effect from today (at 11.59 AM on 18 December 2020) mandating testing and quarantine for anyone in the ACT who has been in Sydney Northern Beaches LGA from the 11th of December. Quarantine is required for 14 days after leaving the area.

What are high-risk settings?

- A high-risk setting is defined as a setting where there are a large number of people who are vulnerable to severe disease from COVID-19 (e.g. due to age or chronic medical conditions), and/or where there is a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close proximity and difficulties maintaining physical distancing.
- These high-risk settings are:
 - Hospitals
 - Residential aged care facilities
 - Correctional facilities
 - Residential accommodation facilities that support people who require frequent, close personal care and who are vulnerable to severe disease

Advice for high-risk settings

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) must not visit or work in a high-risk setting.
- Anyone who has been in a geographical area of risk (see above) should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days since leaving these areas.
- If facilities identify staff who have been in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA since the 11th of December, they should advise their staff to go into quarantine. If staff were in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA prior to the 11th of December, they should not work in a high-risk setting for 14 days since leaving the area.
- If someone is excluded from visiting or working in a high-risk setting, but is seeking to visit on compassionate grounds, or to work because they are deemed essential (e.g. someone with expertise that cannot be sourced elsewhere):
 - If they are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), this should be considered following a risk assessment, in consultation with ACT Health.

- If they are in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), they will need to apply for an exemption at [covid19.act.gov.au/exemption-application](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/exemption-application).

Advice for staff providing home-based aged care, disability and other support services

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) should not provide home-based aged care, disability or other support services.
- If organisations identify staff who have been in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA since the 11th of December, they should advise their staff to go into quarantine. If staff were in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA prior to the 11th of December, they should not provide home-based aged care, disability or other support services for 14 days since leaving the area.
- If the service deems it is essential for the staff member to continue in their role:
 - If they are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), the staff member's manager should undertake a risk assessment to determine whether it is appropriate for the staff member to return to work. Considerations include the staff member's risk of exposure to COVID-19, duration of close physical contact with clients and client vulnerability to COVID-19. The risk assessment should be done in consultation with ACT Health.
 - If they are in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), they will need to apply for an exemption at [covid19.act.gov.au/exemption-application](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/exemption-application).

Advice for general practitioners and other community health practitioners

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) must not work in a community health setting, unless ACT Health grants them an exemption to do so.
- GPs and other community health practitioners who have been in a geographical area of risk (see above), but who are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction, should be particularly vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- Health practitioners should actively seek a patient's travel history and determine if they have been in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA since the 11th of December and advise them to go into quarantine and get tested.
- **For more information**
- Visit the Chief Health Officer alerts page: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts>
- Visit the ACT COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>
- Contact ACT Health on (02) 5124 6209.

Dr Vanessa Johnston
For Dr Kerryn Coleman
ACT Chief Health Officer

18 December 2020



Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 13 22 81

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Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:54 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update

UNOFFICIAL

done

Merryn Hare | Senior ManagerEmail: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:34 PM
To: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>
Cc: Engele, Sam <Sam.Engele@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update

UNOFFICIAL

Merryn can you please ring Sam re repat flights – I'm on ahppc

KerrynPublic Health, Protection and Regulation | **ACT Health Directorate**

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601
 E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>**Sent:** Friday, 18 December 2020 2:32 PM**To:** Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Whitley, Amanda <Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Jen (Health) <Jen.Sloane@act.gov.au>**Cc:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update

UNOFFICIAL

Hi Rebecca,

This is the wording that was cleared at midday to align with the public health directions. We are asking people to get tested but they are not legally required to do so.

Hope this clarifies your query.

Kind regards,

Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au



ACT Health



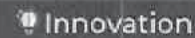
Respect



Collaboration



Integrity



Innovation



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 12:02 PM

To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Harris, Miranda (Health) <Miranda.Harris@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID Exemptions <COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au>; HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Whitley, Amanda <Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au>; Craig, Alexandra <Alexandra.Craig@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update

UNOFFICIAL

This one should be ok...

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)

Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 11:59 AM

To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Miranda Harris <Miranda.Harris@act.gov.au> <Miranda.Harris@act.gov.au>

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Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update

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Are we happier with this



COVID-19 update



ACT COVID-19 Update – 18 December 2020

Confirmed cases update

There have been **no new cases** of COVID-19 recorded in the ACT in the past 24 hours, leaving the ACT's total at **117**. There are **no active cases** in the ACT.

