

Dear [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), the rescoped application received by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on **Friday 4 March 2022**.

This application requested access to:

'Information considered by the Chief Health Officer in relation to the planning for a lockdown scenario, prior to 5pm August 12th 2021.'

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of ACT Health Directorate (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 **Thursday 28 April 2022**.

I have identified 25 documents holding the information within scope of your access application. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at [Attachment A](#) to this decision letter.

Decisions on access

I have decided to:

- grant full access to four documents;
- grant partial access to 15 documents; and
- refuse access to six 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;
- The views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Full Access

I have decided to grant full access to four documents at references 5-8.

Refuse Access

I have decided to refuse access to six documents at reference 11, 16-17, 20 and 23-24.

Documents at references 16 and 17 are wholly comprised of information that is subject to legal professional privilege and therefore taken to be contrary to the public interest to release, under *Schedule 1.2 Information that would be privileged from production or admission into evidence in a legal proceeding on the ground of legal professional privilege*.

Documents at reference 23-24 are comprised of Cabinet information under *Schedule 1.6 (1) Cabinet Information*, and therefore they are taken to be contrary to the public interest to release. These documents also contain information that could prejudice intergovernmental relations.

Documents at references 11 and 20 are wholly comprised of information that could prejudice intergovernmental relations. The document at reference 20 is also comprised of personal information such as contact details of non-ACT Government employees.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

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

- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

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

- Schedule 2, 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; and
- Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) prejudice intergovernmental relations.

The disclosure of non-ACT Government contact details would not provide any government information pertinent to your request therefore, I have decided this factor outweighs the public interest factors in the disclosure of this information.

ACTHD is not the author of some of these documents and is only privy to this information due to the ACT Chief Health Officer's representation at the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC). The AHPPC is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer and sits within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Department of Health. The Department proactively publishes information in relation to the committee at <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc>

ACTHD considers that the release of this confidential and sensitive information, which is communicated and recorded in a confidential forum, would prejudice the deliberative process of government and prejudice the intergovernmental relationship between jurisdictions. Therefore, the factors favouring disclosure of this information have been outweighed by the factors favouring non-disclosure. On balance, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Partial Access

I have decided to partially grant access to 15 documents at references 1-4, 9-10, 12-15, 18-19, 21-22 and 25.

Document at reference 2 is partially comprised of Cabinet information under *Schedule 1.6(1) Cabinet Information*, and therefore the information redacted is taken to be contrary to the public interest to release.

Documents at references 1 and 15 are partially comprised of information under *Schedule 1, 1.14 Law enforcement or public safety information (1)(i) prejudice a system or procedure for the protection of people, property or the environment*, and therefore the information redacted is taken to be contrary to the public interest to release.

Document at reference 25 has redactions to personal information that is contact details of ACT Government employees.

Document at reference 14 has redactions to information that could prejudice intergovernmental relations.

Documents at references 3-4, 9-10, 12-13, 18-19 and 21-22 contains information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act. The information contained in these documents are partially comprised of both personal information such as contact details of non-ACT Government employees and also information that could prejudice intergovernmental relations.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

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

- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

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

- Schedule 2, 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; and
- Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) prejudice intergovernmental relations.

The disclosure of ACT Government employees' mobile numbers and non-ACT Government contact details would not provide any government information pertinent to your request therefore, I have decided this factor outweighs the public interest factors in the disclosure of this information.

As per previous advice under the heading of Refuse Access, ACTHD is not the author of some of these documents and is only privy to this information due to the ACT Chief Health Officer's representation at the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC). The same advice applies to this provision of partial access.

Additionally, while we note that many of the documents in scope of your request are unable to be released, it is important to note that much of the information that was considered by the ACT Chief Health Officer (CHO), is publicly available. In considering all public health actions, the CHO relies on information available in relation to the epidemiological situation, modelling reporting and jurisdictional situations at the time to make decisions. The ACT response has been consistent with the expert advice of AHPPC.

Documents and information considered by the CHO in relation to planning for a lockdown in the ACT in 2021 include:

Doherty modelling

[Modelling | Doherty Website](#)

[DohertyModelling NationalPlan and Addendum 20210810.pdf](#)

[Technical Report 15 March 2021 RELEASED VERSION.pdf \(doherty.edu.au\)](#)

Common Operating Picture:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) common operating picture | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

AHPPC statements:

New variants

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on management of COVID-19 variants | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on new variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

High risk settings

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on COVID-19 vaccination requirements for aged care workers | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on COVID-19 and influenza vaccination requirements for aged care workers | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on residential aged care worker COVID-19 vaccination | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on mandating vaccination among residential disability support workers | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on very high risk social environments | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

Test, Trace, Isolate, Quarantine

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on public health management of persons fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[AHPPC statement on national principles for managed quarantine | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Advice on mental health screening, assessment and support during COVID-19 quarantine | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

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

My 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



Vanessa Dal Molin
Executive Branch Manager
COVID-19 Policy & Support

28 April 2022

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]		<i>'Information considered by the Chief Health Officer in relation to the planning for a lockdown scenario, prior to 5pm August 12th 2021.'</i>				ACTHDFOI21-22.35
Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1 – 7	ACT Public Service Strategic Board Agenda Paper	12 May 2021	Partial release	Schedule 1, 1.14 Law enforcement or public safety information	YES
2.	8 – 51	Ministerial Brief – COVID-19 Pandemic – Ongoing Public Health Response Cabinet Submission	14 May 2021	Partial Release	Schedule 1, 1.6 Cabinet	YES
3.	52 – 53	Email – FW: For Information: Australian National Disease Surveillance Plan for COVID-19 v.2.0	21 May 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES

4.	54 – 80	Email and attachments – FW: Information: Epidemic situational assessment report	24 June 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
5.	81	Additional Restrictions which may be necessary during an Outbreak within the ACT – either prior to or after a Pause and Assess period	24 June 2021	Full Release		YES
6.	82	Possible Additional Restrictions In Response To An Outbreak	24 June 2021	Full Release		YES
7.	83 – 86	ACT Travel Restrictions – Summary Table	June 2021	Full Release		YES
8.	87 – 91	Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks and Tightening of Restrictions	June 2021	Full Release		YES
9.	92 – 96	Email and attachments – FW: FOR INFO: National Plan to transition Australia’s COVID19 response	2 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
10.	97 - 130	Email and attachments – FW: For Information: Epidemic situational assessment report	12 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
11.	131 – 140	AHPPC paper – Workplan for Modelling to Inform the National Plan to Transition Australia’s COVID Response	12 July 2021	Refuse release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental Out of Scope	NO
12.	141 – 154	Email and attachments – FW: For Information: Doherty revised – WORKPLAN FOR MODELLING TO INFORM THE NATIONAL PLAN TO TRANSITION AUSTRALIA’S COVID RESPONSE	14 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
13.	155 – 179	Email and attachments – FW: For Information: Epidemic situational assessment report	14 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES

14.	180 – 218	AHPPC paper – Updated statement on schools and the Delta variant	19 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental Out of Scope	YES
15.	219 – 285	ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions	19 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 1, 1.14 Law enforcement or public safety information	YES
16.	286 – 296	Public Health (‘Pause and Assess’ Restrictions) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 1)	19 July 2021	Refuse Release	Schedule 1, 1.2 Legal professional privilege	NO
17.	297 – 308	Public Health (Lockdown Restrictions) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 1)	21 July 2021	Refuse Release	Schedule 1, 1.2 Legal professional privilege	NO
18.	309 – 328	Email and attachments – FW: For Information: Epidemic situational assessment report	21 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
19.	329 – 347	Email and attachment – FW: For Information: CDGN SARS-CoV-2 VOC Literature Summary and Laboratory Case Definitions – 19 July 2021	22 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
20.	348 – 378	Email and attachments: FW: For Information: NCHRAC advice paper SARS-CoV-2-variants transmissibility, clinical relevance and implications (14 April 2021)	22 July 2021	Refuse release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	NO
21.	379 – 405	Email and attachments – FW: For Information: Epidemic situational assessment report	29 July 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
22.	406 – 424	Email and attachments – FW: For Information: Epidemic situational assessment report	12 August 2021	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	YES
23.	425	National Plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response	N.D.	Refuse Release	Schedule 1, 1.6 Cabinet & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	NO

24.	426 – 494	National Cabinet Memorandum – COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response taskforce report	N.D.	Refuse Release	Schedule 1, 1.6 Cabinet & Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(x) Intergovernmental	NO
25.	495 – 510	Communications on a page	N.D.	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
Total Number of Documents						
25						

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ACT Public Service Strategic Board Agenda Paper

Meeting date: 12 May 2021
 Agenda item: XX
 Strategic priority: XX

It is recommended that Strategic Board:

- **note** the intention to implement a formalised travel process for the ACT, as outlined in Attachment A.
- **note** the proposed approach to tightening of public health measures in the event of an outbreak, as outlined in Attachment B.
- **note** the proposed handling of future easing of public health measures.
- **note** that a submission will be prepared for Cabinet consideration outlining each of the above mentioned submissions for endorsement.