A total of **114 cases** have recovered from COVID-19 in the ACT.

There are **no** COVID-19 patients in Canberra hospitals.

The ACT has recorded **three (3)** deaths.

The number of negative tests recorded in the ACT is now **127,532**

Update on travel and health advice for Northern Beaches outbreak

There are now 28 cases confirmed cases linked to the Northern Beaches, as reported by NSW Health on Friday morning.

Our travel and health advice to the community remains the same. We are asking people to do three things:

1. Do not to travel to the Northern Beaches area of Sydney at this time. People from the Northern Beaches area should also not travel to the ACT.
2. Anyone who has visited the Northern Beaches area from Friday 11 December 2020 must self-quarantine for 14 days from the date they were last there and get tested, even if they do not have symptoms. People must stay in quarantine for the whole 14 days even if they have a negative test result.
3. Anyone who has been in an affected location identified by NSW Health should follow the advice on the NSW website and contact the ACT Health COVID-19 team on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.

Given the increase in cases and the evidence of community transmission, a new Public Health Direction that has been put in place from 11.59am this morning, declares the Northern Beaches Local Government Area as a COVID-19 affected area. Under the Direction, those who have been in the Northern Beaches from Friday 11 December 2020 are legally required to self-quarantine for 14 days from the date they were last there. Further information on requirements for quarantine is on the [ACT COVID-19 website](#).

With demand for testing currently at high levels, we ask those impacted by this direction to immediately quarantine, organise their testing for later in the day and be patient with staff at our testing clinics. For information on testing clinics please visit the [COVID-19 website](#).

"We are acting quickly to respond to this outbreak as is NSW Health and we are working closely with our counterparts in NSW. We know this is difficult but we need the community to work with us and follow the health and travel advice closely," Chief Health Officer Dr Kerryn Coleman said.

"This remains a rapidly evolving situation and we will keep the community informed as more information comes to hand.

"As we make plans to come together with our family and friends in the coming weeks, or travel over the summer holidays, we must be COVID-Safe and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms," Dr Coleman said.

NSW Health advice and the list of affected locations is available at: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates

Weston Creek Walk-in Centre resumes normal operations

The Weston Creek Walk-in Centre has returned to its usual health service operations. It will also continue to be a COVID-19 Testing Clinic.

Weston Creek Walk-in Centre, which just celebrated its first birthday, has been a key testing site throughout the pandemic. There have been more than 29,000 presentations to the Centre in its first 12 months.

Walk-in Centres are free and open daily from 7.30am to 10.00pm, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day. They are best for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries such as colds and flu, cuts and sprains, fractures and infections.

Children under two years and people with complex conditions should see their GP.

For further information visit walkincentre.act.gov.au

General information

It is everyone's responsibility to follow the health advice and do what we can to ensure we keep ourselves and the community safe. We ask Canberrans to:

- Physically distancing from other groups whenever possible
- Continue good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Stay home if you are unwell
- Get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

The ACT Government has a dedicated COVID-19 website for all information about the health and economic response to the pandemic in the ACT. For further information visit www.covid19.act.gov.au.

The ACT Government also has a helpline to assist Canberrans through the challenges of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Helpline is (02) 6207 7244 and is available between 8am and 8pm daily.

Statement ends

Media contact:

COVID-19 media

M 0435 258 508

E COVID-19media@act.gov.au



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



13 22 81



www.covid19.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 2:56 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update

UNOFFICIAL

Kathy Leigh's announcement does not align with this ... I've clarified with Rebecca.

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au



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Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Daily update

UNOFFICIAL

This was the approved version

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate
 [REDACTED]

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601
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UNOFFICIAL

Are we happier with this



COVID-19 update



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Statement ends


Media contact:


COVID-19 media

M 0435 258 508

E COVID-19media@act.gov.au

 GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

 13 22 81

 www.covid19.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 3:32 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); COVID-19 Media
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Subject: RE: Approval for targeted asymptomatic testing until 21 December 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Vanessa.

We will look at this. CHS doing a testing post shortly which we will share and we will focus on promoting the Comm GP testing sites as part of this.