Key discussion points:

- Strategic Board may wish to discuss the proposed handling of future easing of public health measures for restricted businesses, noting the increased pressure to ease measures over the winter months.

Issues:

Domestic Travel into the ACT

- Over the last 12 months several jurisdictions have been impacted by COVID-19 cases/outbreaks sufficiently serious to warrant travel restrictions be implemented in the ACT to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the community. The Chief Health Officer signs a public health direction which limits movement or places conditions upon entry from a COVID-19 affected area, including quarantine or testing conditions.
- A number of jurisdictions now require all persons travelling into the jurisdiction to seek a travel permit, regardless of whether travel is from a COVID-19 affected area or not. For example, Victoria has implemented a traffic light system which designates jurisdictions (or defined areas within a jurisdiction) a particular zone with associated certain conditions required to be met, as follows:
 - Green zone (low risk for COVID-19 transmission) – must apply a permit, but cannot apply for a green zone permit if you have COVID-19 symptoms or if you have visited a red zone. If symptoms develop in Victoria, need to seek testing immediately.
 - Amber zone (medium risk for COVID-19 transmission) – must apply for a permit, but cannot apply if you have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have visited a red zone. In order to enter Victoria, must agree to the requirement of self-quarantine, get a

Director-General: Rebecca Cross, Director-General, ACT Health Directorate
 Contact Officer: Dr Kerry Coleman, Chief Health Officer

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COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival and remain in self quarantine until a negative result is received.

- Red zone (high risk for COVID-19 transmission – non-Victorian residents are not allowed to enter Victoria without an exception, Specified Worker Permit, transit permit, freight worker permit or exemption.
- It is planned to establish a formalised process within the ACT which more efficiently allows the ACT Chief Health Officer to put in place travel restrictions should they be required. It also enables a standard public health direction, online forms and systems, and communications material to be developed, allowing for minor adjustments to be made as required.
- A high level summary of the travel process for the ACT is provided at **Attachment A**. Key points to note:
 - A permit for any travel into the ACT is not planned to be introduced, in view of the porous nature of the ACT/NSW border and the potential benefits are unlikely to outweigh resource implications.
 - *Watch and Assess Requirement*: A watch and assess requirement can be enacted for a whole jurisdiction or a particular Local Government Area/s (LGA) where community transmission or an outbreak is suspected or has been identified, and where minimal information is known about its extent. No formal travel restrictions will apply, however, travellers will be asked to complete an online declaration form prior to entry into the ACT. This enables ACT Health to quickly contact travellers should the situation in the particular jurisdiction or area worsen.
 - *Stay at Home Requirement*: Stay at Home requirements can be enacted for a whole jurisdiction or a particular LGA(s) where community transmission or an outbreak has been confirmed and puts in place measures to require travellers who have been in a declared area to remain at home for a specified period of time. Stay at Home requirements are primarily designed to discourage travel into the ACT from a jurisdiction with lockdown orders in place. Travellers will be asked to complete an online declaration form and follow stay at home requirements for a specified period.
 - *COVID-19 Affected Area*: A COVID-19 Affected area may be declared for a whole jurisdiction or a particular LGA(s) where there are serious enough concerns about an outbreak to warrant travel restrictions being imposed. Restrictions can be imposed retrospectively, impacting those already in the ACT. Prospectively, non-ACT residents will be required to seek an exemption prior to travelling, which will be granted if exceptional circumstances apply. ACT residents will need to advise of their return to the ACT (if they are permitted to travel). Quarantine and testing requirements will be a condition of entry for all travellers.
- In addition to the travel restrictions outlined above, there will also be an ability to declare *Places of High Concern*. These are identified when case/s or outbreaks occur and therefore are normally linked to travel restrictions. A place of high concern can be a venue (café or restaurant), a location (an Airport terminal) or an area (LGA). Places of High Concern will be

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declared as close contact venues (quarantine requirements) or casual contact venues (testing requirements).

- The implementation of this process will see a standard public health direction used and in force at all times, with the ability to declare specific restrictions and conditions through a COVID-19 Affected Areas notice.
- An online system that provides a single point of entry for travellers is being refined and finalised. The system will be available online whenever travel restrictions are in place.
- Standard communications materials are being developed for the various travel restrictions, to ensure that messaging to the community can be standardised and over time will become well understood.

COVID-19 Outbreaks in the ACT – Potential Tightening of Public Health Measures

- Directors General have previously considered how the ACT might respond to a local outbreak of COVID-19, including snap lockdowns.
- In response to actions taken in other jurisdictions, the business and community sectors are seeking advice from the ACT Government as to how it may respond to a potential localised outbreak. The attached summary (**Attachment B**) seeks to provide generalised advice on the considerations that may be taken and potential responses to a local outbreak. It is envisaged that this summary will be available on the ACT Government's COVID-19 website.
- There are many factors that would need to be taken into consideration prior to determining the potential response to a positive case in the ACT. The initial outbreak response will be robust and rapid and will take a precautionary approach, including:
 - Ongoing, rapid contact tracing and isolation of additional positive cases and their close contacts.
 - Increased testing within the community. Testing may be targeted or more widespread and may involve the establishment of 'pop up' testing sites and/or in-reach testing in a facility, depending on the nature of the outbreak.
 - Ongoing public communications to ensure that the community is kept informed of developments and understands their responsibilities.
- Consideration will be given to whether a period of 'pause and assess' would be required to assist with the response. The 'pause and assess' mirrors 'stay-at-home' requirements which are used for outbreaks in other jurisdictions (refer **Attachment A**).
- Following a period of 'pause and assess' there may also be a need to revert to more stringent public health measures for restricted businesses, whilst stepping down from a period of 'pause and assess'. This could affect gathering sizes, density quotients and ability to host events.

Further Easing of Restrictions

- Implementation of 'COVID Normal' restrictions came into effect in the ACT from 19 February 2021. On 14 April 2021, additional minor easing measures were implemented. A summary of current 'COVID Normal' restrictions is provided below.

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- Check in CBR mandatory across all restricted businesses. Businesses must use their best endeavours to require people aged 16 years or older to check in (including staff), if spending 15 minutes or more at the venue.
 - Businesses and venues can have 25 people across the venue. If businesses wish to have more than 25 people, they can apply the one person per two square metres of usable space rule in both indoor and outdoor spaces. No caps across venues.
 - Cinemas and movie theatres can sell up to 100 per cent capacity of each individual cinema or movie theatre, provided that their COVID Safety Plans have been endorsed by the Chief Health Officer. Otherwise, they must operate at 75 per cent capacity.
 - Large indoor performance venues (with forward-facing and tiered seating) can have events up to 100 per cent capacity, provided the events are ticketed and seated, and a COVID Safety Plan has been endorsed by the Chief Health Officer.
 - The National Convention Centre can have 75 per cent capacity within each indoor and outdoor space or 100 per cent in theatres, provided a COVID Safety Plan has been endorsed by the Chief Health Officer. Multi-day events are permitted.
 - Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) can have 75 per cent capacity within each indoor and outdoor space up to 2,000 people, provided a COVID Safety Plan has been endorsed by the Chief Health Officer. Events greater than 2,000 people are required to adhere to requirements in the COVID Safe Event Protocol.
 - Enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating and grandstands, including GIO Stadium and Manuka Oval, can have 100 per cent capacity for fixed seating, provided events are ticketed and seated and each event has a COVID Safety Plan in place. Density for unfixed seating areas is calculated on one person per two square metre.
 - Outdoor sporting activities and swimming pools can use one person per two square metre of usable space in indoor and outdoor spaces, up to 1,000 people across the site at any one time.
 - Patrons can stand while eating and drinking in indoor and outdoor areas.
 - Live music performance venues can seek an exemption for up to 75 per cent of usable space across the venue or three persons per four square metres. Exemptions are submitted in accordance with the COVID Safe Event Protocol.
- Gatherings of up to 1,000 persons (including for events) can operate with a COVID Safe Plan in place. Gatherings of greater than 1,000 people must seek an exemption in accordance with the ACT's COVID Safe Event Protocol. The maximum person limit for events is 10,000.
 - On 9 April 2021, National Cabinet endorsed a national reopening framework, which considered advice from AHPPC for maintaining COVID protection. AHPPC recommended a staged approach to re-opening Australia that is based on the epidemiological situation and the progress of the vaccination rollout. The following measures were recommended:

Measure	Domestic	International
Eased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No stricter than one per two square metres. ● Large, ticketed and seated gatherings have 100 per cent capacity. 	nil

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Maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVIDsafe hand and respiratory hygiene. • Individuals encouraged to maintain physical distancing. • Messages to be tested and stay home if symptomatic. • Vaccinate priority groups. • Records for COVID-19 contact tracing e.g. QR codes. • Rapid and detailed inter-jurisdictional information sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe inbound air travel (including pre-departure testing & mask use). • Limit overseas arrivals • 14 day government supervised quarantine.
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- The approach in the ACT has been to ease public health measures in a cautious and considered way, aligning with NSW wherever possible. At the current time, the ACT is consistent with the baseline measures outlined above.
- There is pressure from the tourism and hospitality sectors and from licensed venues to further ease restrictions, particularly relating to density quotients due to concerns that the winter months will see businesses being unable to maximise the use of their outdoor spaces, resulting in reduced capacity and impact on viability.
- We understand that many jurisdictions are considering further easing of their public health measures over the coming weeks. We envisage that the next stage of easing will largely see a change to density quotients, with possibility of removing these completely, and larger gathering sizes.
- There are no additional measures in place that could be eased to provide sufficient reprieve for restricted businesses. Caps for larger events and gatherings could potentially be increased further, noting that the demand to host larger events will increase from September 2021 through to March 2022. A review of the COVID Safe Event Protocol is being undertaken to ensure that it remains relevant to the current COVID-19 environment, and we are taking learnings from other jurisdictions in this regard.
- At this stage, it is proposed the ACT continues to align with NSW restrictions wherever possible. We are planning to ensure that we can move quickly as soon as an announcement to ease is made.
- Any further relaxation of public health measures, particularly density restrictions, must be made in the knowledge that community spread may be rapid if there is an incursion of COVID-19 into the ACT community, given the lack of physical distancing. Therefore, it is likely that swift and firm action will be required to contain transmission and protect public health.
- Deliberations around further easing of public health measures therefore needs to give careful consideration to the following:
 - Our contact tracing capabilities - our ability to further ease restrictions must be based on our contact tracing capability. Consideration is currently being given to confirming our contact tracing capacity within the existing workforce, as well as potential surge capacity. Over the past 12 months, national contact tracing guidance has changed significantly as jurisdictions' knowledge and experience has matured.

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- Our ability to access Check in CBR data, the completeness of the data, and business responsiveness to requests for information. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are also looking to work with businesses who operate a ticketing or registration system to compare data, as well as assess business responsiveness. This could include our stadiums, theatres, live music venues, cinemas and gyms.

- Our confidence with the uptake and ongoing use of Check in CBR by businesses and consumers. There needs to be continued confidence in the uptake and use of the app by all restricted businesses.
- Business and community compliance with existing public health measures. [REDACTED]

- Testing numbers, noting that high testing numbers provides increased confidence in the ability to ease restrictions and these will continue to be monitored.
- Seasonal considerations – the community is likely to spend more time in indoor venues, noting that indoor environments are known to be high risk for transmission compared to outdoor environments. The colder weather also means that businesses are unlikely to improve ventilation by opening windows or doors. The hospitality industry has worked to maximise its use of outdoor dining spaces and will therefore need to adapt to bring patrons inside in a way that remains safe. The nature desire for people to want to gather indoors during the colder months could increase the potential for close contacts to be identified should a positive case be present in an indoor venue.
- Options for easing measures are being developed and will be pulled together into a submission for SEMC consideration.

Strategic risk:

- There is a need to ensure that the ACT continues to maintain alignment with NSW public health measures in place to avoid criticism from business or the community.

Cross-directorate relevance:

- Implementation of a formalised travel process will require involvement from the Government Solicitor's Office to refine the public health direction. ACT Health will also work with the Digital Solutions Division to refine the online systems (REDCAP) that are currently in place, or consider whether a new system provides better functionality. In addition, ACT Health will work with the PICC to finalise communications around the process.

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- ACT Health is working with the Economic Development Division, Access Canberra, ACT Policing and Health Protection Service to inform considerations around further easing of public health measures.
- All Directorates will be required to support a snap lockdown or tightening of public health measures, as outlined in Attachment B.

Timeline:

It is proposed to put forward a plan to Cabinet around all three measures within the next two weeks for formal implementation as a priority following endorsement.

Background:

- On 16 March 2020, the Minister for Health declared a public health emergency in the ACT due to the public health risks posed by COVID-19. The declaration of a public health emergency allows the Chief Health Officer to take the necessary actions required to reduce threats to public health.

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ACT Travel Restrictions – Summary Table

Background

A **Public Health (COVID-19 Affected Areas) Emergency Direction 2021** sets out the mechanism by which the Chief Health Officer can enact travel restrictions in order to respond to outbreaks of COVID-19 in jurisdictions.

In order to be able to respond swiftly to changing situations in other jurisdictions (both in terms of tightening and easing travel restrictions), the Public Health Direction provides for the development of a **COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice** which establishes the level of restrictions that are in place, as well as any additional conditions that may be required to be adhered to by travellers.

The Concern Notice is published on the ACT Government's COVID-19 website.

The table below outlines the baseline restrictions that will be enforced to respond to jurisdictional outbreaks, together with an explanation of the requirements/conditions which may be enforced.

Restriction Type	Requirement
No travel restrictions	No requirements
<u>Watch and Assess Requirement*</u>	<p>Watch and Assess requirements can be enacted for a whole jurisdiction or a particular LGA(s) where community transmission or an outbreak has been identified, and where minimal information is known about its extent.</p> <p>Alternatively, Watch and Assess requirements can be used as a step-down approach following an outbreak, where it is deemed that some additional monitoring may continue to be required.</p> <p>Watch and Assess requirements can be imposed retrospectively.</p> <p>The following conditions and actions will be imposed whilst the requirements are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT and non-ACT residents who are travelling from an identified area must complete an online declaration form in the 24 hours prior to their travel, or within 24 hours of the requirements being enacted (if travellers are already in the ACT). • All travellers should continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the date last in an identified exposure location, and if symptoms develop seek testing immediately. • Additional conditions may apply if travellers are impacted through identification of casual contact or close contact exposure sites (refer to Page 3). <p>Watch and Assess requirements enable ACT Health to have on hand contact details for travellers entering the ACT from a particular jurisdiction/s. This will be particularly important if the situation in a jurisdiction worsens and there is a need to urgently contact travellers to provide them with critical information, or to require more stringent actions to be undertaken.</p> <p>Note: Watch and Assess requirements will remain in place whilst a jurisdiction continues to declare Places of High Concern (Close Contact locations) – refer to Page 3.</p>

Restriction Type	Requirement
<u>Stay at Home Requirement</u> *	<p>Stay at Home requirements can be enacted for a whole jurisdiction or a particular LGA(s) where community transmission or an outbreak has been confirmed and puts in place measures to require travellers who have been in a declared area to remain at home for a specified period of time.</p> <p>Stay at Home requirements will usually mirror another jurisdiction's decision to enter into a lockdown, including the specified period of time. They will not usually be imposed retrospectively but may be depending on the circumstances.</p> <p>Stay at Home requirements are primarily designed to discourage travel into the ACT from a jurisdiction with lockdown orders in place.</p> <p>Travel in and out of the ACT will not be specifically restricted, however travellers will need to comply with the following conditions and actions whilst the requirements are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT and non-ACT residents who are travelling from an identified area must complete an online declaration form in the 24 hours prior to their travel, or within 24 hours of the requirements being enacted (for travellers in transit). • All travellers are required to travel immediately to their designated premises and stay at home unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To undertake essential work if they cannot work from home or remotely ○ To shop for essentials like groceries, medicine and necessary supplies ○ To attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements, and looking after the vulnerable ○ To exercise outdoors, limited to one hour per day ○ For essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere). • Additional conditions may apply if travellers are impacted through identification of casual contact or close contact exposure sites (see explanation below).
<u>COVID-19 Affected Area</u> *	<p>A COVID-19 Affected area may be declared for a whole jurisdiction or a particular LGA(s) where there are serious concerns about an outbreak to warrant travel restrictions being imposed. Restrictions can be imposed retrospectively.</p> <p>The following conditions apply to travellers who are seeking to enter the ACT from a COVID-19 Affected Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT residents must complete an online declaration form in the 24 hours prior to their travel and enter into a period of quarantine on immediately upon their arrival to the ACT (14 days since they were last in the Affected Area). • Non-ACT residents must not travel to the ACT, unless an exemption to travel has been granted. Exemptions will only be granted if exceptional circumstances apply. Even with an exemption, a traveller may still be required to enter into quarantine.