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 3:29 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Approval for targeted asymptomatic testing until 21 December 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Tracey,

Please see advice from the Commonwealth about extending testing to asymptomatic people at Commonwealth GP testing clinics for people coming into the ACT from Northern Beaches of Sydney from Friday 11 December 2020. This is a change from the usual practice of only seeing symptomatic people.

Can we please make this clear on our testing webpage in relation to Crace, Greenway and Narrabundah (Winnunga Nimmityjah) GPRCs.

We need to remind people that patients should book via the online system and that Winnunga is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Thanks,
 Vanessa

From: Megan Cahill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 12:41 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Approval for targeted asymptomatic testing until 21 December 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

FYI. I suggest that comms reinforce the need for people to book an appointment for testing at GPRC and for First Nations people only to attend Winnunga.

Regards
 Megan

Megan Cahill
 Chief Executive Officer
 Capital Health Network
 Diary Coordinator Kerry Weller-Lewis

Web: www.chnact.org.au



**IMAGINE
 BETTER**



We respect the Ngunnawal people of this region as the Traditional Custodians and cultural knowledge holders of this land.

PLEASE NOTE: The information contained in this email is confidential. It is intended solely for the addressee. If you receive this email by mistake please notify us. You must not disclose or use the information in it unless we authorise you to do so. This note also confirms that this email message has been virus scanned and although no computer viruses were detected, Capital Health Network accepts no liability for any consequential damage resulting from an email containing any computer viruses.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 12:38 PM
Cc: Megan Cahill [REDACTED]

Subject: Approval for targeted asymptomatic testing until 21 December 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon.

ACT Health has formally requested for the ACT GPRCs to assist with the local response to the evolving COVID situation within the Northern Beaches region.

I can confirm that the Department of Health has agreed to the Crace, Greenway and Narrabundah (Winnunga Nimmityjah) GPRCs conducting targeted asymptomatic testing **until Monday 21 December (inclusive)**, in line with ACT Health guidelines. These patients should book via the online system and be entered within the App as per normal.

At this point, ACT Health has identified that asymptomatic testing should occur for patients who self-identify that they have travelled to the Northern Beaches of Sydney from Friday 11 December 2020 (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>).


We also support your expansion in capacity (opening hours etc) to help meet patient demand. It would be appreciated if you could please let us know of any changes to arrangements. As always, the Capital Health Network is also available to provide assistance. We will review this arrangement on Monday 21 December 2020 and provide further advice.

Please contact us directly on [REDACTED] if you have any questions.

Thank you

COVID-19 Primary Care Response

Australian Government Department of Health



The Department of Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 3:35 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Miranda Harris (Miranda.Harris@act.gov.au)
Subject: 18 December

OFFICIAL

18 December

Friday, 2 October 2020
1:46 PM

1. Topic of Discussion	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vic -permit system from midnight, red LGA plus exposure sites (no admission), orange greater sydney (prompt test and isolate until negative result), green no restriction for rest of NSW • Tas - declared northern beaches LGA and kirribily club and penrith and sporting ground as high risk - needs prior approval before travelling and requirements for quarantine will be slightly varied • SA - NB LGA an area of high community transmission plus kirribily and penrith venues, • WA - midnight, NSW home quarantine 14 days...; between 11 and 17th to get tested and isolate until they get negative result... day eleven testing but not home quarantine. • NT - NB LGA hot spot, quarantine and test straight away... • Qld - 3 cohorts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 onward NB prior to 1am this morning to voluntarily go into quarantine for the 14 days and get tested • Since 1 am this morning being met by police, asked if been in NB area then served order to go into quarantine and be tested and followed up • After 1am tomorrow morning and go into mandatory hotel quarantine for 14 days... • • • • NSW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many cases identified with RSL and bowling club • 28 cases, all had exposure at these 2 locations • 3 RACFs cases are living independent within these wider facilities • One of the people who does the screening at one of the RACF's is covid positive • Forensic investigation into the person in hotel quarantine of the case... • List of RSL club and bowling club people from NSW to NIR to cross match on flight and let us know if anyone in our region? • • James - reproduction number estimate transmission and size of cluster the chance that the cluster might self-resolve is negligible - due to level of interaction and mixing... • •
Actions for ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate request to provide info to AHPPC on exemptions from mandatory hotel quarantine from port of entry...