* Due to the porous nature of the NSW and ACT borders, travel restrictions may slightly differ to arrangements outline above.

Places of High Concern

Places of High Concern are identified when outbreaks occur and are therefore normally linked to travel restrictions. Any conditions imposed operate concurrently.

As travel restrictions ease, conditions relating to individual Places of High Concern can remain in place. For example, a place of high concern will have conditions imposed for a period of at least 14 days, whereas travel restrictions may ease once a lockdown in the affected jurisdiction is lifted (usually 3 to 5 days).

A Place of High Concern is a location that has been risk assessed as being of concern and declared in the COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice. A Place of High Concern can be a venue (e.g. a café or restaurant), a location (e.g. an Airport terminal) or an area (e.g. a Local Government Area), that has been affected and is at risk.

Persons who have been to a Place of High Concern within the specified timeframe must comply with the conditions that are outlined in the COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice, as well as conditions imposed by any travel restrictions which may be in place.

The COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice will identify whether the Place of High Concern is a casual contact exposure location or a close contact exposure location.

Category A - Place of High Concern (close contact venues)

A **close contact** is someone who has been in close proximity to a person with COVID-19 while they were infectious, such that there is a reasonable chance they will also be infected with COVID-19. In addition to any travel restrictions/conditions which may be in place, travellers who have been to a close contact exposure location will be asked to:

- **Residents of the ACT:** Get a COVID-19 test and quarantine immediately in their home or another suitable place of residence for a period of 14 days since being in the close contact exposure location.
- **Non-Residents of the ACT:** Not enter the ACT unless an exemption has been obtained before arriving. Exemptions will only be granted in highly exceptional circumstances and quarantine requirements will still apply.

Note: Non-Residents of the ACT who travelled to the ACT prior to being declared a close contact must comply with the requirements for residents of the ACT.

Note: Individuals, both ACT and Non-ACT residents who have been identified as close contacts, and who are not currently in the ACT, will also require approval from the relevant jurisdiction to leave quarantine to travel to the ACT.

Category B - Place of High Concern (casual contact venues)

A **casual contact** is someone who has been near a person with COVID-19 while they were infectious, but who is at lower risk of being infected than a close contact. In addition to any travel restrictions/conditions which may be in place, travellers who have been to a casual contact exposure location will be asked to:

- Get a COVID-19 test and isolate in their home or another suitable place of residence until a negative test result is received.
- Continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the date last in an identified exposure location, and if symptoms develop seek testing immediately.

Note: For recent cases in NSW and Victoria, the ACT has not stood up a requirement to complete a declaration for an LGA, jurisdiction or city, but rather we have only required travellers who have visited exposure venues to follow the advice in the COVID-19 Notice of Concern, and for close contact venues to call ACT Health. This decision was made due to the fact that the public health risk of community transmission was low and limited number of exposure sites. There was also a high level of confidence in the contact tracing capability of these jurisdictions.

Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks and Tightening of Restrictions

Background

It is well known that new (novel) viral respiratory diseases have the greatest potential to cause pandemics. There has been a strong national response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, with all Australian jurisdictions implementing a range of coordinated public health control measures to reduce the transmission of the virus within the community and respond quickly when outbreaks arise.

To date the national COVID-19 public health strategy has been successful, seeing limited community transmission in most jurisdictions since the first wave of infections in early 2020, in comparison to most other countries.

As with all Australian jurisdictions, the ACT has undertaken a significant body of planning work over the last 12 months to achieve and maintain a high degree of preparedness to effectively and efficiently detect, respond to and contain a COVID-19 outbreak in our community.

Of critical importance is the ability to detect a potential outbreak early, through a multi-pronged surveillance system. Early detection can lead to a swift and coordinated outbreak response to isolate and contain the outbreak in order to protect the broader ACT community.

Public Health Emergency and Public Health Emergency Directions

In the ACT, a public health emergency was declared by the Minister for Health on 16 March 2020. The Emergency status is reviewed every 90 days to determine whether it is required to be extended. The declaration of a public health emergency allows the Chief Health Officer to take the necessary actions required to reduce threats to public health, including issuing of public health emergency directions.

Once enacted, public health emergency directions are legal instruments, and the community and business are required to comply with these.

Surveillance Reporting

Surveillance reports are regularly prepared to assess the public health risks which may exist in relation to COVID-19. These Reports provide the Chief Health Officer with guidance around potential easing or tightening of public health restrictions. The reports consider:

- Confirmed COVID-19 case numbers, the source of exposure and location of the cases (e.g. overseas acquired and in hotel quarantine versus locally acquired and in the community).
- Testing numbers and trends.
- Surveillance for early detection of COVID e.g. wastewater testing for viral fragments.
- Number of individuals in quarantine.
- The community's acceptance of and compliance with public health directions.
- ACT public health system preparedness.
- Situation in surrounding jurisdictions; notably, New South Wales (NSW).

Impact of the Vaccination Roll-Out

The roll-out of the Vaccination Program across Australia is in its early stages. At this stage, it is too early to determine how the vaccination roll-out may impact on the ACT's response to a COVID-19 outbreak. However, ACT Health continues to monitor the impact of the roll-out and will adjust its responses accordingly.

Definition of a COVID-19 Outbreak

The definition of a COVID-19 outbreak differs, depending on its nature. For example, an outbreak in a high risk setting would be a single confirmed case of COVID-19 in a resident, staff member or frequent attendee of a high risk setting.

In the ACT, the Chief Health Officer will declare an outbreak. This declaration will then enable a series of processes and procedures to be established very quickly to be able to respond appropriately.

Outbreak Management – Planning

There has been a significant amount of work undertaken within ACT Health to ensure that an outbreak response is implemented quickly, especially in a high-risk setting, where vulnerable people may reside and where transmission can very quickly occur.

ACT Health has developed detailed management plans to respond to possible outbreaks in residential aged care facilities, healthcare facilities, correctional facilities, multi-dwelling public housing, and disability care settings.

Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in the ACT

How outbreaks are managed is highly dependent on the outbreak situation. As soon as a positive case (or cases) is notified, ACT Health will move very quickly to assess its significance to determine the next steps.

As a first step, the following would occur:

- Positive case is informed and isolated immediately.
- Contact tracing and quarantine of close contacts commences.
- Public communication is released to provide advice to minimise transmission risks.
- Genomic sequencing will take place to assess the strain of the virus and whether it is a variant of concern that may be more infectious.

If, as part of these early considerations, it is determined that a transmission event has occurred within the community, the Chief Health Officer will immediately put in place specific measures which seek to reduce the risk of further widespread transmission.

The outbreak response will be robust and rapid and will take a precautionary approach, and will include:

- Ongoing, rapid contact tracing and isolation of additional positive cases and their close contacts.

- Increased testing within the community. Testing may be targeted or more widespread and may involve the establishment of 'pop up' testing sites and/or in-reach testing in a facility, depending on the nature of the outbreak.
- Ongoing public communications to ensure that the community is kept informed of developments and understands their responsibilities.

Pause and Assess

A rapid, but brief, '*pause and assess*' across the community may also be required to assist the public health response. The purpose of the '*pause and assess*' is to support rapid effective contact tracing, whilst minimising further potential chains of transmission as the situation unfolds. The '*pause and assess*' mirrors the 'stay-at-home' requirements which are used for outbreaks in other jurisdictions.

The '*pause and assess*' would initially occur for a time limited period (eg three to five days) and would be based on a risk assessment. To determine whether a '*pause and assess*' is required, the following important points would be considered during the risk assessment:

- The length of time the case (or cases) was infectious in the community.
- Whether the source of exposure is known or unknown.
- Whether the case is more likely infected with a highly infectious variant strain (e.g. an infection in a hotel quarantine worker where the most likely source is a returned overseas traveller).
- The movement of the individual(s) during their infectious period, notably, did the individual spend the majority of time at home or did they work in a public facing role or attend venues where there might be many contacts who might be difficult to trace e.g. shopping mall or where there is a higher risk of transmission e.g. gyms, nightclubs, large religious ceremonies.

During the '*pause and assess*' period, all community members would be required to stay-at-home except for the following reasons:

- Essential work or provision of essential services, where these cannot be undertaken from home.
- Shopping for essentials like groceries, medication and essential supplies.
- To attend to medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements, and looking after the vulnerable.
- Essential animal welfare purposes (eg to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere).
- Out-of-home (outdoor) exercise, potentially permitted within a particular regional area or within a certain radius of home and in limited numbers (e.g. household members only).
- Leaving due to an emergency.

Other measures and advice around the '*pause and assess*' period would be provided to the community, and this may include advice on:

- wearing of masks.
- travel advice (including use of public transport).
- testing requirements and arrangements.

A *'pause and assess'* may also see planned events being cancelled or gathering numbers for time-critical events (such as funerals) being reduced significantly.

Certain non-essential businesses may be required to close or to operate remotely. A Public Health Emergency direction, signed by the Chief Health Officer would outline which businesses are impacted either due to closure or reduced gathering sizes. Some businesses may also choose to close voluntarily, depending on their own personal situation.

Tightening of Public Health Restrictions

Following the period of *'pause and assess'*, consideration may be given to a short to intermediate term tightening of public health restrictions which could affect gathering sizes, and non-essential businesses. Considerations may include:

- Home visitation numbers may be reduced.
- Gatherings in outdoor spaces may be reduced.
- Gatherings at funerals and weddings may be capped.
- Person density measures within certain businesses, venues and facilities may revert back to one person per four square metres across a venue, with caps on the total number of patrons/clients permitted. There may be tighter restrictions put in place for known high-risk venues.
- Community sporting fixtures and training may be temporarily cancelled and gathering sizes reduced.
- Events with approved exemptions may be postponed or cancelled.
- Staff and patrons may be required to wear masks in certain environments such as personal care providers (beauticians, hairdressers, nail salon operators and tattooists).

Restrictions within high risk settings will also likely be put in place, including in residential aged care facilities, disability accommodation, hospitals, and corrections facilities. This could involve temporarily limiting visits and movement, and may also include:

- Routine wearing of masks in aged care facilities and in healthcare settings.
- Care workers limited to one workplace.

Longer term advice may also be issued regarding:

- Wearing of masks.
- Ongoing working from home requirements.
- Remote learning.
- Avoiding non-essential travel to areas that are COVID-19 hotspots.

The ACT's response will be proportional to the identified risk and will likely be similar to the recent approaches taken within other jurisdictions across Australia, in responding to such incidents.

As the situation eases, restrictions will be reviewed regularly with a view to moving back to a 'COVID normal' as quickly as possible.

We continue to refine and test our processes and strengthen our capacity to respond to any local outbreak, and the measures outlined above will continue to be reviewed.

Travel restrictions for Travel to and from other States and Territories

In the event of a declared outbreak in the ACT, it is possible that other States and Territories will implement travel restrictions for travellers from the ACT. Restrictions could include quarantine requirements on entry to a particular jurisdiction or hard border closures. Travellers would need to carefully assess their own personal circumstances, whilst continuing to comply with the public health restrictions in place.

Travel or border restrictions also have the potential to impact on individuals who work or obtain essential services in the ACT. Alternatively, an ACT resident may be required to travel to another jurisdiction for work or to obtain an essential service.

All States and Territories have measures in place to address these circumstances, such as entry permit systems or exemption processes. The details of these are published on relevant websites.

Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Friday, 21 May 2021 11:12 AM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : Australian National Disease Surveillance Plan for COVID-19 v.2.0 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 11:10:55 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Coleman,
Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>

[REDACTED] Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
<Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Subject: For Information : Australian National Disease Surveillance Plan for COVID-19 v.2.0 [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.

Good morning members,

Please find the latest version of the Australian National Disease Surveillance Plan v2.0 that has been published on the DoH website for your information.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-national-disease-surveillance-plan-for-covid-19>

Kind Regards,



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to 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."

Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 24 June 2021 8:37 AM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: epidemic_sit_report_21_June.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 8:35:48 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Coleman, Kerryn
(Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
[REDACTED] Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
<Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [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.

Good morning members

Please find attached the epidemic situational assessment report for this week for your information.



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to elders past and present.

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Additional Restrictions which may be necessary during an Outbreak within the ACT – either prior to or after a Pause and Assess period.

The restrictions outlined below may be implemented to respond to an outbreak situation in the ACT. These could be implemented before or after a brief and rapid 'Pause and Assess' period, and may remain in place for a variable time period depending on the circumstances of the outbreak (eg one incubation period through to months).

Note: These restrictions provide a guide only. The gathering restrictions and caps outlined below may change, depending on the outbreak situation which is being managed.

Pause and Assess	Tightening of Restrictions 20 people (indoors) and 30 people (outdoors), unless otherwise specified	Tightening of Restrictions 25 people or one person per four square metres up to 100 people, unless otherwise specified
<p>During the 'pause and assess' period, all community members would be required to stay-at-home except for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake essential work or study, if they cannot work or study from home or remotely. • To attend usual childcare arrangements, where parents or guardians need to undertake essential work or study • To shop for essentials like groceries, medicine and necessary supplies • To attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements, and looking after the vulnerable • To attend a facility to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, where the individual is eligible for a vaccination in the ACT, an appointment has been booked, and the individual is not in isolation or in quarantine. • To exercise outdoors, limited to one hour per day • For essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere). • Leaving due to an emergency. <p>Other measures and advice around the 'pause and assess' period would be provided to the community, and this may include advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wearing of masks. • travel advice (including use of public transport). • testing requirements and arrangements. 	<p>Patrons and staff aged 16 years or more must check in using the Check In CBR app to assist with rapid contact tracing. This requirement may be expanded to non-restricted businesses/settings.</p> <p>All businesses and undertakings restricted to 20 people across the premises (excluding staff).</p> <p>Patrons must be seated while drinking at all hospitality venues, regardless of whether the venue is indoors or outdoors.</p> <p>Households can have up to 5 visitors, including children, per day.</p> <p>Outdoor Gatherings limited to 30 people.</p> <p>Weddings and funerals can have up to 20 people (indoors) and 30 people (outdoors) (excluding staff involved in these services).</p> <p>Community sport can resume for training purposes, limited to 30 people (excluding staff).</p> <p>Outdoor exercise classes can resume with up to 30 people (excluding staff). Indoor gyms and fitness centres must apply the business restrictions.</p> <p>Working from home where it suits you and your employer.</p> <p>Schools and Higher Education and Training to undertake remote learning only. Schools open for vulnerable children and children of essential workers or those unable to work from home.</p> <p>Consider mandatory masks when attending indoor venues, as well as for certain businesses and activities, (for example, front of house hospitality staff, on public transport, in places of worship, hairdressers, beauticians).</p> <p>Restrict Visitors in vulnerable settings eg. hospitals, aged care, prisons.</p>	<p>Patrons and staff aged 16 years or more must check in using the Check In CBR app to assist with rapid contact tracing. This requirement may be expanded to non-restricted businesses/settings.</p> <p>Businesses and undertakings can open with 25 people before density requirements apply. A density requirement of one person per four square metres of can be subsequently applied, up to 100 people (excluding staff).</p> <p>Patrons must be seated while drinking at indoor hospitality venues, regardless of whether the venue is indoors or outdoors.</p> <p>Households can have up to 10 visitors, including children, per day.</p> <p>Outdoor Gatherings limited to 150 people in total.</p> <p>Indoor venues, with forward facing, fixed and tiered seating (eg theatres and cinemas) can have 50 per cent of seated capacity up to 100 people, with maximum group size of 10 people. Density of one person per four square metres applies to non-seated areas.</p> <p>Outdoor seated venues can have 50 per cent of seated capacity up to 150 people per venue, with maximum group size of 20 people.</p> <p>Weddings can have one person per four square metres up to 100 people (excludes the celebrant and a photographer). Weddings held in private homes must follow the cap for household visitation.</p> <p>Funerals can have one person per four square metres up to 100 people (excludes persons conducting the funeral). Wakes held in business venues must comply with those business restrictions.</p> <p>Community sport can resume for training and competition purposes, limited to 150 people outdoors, or 100 people indoors (excluding staff).</p> <p>Outdoor exercise classes can resume with up to 150 people (class sizes should be limited to 50 people). Indoor gyms and fitness centres must apply the business restrictions (excluding staff).</p> <p>Workplaces may commence a return to the workplace if it suits employers and employees, with a COVID Safety Plan in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor Office spaces may wish to consider applying a capacity requirement (eg, 50 percent) within the space at any one time. <p>Schools open for face to face learning.</p> <p>Universities, CIT and other vocational training providers to resume face to face learning.</p> <p>Consider mandatory masks when attending indoor venues, as well as for certain businesses and activities, (for example, front of house hospitality staff, on public transport, in places of worship, hairdressers, beauticians).</p> <p>Restrict Visitors in vulnerable settings eg. hospitals, aged care, prisons.</p>

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS IN RESPONSE TO AN OUTBREAK

Published: 24 June 2021



Additional restrictions may be necessary during a COVID-19 outbreak within the ACT, either prior to or after a “Pause and Assess” period

The restrictions outlined below may be implemented to respond to an outbreak situation in the ACT. These could be implemented before or after a brief and rapid “Pause and Assess” period, and may remain in place for a variable time period depending on the circumstances of the outbreak (for instance one incubation period through to months).