=

2. Topic of Discussion	
Notes	
Actions for ACT	
3. Topic of Discussion	
Notes	
Actions for ACT	
4. Topic of Discussion	
Notes	
Actions for ACT	
5. Topic of Discussion	
Notes	
Actions for ACT	

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Kingsbury, Alison (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 4:03 PM
To: #ACT Health, HPS Managers; Allard, Kirstie (Health); Bailey, Pauline (Health); Banks, Carolyn (Health); Beissner, Mitchell (Health); Crane, Rachael (Health); Evans, Raleigh (Health); Gaborit, Lorane (Health); Goldrick, Connor (Health); Howard, Chloe (Health); Huggett, Romaine (Health); Kelly, Sam (Health); Marmor, Alexandra (Health); Mead, Sarah (Health); Passaris, Irene (Health); Patten, Isaac (Health); Polkinghorne, Ben (Health); Sgouros, Fotis (Health); Smythe, Julia (Health); Steele, Fiona (Health); Stefanovic, Milica (Health); Surdonjic, Aleksandar (Health); Wynn, Sandra (Health)
Subject: FW: Daily jurisdictional COVID-19 update - 18th December 2020

OFFICIAL

Alison Kingsbury
 Senior Director Communicable Disease Control
 Ph: 5124 9255 | Email: alison.kingsbury@act.gov.au
Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate
 25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT, 2611
health.act.gov.au



From: English, Karin (Health) <Karin.English@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 3:42 PM
To: De Bellis-Ayres, Sabrina (Health) <Sabrina.DeBellis-Ayres@act.gov.au>; Clarke, Naomi (Health) <Naomi.Clarke@act.gov.au>; Bradley, Joanne (Health) <Joanne.Bradley@act.gov.au>; Brikcius, Chaylee (Health) <Chaylee.Brikcius@act.gov.au>; Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au>; Cooke, Louise (Health) <Louise.Cooke@act.gov.au>; Curran, Margaret (Health) <Margaret.Curran@act.gov.au>; Deering, Kane (Health) <Kane.Deering@act.gov.au>; Gaborit, Lorane (Health) <Lorane.Gaborit@act.gov.au>; Gomez, Algreg (Health) <Algreg.Gomez@act.gov.au>; Harris, Miranda (Health) <Miranda.Harris@act.gov.au>; Hayward, Charissa (Health) <Charissa.P.Hayward@act.gov.au>; Huet, Jodie (Health) <Jodie.Huet@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Johal, Manraj (Health) <Manraj.Johal@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>; Kinchington, Ben (Health) <Ben.Kinchington@act.gov.au>; Millar, Emma (Health) <Emma.J.Millar@act.gov.au>; Miller, Sarah (Health) <Sarah.Miller@act.gov.au>; Reid, Sue (Health) <Sue.Reid@act.gov.au>; Ryan, BridgetR (Health) <BridgetR.Ryan@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Jen (Health) <Jen.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Sloan-Gardner, Timothy (Health) <Timothy.Sloan-Gardner@act.gov.au>; Smith, Louise <Louise.Smith@act.gov.au>; Thornton, Ashleigh (Health) <Ashleigh.Thornton@act.gov.au>; Viali, Lachlan (Health) <Lachlan.VIALI@act.gov.au>; Aw, Jessica (Health) <Jessica.Aw@act.gov.au>; Leslie, Mark (Health) <Mark.E.Leslie@act.gov.au>; Wynn, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Wynn@act.gov.au>; Kingsbury, Alison (Health) <Alison.Kingsbury@act.gov.au>; HECC Planning <HECC.Planning@act.gov.au>; Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>; COVID Exemptions <COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Comms <COVID-19Comms@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Williams, Gareth <Gareth.Williams@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex (Health) <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Gibson, Penny <Penny.Gibson@act.gov.au>; Perkins, Anita <Anita.Perkins@act.gov.au>; Whitley, Amanda

<Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au>; COVIDexemptions events <COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au>; Khan, Azra (Health) <Azra.Khan@act.gov.au>; Nikolic, Emma <Emma.Nikolic@act.gov.au>; Olsen, Susan (Health) <Susan.Olsen@act.gov.au>; Tveit, Kari (Health) <Kari.Tveit@act.gov.au>; Jones, Josie (Health) <Josie.Jones@act.gov.au>; Dukes, Renae (Health) <Renae.Dukes@act.gov.au>; Dugdale, Paul (Health) <Paul.Dugdale@act.gov.au>; Arya, Dinesh (Health) <Dinesh.Arya@act.gov.au>; Whinfield, Donald (Health) <Donald.Whinfield@act.gov.au>; Flett, Lauren (Health) <Lauren.Flett@act.gov.au>

Subject: Daily jurisdictional COVID-19 update - 18th December 2020

OFFICIAL

Dear colleagues,

Please find the daily jurisdictional update below. Apologies, yesterdays update was not sent – on account of the wonderful wrap up of the year held yesterday afternoon.

Due to the evolving situation in NSW, I have not included border restrictions at this stage as things are changing rapidly and webpages have not been updated yet, but multiple jurisdictions will be enforcing permit or travel restrictions.

ACT

New cases: No new cases in last 24 hours.

Active cases: No active cases.

Public health alerts:

- A new Public Health Direction went into effect today at 11.59AM. Anybody in the ACT who has travelled to the Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area from the 11th of December is required to go into quarantine for 14 days since they were last in the area and should get tested.
- A media release has also gone out to advise anybody who has been to any of the sites listed by NSW Health at the specified times to go into quarantine, get tested and call ACT Health.

Restrictions:

- In Stage 4 of Canberra's Recovery Plan since 2nd December.
- ACT border is open to all Australian jurisdictions but people in the ACT are advised not the travel to the Northern Beaches Area of Sydney.
- Advice for restricting entry into high-risk settings: Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Is an area of geographical risk and a CHO alert was issued today

South Australia

New cases: 0 new cases in last 24 hours.

Public health alerts:

- People who must quarantine:
 - o Nil.
- People who must get tested but don't need to quarantine if test result negative:
 - o Nil.
- Monitor for symptoms:
 - o Nil.

Restrictions:

- See current restrictions.

New South Wales

New cases: 17 new cases in last 24 hours.

- 1 returned international travellers in hotel quarantine.
- 15 under investigation
- The Northern Beaches cluster now numbers at 28

Cases are being officially reported at 11AM each day from today

Public health alerts:

- Self-isolate and get tested immediately:
 - o Multiple alerts in place including locations in and out of Northern Beaches Local Government Area
- Monitor for symptoms:
 - o Multiple alerts in place
 - o Residents or people who work in areas where sewage has tested positive (including the Batemans Bay area) are advised to monitor for symptoms and to get tested and self-isolate if even the mildest of symptoms develop.
- Areas with increased testing:
 - o Penrith and Northern Beaches Council

Restrictions:

- No changes to current restrictions but residents in Northern Beaches Local Government Area have been advised to stay at home.

Victoria**New cases:** 1 new case in last 24 hours.

- 1 returned traveller in hotel quarantine

Public health alerts:

- Nil

Restrictions:

- No changes to current restrictions.

Other jurisdictions**New cases:**

- 3 new case in QLD in last 24 hours, 2 returned international traveller in hotel quarantine and 1 traveller from Sydney.
- 1 case in WA returned international traveller.
- No new cases in Tasmania, SA or NT in last 24 hours.