Note: These restrictions provide a guide only. The gathering restrictions and caps outlined below may change, depending on the outbreak situation which is being managed.

Pause and Assess

During the 'pause and assess' period, all community members would be required to stay at home except for the following reasons:

- To undertake essential work or study, if they cannot work or study from home or remotely
- To attend usual childcare arrangements, where parents or guardians need to undertake essential work or study
- To shop for essentials like groceries, medicine and necessary supplies
- To attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements, and looking after the vulnerable
- To attend a facility to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, where the individual is eligible for a vaccination in the ACT, an appointment has been booked, and the individual is not in isolation or in quarantine
- To exercise outdoors, limited to one hour per day
- For essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere)
- Leaving due to an emergency.

Other measures and advice around the 'pause and assess' period would be provided to the community, and this may include advice on:

- wearing of masks
- travel advice (including use of public transport)
- testing requirements and arrangements.

Tightening of Restrictions

20 people (indoors) and 30 people (outdoors), unless otherwise specified

Patrons and staff aged 16 years or more must check in using the Check In CBR app to assist with rapid contact tracing. This requirement may be expanded to non-restricted businesses/settings.

All businesses and undertakings restricted to 20 people across the premises (excluding staff).

Patrons must be seated while drinking at all hospitality venues, regardless of whether the venue is indoors or outdoors.

Households can have up to 5 visitors, including children, per day.

Outdoor Gatherings limited to 30 people.

Weddings and funerals can have up to 20 people (indoors) and 30 people (outdoors) (excluding staff involved in these services).

Community sport can resume for training purposes, limited to 30 people (excluding staff).

Outdoor exercise classes can resume with up to 30 people (excluding staff). Indoor gyms and fitness centres must apply the business restrictions.

Working from home where it suits you and your employer.

Schools and Higher Education and Training to undertake remote learning only. Schools open for vulnerable children and children of essential workers or those unable to work from home.

Consider mandatory masks when attending indoor venues, as well as for certain businesses and activities, (for example, front of house hospitality staff, on public transport, in places of worship, hairdressers, beauticians).

Restrict Visitors in vulnerable settings eg. hospitals, aged care, prisons.

Tightening of Restrictions

25 people or one person per 4 square metres up to 100 people, unless otherwise specified

Patrons and staff aged 16 years or more must check in using the Check In CBR app to assist with rapid contact tracing. This requirement may be expanded to non-restricted businesses/settings.

Businesses and undertakings can open with 25 people before density requirements apply. A density requirement of one person per four square metres can be subsequently applied, up to 100 people (excluding staff).

Patrons must be seated while drinking at indoor hospitality venues, regardless of whether the venue is indoors or outdoors.

Households can have up to 10 visitors, including children, per day.

Outdoor Gatherings limited to 150 people in total.

Indoor venues, with forward facing, fixed and tiered seating (eg theatres and cinemas) can have 50 per cent of seated capacity up to 100 people, with maximum group size of 10 people. Density of one person per four square metres applies to non-seated areas.

Outdoor seated venues can have 50 per cent of seated capacity up to 150 people per venue, with maximum group size of 20 people.

Weddings can have one person per four square metres up to 100 people (excludes the celebrant and a photographer). Weddings held in private homes must follow the cap for household visitation.

Funerals can have one person per four square metres up to 100 people (excludes persons conducting the funeral). Wakes held in business venues must comply with those business restrictions.

Community sport can resume for training and competition purposes, limited to 150 people outdoors, or 100 people indoors (excluding staff).

Outdoor exercise classes can resume with up to 150 people (class sizes should be limited to 50 people). Indoor gyms and fitness centres must apply the business restrictions (excluding staff).

Workplaces may commence a return to the workplace if it suits employers and employees, with a COVID Safety Plan in place. Indoor Office spaces may wish to consider applying a capacity requirement (eg, 50 percent) within the space at any one time.

Schools open for face-to-face learning.

Universities, CIT and other vocational training providers to resume face to face learning.

Consider mandatory masks when attending indoor venues, as well as for certain businesses and activities, (for example, front of house hospitality staff, on public transport, in places of worship, hairdressers, beauticians).

Restrict Visitors in vulnerable settings eg. hospitals, aged care, prisons.

ACT Travel Restrictions – Summary Table

Background

A Public Health (COVID-19 Affected Areas) Emergency Direction 2021 sets out the mechanism by which the Chief Health Officer can enact travel restrictions in order to respond to outbreaks of COVID-19 in jurisdictions.

In order to be able to respond swiftly to changing situations in other jurisdictions (both in terms of tightening and easing travel restrictions), the Public Health Direction provides for the development of a COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice which establishes the level of restrictions that are in place, as well as any additional conditions that may be required to be adhered to by travellers.

The Concern Notice is published on the ACT Government's COVID-19 website.

The table below outlines the baseline restrictions that will be enforced to respond to jurisdictional outbreaks, together with an explanation of the requirements/conditions which may be enforced.

Restriction Type	Requirement
No travel restrictions	No requirements
Identification of Places of High Concern (Level 1) (Note: Places of concern can be identified within the ACT or in other jurisdictions)	<p><i>Places of High Concern</i> are identified when cases of COVID-19 or outbreaks occur.</p> <p>A <i>Place of High Concern</i> is a location that has been assessed as posing a risk of exposure to COVID-19 and is declared in the COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice. A <i>Place of High Concern</i> can be a venue (e.g. a café or restaurant), a location (e.g. an Airport terminal) or a geographical area (e.g. a Local Government Area).</p> <p><i>Places of High Concern</i> can be identified before formal travel restrictions are implemented or concurrently. This would be dependent on the circumstances surrounding an outbreak. In addition, as travel restrictions ease, Places of High Concern may continue to be identified.</p> <p>Persons who have been to a <i>Place of High Concern</i> within the specified timeframe must comply with the conditions that are outlined in the COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice, <u>as well as</u> conditions imposed by any travel restrictions which may be in place.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Areas of Concern Notice will identify whether the <i>Place of High Concern</i> is a casual contact exposure location or a close contact exposure location.</p> <p>Category A - Place of High Concern (Close Contact Venues)</p> <p>A close contact is someone who has been in close proximity to a person with COVID-19 while they were infectious for a period of time, such that there is a reasonable chance they will also be infected with COVID-19. In addition to any travel restrictions/conditions which may be in place, travellers who have been to a close contact exposure location may be asked to do the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of the ACT who are currently in the ACT: Contact ACT Health, complete a self-declaration form, quarantine immediately for 14 days since attending a close contact venue and undergo appropriate testing for COVID-19, regardless of whether symptoms are present, as advised by an authorised person within ACT Health. • Residents of the ACT who are not currently in the ACT: Should follow the health advice of the jurisdiction they are currently in. Should they wish to return home to the ACT, they will need to seek an exemption from the appropriate jurisdiction and from ACT Health prior to entering the ACT. This is in order for ACT Health to assist with safe entry into the ACT. Quarantine requirements will still apply.

* Due to the porous nature of the NSW and ACT borders, any imposed travel restrictions may slightly differ to the arrangements outline above.

Restriction Type	Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Residents of the ACT: Cannot enter the ACT unless exemptions from the jurisdiction they are in and from ACT Health have been obtained before arriving. Exemptions will only be granted in highly exceptional circumstances and quarantine requirements will still apply. Approval will also be required from the relevant jurisdiction to leave quarantine to travel to the ACT. <p>Note: Non-Residents of the ACT who travelled to the ACT prior to being declared a close contact must comply with the requirements for residents of the ACT.</p> <p><u>Category B - Place of High Concern (casual contact venues)</u></p> <p>A casual contact is someone who has been near a person with COVID-19 while they were infectious, but who is at lower risk of being infected than a close contact. In addition to any travel restrictions/conditions which may be in place, travellers who have been to a casual contact exposure location may be asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact ACT Health and complete a self-declaration form. • Undergo appropriate testing for COVID-19, regardless of whether symptoms are present, as advised by an authorised person within ACT Health, and isolate until informed of a negative test result. • Continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the date last in an identified venue, and if symptoms develop seek testing immediately.
<p><u>Watch and Assess Requirement*</u> (Level 2)</p>	<p>Watch and Assess requirements can be enacted for a whole jurisdiction or a particular geographical area where community transmission or an outbreak has been identified, and where minimal information is known about its extent. Watch and Assess requirements can be imposed retrospectively.</p> <p>Alternatively, Watch and Assess requirements can be used as a step-down approach following an outbreak, where it is deemed that some additional monitoring may continue to be required.</p> <p>These requirements enable ACT Health to securely store contact details for travellers entering the ACT from a particular jurisdiction/s. This will be particularly important if the situation in a jurisdiction worsens and there is a need to urgently contact travellers to provide them with critical information, or to require more stringent actions to be undertaken.</p> <p>The following conditions and actions may be imposed whilst the requirements are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT and non-ACT residents who are travelling from an identified area must complete an online declaration form in the 24 hours prior to their travel, or within 24 hours of the requirements being enacted (if travellers are already in the ACT). • All travellers should continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the date last in an identified area, and if symptoms develop seek testing immediately. • Additional conditions may apply if travellers are impacted through identification of <i>Places of High Concern</i>.