ACT
Government

ACT Health



Respect



Collaboration



Integrity



Innovation

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 4:19 PM
To: Bell, Elaine; Bennett, Marie; Berry, John; Burkevics, Bren; Cairney, Karen; Calgaro, Luke; Cannon, Craig (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Kilpatrick, Robert; McManus, Nerida LTCOL [REDACTED] Patterson, Denise (Health); Porritt, Elizabeth; Pulli, Tracey (Health) [REDACTED] Saccasan-Whelan, Trish; Sandford, Michael; Smith, Matt; Smith, Rebekah; Wells, Jenny; ACT Policing; Ambulance CGU; Airport, Canberra; Arya, Dinesh (Health); Bergin, Catherine; Bower, Linda (Health); Brighton, Meg (Health); Butters, Andrew; [REDACTED] CHECC; Darlene Cox; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health); DGAHealth; Dombkins, Anthony (Health); Dugdale, Paul (Health) [REDACTED] Gleeson, Jody; Health Media; HECC Controller; HECC Operations; #ACT Health, HPS Managers; Isaacson, Nicole; JACS SEMB; Jolly, K (CAG); Jonasson, Kylie (Health); Kennedy, Karina (Health); Landon, Daniel (Health); Magee, Alexandra; McDonald, Bernadette (Health); Mehrton, Andrew; Mitchell, Imogen (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Peffer, Dave (Health); Perkins, Anita; Philp, Alan (Health); COVID-19 Comms; Polglase, David; Sandra Roodt; Rynehart, Josh; Shadbolt, Catherine (Health); Shipp, Carol; Sloane, Jen (Health); Springett, Emily; Stephen-Smith, Rachel; Stewart-Moore, Karen; Thein, Joshua (ADF); Jennifer Thornhill; Turnbull, Stephen; Verden, Jo; Wells, Patrick (Health); Wren, Howard Abrahamffy, Susie; Bernardi, Diana; Burkevics, Bren; Cahill, Megan (CHN); Defence, Joint Health Unit SNSW Ops; Garner, Denise; Garner, Michele; Hart, David; Hughes, Dot; Duty Officer - JOSS (Defence); Kent, Tamara; Leveans, Stacy; [REDACTED] Mitchell, Jo; Peters, Barbara; Reid, David (Health); Ryall, Judy; Simakoff-Ellims, Paul (Health) [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: Health Emergency Control Centre - Coronavirus - Situation Report #211
Attachments: HECC SitRep #211 - 18122020 - APPROVED.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Stakeholders,

Please see attached today's Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) Situation Report (#211) for Coronavirus (COVID-19). The purpose of the attached HECC Situation Report is to provide an update on HECC operations.

This information should only be shared with staff on a "need-to-know" basis.

The HECC Situation Report is distributed to:

- ACT Health Sector Emergency Management Committee (includes all ACT hospitals, Capital Health Network, ACT Government Directorates, and other members)
- ACT Public Information Coordinator
- ACT Health Directorate Executives
- On-call Chief Health Officers
- Canberra Airport Group
- ACT Policing

Updated advice is also available on the ACT Government website at: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>

For enquiries, please contact the Health Emergency Management Unit at hpsops@act.gov.au.

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director | Situations and Briefings

Ph: 5124 6177 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au | hecc.planning@act.gov.au

HECC Support Systems | Health Emergency Control Centre | ACT Health Directorate

2-6 Bowes Street, Woden, ACT





Health Emergency Control Centre Situation Report

SitRep No: 211		Date: 18 December 2020 1600hrs	
Incident: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)		Location: Whole of ACT	
Staffing:			
Chief Health Officer	Dr Kerryn Coleman	Deputy Health Controller (Clinical)	Bernadette McDonald
On-call Chief Health Officer	Dr Dinesh Arya	Deputy Health Controller (Public Health)	Paul Cortese

The following contains sensitive information – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

1. SITUATION SUMMARY:

Location	Data as of	Active Cases	Confirmed Cases	Deaths	Cases Recovered	Hospitalised Patients	Total Tests
<u>ACT</u>	0900 18/12	0	117	3	114	0	127,532
<u>National</u>	0900 18/12	~54	28,072	908	25,491	29	10,479,855
<u>International</u>	1530 18/12		74,921,288	1,661,789	42,318,910		

Quarantine Data – Currently in quarantine as of 0900hrs (Sourced from the Daily Epi Report provided by HECC Operations: Data):

	Home Quarantine	Hotel Quarantine	Total
Domestic Quarantine	1	0	1
Close Contacts (ACT cases)	0	0	0
Close Contacts (Interstate)	1	0	1
Returned from Victoria	0	0	0
Parliamentarians	0	0	0
Returned Overseas Traveller	105	106	211
Overseas Traveller	9	5	14
Diplomats and family members	23	11	34
Government Officials ¹	66	89	155
Other ²	7	1	8
Total	106	106	212

Exemptions Data – Total number of all applications as of 0900hrs (Sourced from the Office of the Chief Health Officer daily snapshot):

	ACT	Non-ACT	Other	Total
Approved	1,902	1,766	1,726	5,394
Not approved	87	891	61	1,039
Not applicable	139	777	3	919
Withdrawn	324	778	66	1,168
Outstanding / waiting on further applicant info.	-	-	-	0
Total Applications	-	-	-	8,520

ACT:

- On 18 December 2020, the CHO issued a Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction for Northern Beaches LGA, following yesterday's announcement:
 - Do not to travel to the Northern Beaches LGA of Sydney at this time and people from the Northern Beaches area should also not travel to the ACT;
 - Anyone who has visited the Northern Beaches LGA from 11 December 2020 must self-quarantine for 14 days from the date they were last there and get tested;
 - Anyone who has been in an affected location should contact ACT Health on 51249213.
- The ACT remains at Stage 4 of Canberra's Recovery Plan.

¹ Includes overseas travellers who are parliamentarians.

² Includes family / household members quarantining with returned travellers.

- The high-risk settings and health professionals advice was updated on 18 December 2020 (Northern Beaches LGA identified as an area of geographical risk).

National:

- At 1100hrs 18 December 2020, NSW reported 28 locally acquired cases in the last 48 hours:
 - All but one case are linked to same cluster;
 - Likely source from overseas traveller (international strain from USA);
 - Advice to Northern Beaches LGA residents to wear masks, get tested, and stay home;
 - NSW will provide daily updates at 1100hrs.
- Jurisdictions have implemented restrictions for all travellers who have travelled (from 11 December), or will travel, from the Northern Beaches LGA to self-isolate for 14 days and get tested (incl. WA).
- Queensland and Northern Territory declared the Northern Beaches LGA a hot spot and travellers arriving after 0100hrs 19 December must enter hotel quarantine at their own expense and get tested.
- Tasmania declared the Northern Beaches LGA as a high-risk and travellers from this LGA will have to apply for exemption to travel to Tasmania.
- Victoria implemented a permit system from 19 December for anyone entering from NSW, with all travellers in the Northern Beaches LGA from 11 December not permitted to enter.
- South Australia implemented a permit system from 19 December for anyone entering from interstate and all travellers in the LGA since 11 December not permitted to enter.
- On 18 December 2020, the Minister for Health announced the Chief Medical Officer has declared the Northern Beaches LGA a hot spot for Commonwealth support (e.g. PPE stock, contact tracing etc).

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

Public Health Emergency Coordination Centre (PHECC):

- COVID-19 Response (key / new tasks):
 - Ongoing management of SCAN Trial Program to conduct staff surveillance of hotel quarantine-associated staff (incl. hotel, ACTP, ADF, CHECC, and PHECC staff).
 - Managed home and hotel quarantine of overseas travellers.
 - Conducted outbreak management and AIIMS training for PHECC staff today.
- COVID-19 Policy and Support (key / new tasks):
 - Managed exemption applications.
 - Planning work in support of aged care and outbreak management.
 - Logistical support for overseas travellers requiring quarantine.
 - Logistical collaboration with hotels utilised for quarantine.

Clinical Health Emergency Coordination Centre (CHECC):

- Ongoing planning and preparedness to respond to a COVID-19 outbreak in residential aged care facilities (RACFs), including finalising of plans and action cards.
- Ongoing work to finalise the COVID-19 Safe Assessment reports for each of the ACT's RACFs.
- Planning and preparation for Christmas Shut-down period / on-call rostering.

Public Information Coordination Centre (PICC):

- Prepared and issued COVID Update daily media statement, with an update on the Northern Beaches situation and information on the Weston Creek testing site.
- Media and social media requests received and actioned accordingly.

ACT Policing Taskforce:

- *Nil changes* – Managed Territory Targeting Teams for compliance for people in hotel / home quarantine and compliance for bars, clubs and restaurants.
- Liaison Officer stationed in HECC (COVID-19 Response).

3. EVALUATION / THREAT ANALYSIS:

The Commonwealth Government daily infographic provides the current COVID-19 situation in Australia.