* Due to the porous nature of the NSW and ACT borders, any imposed travel restrictions may slightly differ to the arrangements outline above.

Restriction Type	Requirement
<p>Stay at Home Requirement * (Level 3)</p>	<p>Stay at Home requirements can be enacted for a whole jurisdiction or a particular geographical area where community transmission or an outbreak has been confirmed and puts in place measures to require travellers who have been in a declared area to remain at home for a specified period of time.</p> <p>Stay at Home requirements will usually mirror another jurisdiction's decision to enter into a 'lockdown', including the specified period of time. They will not usually be imposed retrospectively but may be depending on the circumstances.</p> <p>Stay at Home requirements are primarily designed to discourage non-essential travel into the ACT from a jurisdiction with lockdown orders in place.</p> <p>The following conditions may apply to travellers who are seeking to enter the ACT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of the ACT must complete an online declaration form in the 24 hours prior to their travel, or within 24 hours of the requirements being enacted (for travellers in transit) and continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the last day in the area. If symptoms develop travellers must seek testing. A traveller will be required to comply with Stay at Home requirements. • Non-Residents of the ACT must not travel to the ACT, unless an exemption to travel has been granted. Exemptions will only be granted if exceptional circumstances apply. Even with an exemption, a traveller will be required to comply with Stay at Home requirements. <p>Travellers will need to comply with the following conditions whilst the Stay at Home requirements are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel immediately to their designated premises and stay at home unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To undertake essential work or study, if they cannot work or study from home or remotely. ○ To attend usual childcare arrangements, where parents or guardians need to undertake essential work or study ○ To shop for essentials like groceries, medicine, and necessary supplies ○ To attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements, and looking after the vulnerable ○ To attend a facility to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, where the individual is eligible for a vaccination in the ACT, an appointment has been booked, and the individual is not in isolation or in quarantine. ○ To exercise outdoors, limited to one hour per day ○ For essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere). ○ Leaving due to an emergency. • Additional conditions may apply if travellers are impacted through identification of <i>Places of High Concern</i>.

* Due to the porous nature of the NSW and ACT borders, any imposed travel restrictions may slightly differ to the arrangements outline above.

Restriction Type	Requirement
<p>COVID-19 Affected Area * (Level 4)</p>	<p>A COVID-19 Affected area may be declared for a whole jurisdiction or a particular geographical area where there are serious concerns about an outbreak to warrant travel restrictions being imposed. Restrictions can be imposed retrospectively.</p> <p>The following conditions apply to travellers who are seeking to enter the ACT from a COVID-19 Affected Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT residents must complete an online declaration form in the 24 hours prior to their travel and enter into a period of quarantine immediately upon their arrival to the ACT (14 days since they were last in the Affected Area). • Non-ACT residents must not travel to the ACT, unless an exemption to travel has been granted. Exemptions will only be granted if exceptional circumstances apply. Even with an exemption, a traveller may still be required to enter into quarantine.

* Due to the porous nature of the NSW and ACT borders, any imposed travel restrictions may slightly differ to the arrangements outline above.

Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks and Tightening of Restrictions

Background

It is well known that new (novel) viral respiratory diseases have the greatest potential to cause pandemics. There has been a strong national response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, with all Australian jurisdictions implementing a range of coordinated public health control measures to reduce the transmission of the virus within the community and respond quickly when outbreaks arise.

To date the national COVID-19 public health strategy has been successful, seeing limited community transmission in most jurisdictions since the first wave of infections in early 2020, in comparison to most other countries.

As with all Australian jurisdictions, the ACT has undertaken a significant body of planning work over the last 12 months to achieve and maintain a high degree of preparedness to effectively and efficiently detect, respond to and contain a COVID-19 outbreak in our community.

Of critical importance is the ability to detect a potential outbreak early, through a multi-pronged surveillance system. Early detection can lead to a swift and coordinated outbreak response to isolate and contain the outbreak to protect the broader ACT community.

Public Health Emergency and Public Health Emergency Directions

In the ACT, a public health emergency was declared by the Minister for Health on 16 March 2020. The Emergency status is reviewed every 90 days to determine whether it is required to be extended. The declaration of a public health emergency allows the Chief Health Officer to take the necessary actions required to reduce threats to public health, including issuing of public health emergency directions.

Once enacted, public health emergency directions are legal instruments, and the community and business are required to comply with these.

Surveillance Reporting

Surveillance reports are regularly prepared to assess the public health risks which may exist in relation to COVID-19. These Reports provide the Chief Health Officer with guidance around potential easing or tightening of public health restrictions. The reports consider:

- Confirmed COVID-19 case numbers, the source of exposure and location of the cases (e.g. overseas acquired and in hotel quarantine versus locally acquired and in the community).
- Testing numbers and trends.
- Surveillance for early detection of COVID e.g. wastewater testing for viral fragments.
- Number of individuals in quarantine.
- The community's acceptance of and cooperation with public health directions.
- ACT public health system preparedness.
- Situation in surrounding jurisdictions; particularly New South Wales (NSW).

Impact of the Vaccination Roll-Out

The roll-out of the Vaccination Program across Australia is continuing. At this stage, it is too early to determine how the vaccination roll-out may impact on the ACT's response to a COVID-19 outbreak. However, ACT Health continues to monitor the impact of the roll-out and will adjust its responses accordingly.

Definition of a COVID-19 Outbreak

The definition of a COVID-19 outbreak differs, depending on its nature. For example, an outbreak in a high risk setting would be a single confirmed case of COVID-19 in a resident, staff member or frequent attendee of a high risk setting.

In the ACT, the Chief Health Officer will declare an outbreak. This declaration will then enable a series of processes and procedures to be established very quickly to be able to respond appropriately.

Outbreak Management – Planning

There has been a significant amount of work undertaken within ACT Health to ensure that an outbreak response is implemented quickly, especially in a high-risk setting, where vulnerable people may reside and where transmission can very quickly occur.

ACT Health has developed detailed management plans to respond to possible outbreaks in residential aged care facilities, healthcare facilities, correctional facilities, multi-dwelling public housing, and disability care settings.

Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in the ACT

How outbreaks are managed is highly dependent on the outbreak situation. As soon as a positive case (or cases) is notified, ACT Health will move very quickly to assess its significance to determine the next steps.

As a first step, the following would occur:

- Positive case is informed and isolated immediately.
- Contact tracing and quarantine of close contacts commences.
- Public communication is released to provide advice to minimise transmission risks.
- Genomic sequencing will take place to assess the strain of the virus and whether it is a variant of concern that may be more infectious.

If, as part of these early considerations, it is determined that a transmission event has occurred within the community, the Chief Health Officer will immediately put in place specific measures which seek to reduce the risk of further widespread transmission.

The outbreak response will be robust and rapid and will take a precautionary approach, and will include:

- Ongoing, rapid contact tracing and isolation of additional positive cases and their close contacts.

- Increased testing within the community. Testing may be targeted or more widespread and may involve the establishment of 'pop up' testing sites and/or in-reach testing in a facility, depending on the nature of the outbreak.
- Ongoing public communications to ensure that the community is kept informed of developments and understands their responsibilities.

Pause and Assess

A rapid, but brief, '*pause and assess*' across the community may also be required to assist the public health response. The purpose of the '*pause and assess*' is to support rapid effective contact tracing, whilst minimising further potential chains of transmission as the situation unfolds. The '*pause and assess*' mirrors the 'stay-at-home' requirements which are used for outbreaks in other jurisdictions.

The '*pause and assess*' would initially occur for a time limited period (eg three to five days) and be based on a risk assessment. A risk assessment would consider:

- The length of time the case (or cases) was infectious in the community.
- Whether the source of exposure is known or unknown.
- Whether the case is more likely infected with a highly infectious variant strain (e.g. an infection in a hotel quarantine worker where the most likely source is a returned overseas traveller).
- The movement of the individual(s) during their infectious period, notably, did the individual spend the majority of time at home or did they work in a public facing role or attend venues where there might be many contacts who might be difficult to trace e.g. shopping mall or where there is a higher risk of transmission e.g. gyms, nightclubs, large religious ceremonies.