Next HECC SITREP: Monday 21 December 2020 1600hrs
--

Name: Paul Cortese

Position: Deputy Health Controller (Public Health)

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Reid, David (Health) on behalf of HECC Planning
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 4:19 PM
To: Ahmed, Naimat (Health); Anning, Sarah (Health); Arya, Dinesh (Health); Bell, Jess (Health); Brikcius, Chaylee (Health); Briones, Danielle (Health); Burkevics, Bren; Burns, Cathy (Health); Cannon, Craig (Health); Christensen, Tory (Health); Clarke, Naomi (Health); Clouten, Jody (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Colquhoun, Judith (Health); Cortese, Paul (Health); Covid.ops; Craig, Alexandra; Curran, Margaret (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health); Data.covid; De Bellis-Ayres, Sabrina (Health); Devan, Mark; Duffy, Adam (Health); Dugdale, Paul (Health); English, Karin; Flett, Lauren (Health); Gibson, Penny; Hall, Seriden (Health); Harris, Miranda (Health); Hayward, Charissa (Health); ACT Health, HPSOps; HECC Planning; HECC Controller; ACT Health HECC Intelligence; HECC Liaison1 (Health); HECC Liaison2 (Health); HECC Liaison3 (Health); HECC Liaison4 (Health); HECC Logistics; HECC Operations; Huet, Jodie (Health); Hundy, Rebecca (Health); Jamieson, Francis (ADF); Jarvis, Justin (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Jones, Josie (Health); Keene, Toby (Health); Kelly, Chris (Health); Kelly, Sam (Health); Khan, Nida (Health); Kingsbury, Alison (Health); Leslie, Mark (Health); McLoughlin, Moira (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health); Millar, Emma (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Owen, Kimberly (Health); COVID-19 Comms; Polkinghorne, Ben (Health); Purdue, Brett (Health); Reid, David (Health); Reid, Sue (Health); Sandra Roodt; Ryan, Liam (Health); Smith, Louise; Steele, Fiona (Health); Stones, Rebecca (Health); Watson, Cathy (Health); Whinfield, Donald (Health); Whybrow, Kirsty (Health); Williams, Gareth; Wynants, Nicole (Health); Wynn, Sandra (Health)
Cc: Bonato, Peita (Health); Murray, Christine; Shuhyta, Amber; Spina, Justine (Health)
Subject: Health Emergency Control Centre - Coronavirus - Situation Report #211
Attachments: HECC SitRep #211 - 18122020 - APPROVED.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear HECC staff and Functional Areas,

Please see attached the Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) Situation Report, current as of 1600hrs Friday 18 December 2020.

Copies of all Situation Reports are available on [SharePoint](#).

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director | Situations and Briefings

Ph: 5124 6177 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au | hecc.planning@act.gov.au

HECC Support Systems | Health Emergency Control Centre | ACT Health Directorate

2-6 Bowes Street, Woden, ACT



Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 5:37 PM
To: GovernmentBusinessHealth
Cc: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Moxon, KarenL; Masters, Skye; Manzoney, Lisa; HECC Operations; Whitley, Amanda; COVID Exemptions; Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Stonham, Joshua; Kimber, Bianca
Subject: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify
Attachments: Scanned signed Hotspot Direction 7 Northern Beaches LGA.pdf; Hotspots Directions - No 7 - 18.12.20 at 5.12pm.docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear All,

Please find attached the word and scanned signed version of the latest Hotspot Declaration to be notified and to take effect at 11:59 tonight (at which time direction 6 will be revoked) which clarifies further in the schedule the Northern Beaches LGA, **NSW**.

Thank you all for your patience and assistance.

Kind regards,

Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Australian Capital Territory

Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 7)

Notifiable Instrument NI2020-

made under the

Public Health Act 1997, s 120 (Emergency actions and directions)

1. Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 7)*.

2. Commencement

This instrument commences at 11:59pm on 18 December 2020.

3. Public Health Emergency Direction

I, Dr Kerryn Coleman, Chief Health Officer, consider it necessary or desirable to alleviate the emergency declared under the *Public Health (Emergency) Declaration 2020 (No 1)* [NI2020-153] (the **declared emergency**) on 16 March 2020, to give the directions as set out in the schedule.

4. Duration

This Direction is in force for the period ending on the day the declared emergency (as extended or further extended) ends, unless it is earlier revoked.

5. Revocation

This Direction revokes and replaces the *Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction (No 6)* [NI2020-812].



Dr Kerryn Coleman
Chief Health Officer

18 December 2020