During the '*pause and assess*' period, all community members would be required to stay-at-home except for the following reasons:

- To undertake essential work or study, if they cannot work or study from home or remotely.
- To attend usual childcare arrangements, where parents or guardians need to undertake essential work or study
- To shop for essentials like groceries, medicine and necessary supplies
- To attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements, and looking after the vulnerable
- To attend a facility to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, where the individual is eligible for a vaccination in the ACT, an appointment has been booked, and the individual is not in isolation or in quarantine.
- To exercise outdoors, limited to one hour per day
- For essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere).
- Leaving due to an emergency.

Other measures and advice around the *'pause and assess'* period would be provided to the community, and this may include advice on:

- wearing of masks.
- travel advice (including use of public transport).
- testing requirements and arrangements.

A *'pause and assess'* may also see planned events being cancelled or gathering numbers for time-critical events (such as funerals) being reduced significantly.

Certain non-essential businesses may be required to close or to operate remotely. A Public Health Emergency direction signed by the Chief Health Officer would outline which businesses are impacted either due to closure or reduced gathering sizes. Some businesses may also choose to close voluntarily, depending on their own personal situation.

Tightening of Public Health Restrictions

Following the period of *'pause and assess'*, consideration may be given to maintaining some tightened public health restrictions which could affect gathering sizes, and non-essential businesses. These may remain in place for a variable time period, depending on the circumstances of the outbreak (eg one incubation period through to months). Considerations may include:

- Home visitation numbers may be reduced.
- Gatherings in outdoor spaces may be reduced.
- Gatherings at funerals and weddings may be capped.
- Person density measures within certain businesses, venues and facilities may revert back to one person per four square metres across a venue, with caps on the total number of patrons/clients permitted. There may be tighter restrictions put in place for known high-risk venues.
- Community sporting fixtures and training may be temporarily cancelled and gathering sizes reduced.
- Events with approved exemptions may be postponed or cancelled.
- Staff and patrons may be required to wear masks in certain environments such as personal care providers (beauticians, hairdressers, nail salon operators and tattooists).

Restrictions within high risk settings will also likely be put in place, including in residential aged care facilities, disability accommodation, hospitals, and corrections facilities. This could involve temporarily limiting visits and movement, and may also include:

- Routine wearing of masks in aged care facilities and in healthcare settings.
- Care workers limited to one workplace.

Longer term advice may also be issued regarding:

- Wearing of masks.
- Ongoing working from home requirements.
- Remote learning.
- Avoiding non-essential travel to areas that are COVID-19 hotspots.

The ACT's response will be proportional to the identified risk and will likely be similar to the recent approaches taken within other jurisdictions across Australia, in responding to such incidents.

As the situation eases, restrictions will be reviewed regularly with a view to moving back to a 'COVID normal' as quickly as possible.

We continue to refine and test our processes and strengthen our capacity to respond to any local outbreak, and the measures outlined above will continue to be reviewed.

Travel restrictions for Travel to and from other States and Territories

In the event of a declared outbreak in the ACT, it is possible that other States and Territories will implement travel restrictions for travellers from the ACT. Restrictions could include quarantine requirements on entry to a particular jurisdiction or hard border closures. Travellers would need to carefully assess their own personal circumstances, whilst continuing to comply with the public health restrictions in place.

Travel or border restrictions also have the potential to impact on individuals who work or obtain essential services in the ACT. Alternatively, an ACT resident may be required to travel to another jurisdiction for work or to obtain an essential service.

All States and Territories have measures in place to address these circumstances, such as entry permit systems or exemption processes. The details of these are published on relevant websites.

Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Friday, 2 July 2021 5:52 PM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: FOR INFO: National Plan to transition Australia's COVID19 response [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response - July 2021.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 5:51:25 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Coleman, Kerryn
 [REDACTED] Johnston, Vanessa
 (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
 (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR INFO: National Plan to transition Australia's COVID19 response [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.

Dear Members,

The Prime Minister's statement following National Cabinet is below for your information. In addition, the "roadmap" for how to achieve the transition is attached for your information.

Kind regards,
 [REDACTED]

Subject: Prime Minister - Media Statement - National Cabinet Statement -

UNOFFICIAL



The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister

MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday 2 July 2021

NATIONAL CABINET STATEMENT

The National Cabinet met today for the 45th time to discuss Australia's COVID-19 response, recent outbreaks of COVID-19 and the Australian COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy.

Since the beginning of the pandemic there have been 30,685 confirmed cases in Australia and, sadly, 910 people have died. Currently there are 4 cases in Australia requiring ICU hospitalisation and no cases on ventilators. More than 21 million tests have been undertaken in Australia.

Globally there have been over 182 million cases and sadly over 3.9 million deaths, with 429,948 new cases and 8,360 deaths reported in the last 24 hours. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in many countries around the world.

Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues to expand. As of yesterday, 7,970,153 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered in Australia, including 163,178 doses in the previous 24 hours. Today Australia will reach its 8 millionth COVID-19 vaccination. In the previous 7 days, 807,777 vaccines have been administered in Australia.

To date, 30 per cent of the Australian adult population have now had a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, including over 50 per cent of over 50 year olds and over 70 per cent of over 70 year olds.

Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly provided an update on current outbreaks of COVID-19 in a number of locations and of both the Alpha and Delta variants.

Lieutenant General John Frewen, Coordinator General of Operation COVID Shield, provided a detailed briefing on the vaccination program.

National Cabinet agreed to meet next on 9 July 2021.

National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID Response

National Cabinet agreed to formulate a National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID Response from its current pre vaccination settings, focussing on continued suppression of community transmission, to post vaccination settings focussed on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality, and the public health management of other infectious diseases.

National Cabinet agreed in-principle that the plan consists of the following phases, each triggered by the achievement of vaccination thresholds expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (16+), based on the scientific modelling currently being conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force.

The document is attached.

A. Current Phase - Vaccinate, prepare and pilot

Continue to suppress the virus for the purpose of minimising community transmission. Measures include:

- Implement the national vaccination plan to offer every Australian an opportunity to be vaccinated with the necessary doses of the relevant vaccine as soon as possible;
- Temporarily reduce commercial inbound passenger arrivals to all major ports by 50 per cent from current caps by 14 July to reduce the pressure on quarantine facilities, due to the increased risks of the Delta strain of the virus;
- Lockdowns to be used only as a last resort;
- Commonwealth to facilitate increased commercial flights to increase international repatriations to Darwin for quarantine at the National Resilience Facility at Howard Springs;
- Commonwealth to extend additional support through the International Freight Assistance Mechanism to ensure maintenance of essential freight supply lines impacted by the reduction of commercial caps at international airports;
- Trial and pilot the introduction of alternative quarantine options, including home quarantine for returning vaccinated travellers;
- Expand commercial trials for limited entry of student and economic visa holders;
- Recognise and adopt the existing digital Medicare Vaccination Certificate (automatically generated for every vaccination registered on AIR);
- Establish digital vaccination authentication at international borders;
- Prepare the vaccine booster programme; and
- Undertake a further review of the national hotel quarantine network.

B. Post Vaccination Phase

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality as a result of COVID-19. Measures may include:

- Ease restrictions on vaccinated residents - such as lockdowns and border controls;
- Lockdowns only in extreme circumstances to prevent escalating hospitalisation and fatality;
- Restore inbound passengers caps at previous levels for unvaccinated returning travellers and larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers;
- Allow capped entry of student and economic visa holders subject to quarantine arrangements and availability;
- Introduce new reduced quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents; and
- Prepare/implement the vaccine booster programme (depending on timing).

C. Consolidation Phase

Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases. Measures may include:

- No lockdowns;
- Continue vaccine booster programme;
- Exempt vaccinated residents from all domestic restrictions;
- Abolish caps on returning vaccinated travellers;
- Allow increased capped entry of student, economic, and humanitarian visa holders;
- Lift all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated persons; and
- Extend travel bubble for unrestricted travel to new candidate countries (Singapore, Pacific).

D. Final Phase

Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases. Measures may include:

- Allow uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine; and
- Allow uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to pre-flight and on arrival testing.

National Cabinet agreed that the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force be tasked to make recommendations on finalising the plan, including recommended vaccination targets for each phase of the plan based on the modelling.

Phases will continue to maintain simple risk mitigation and prevention measures such as hygiene, tracing and testing.

National Partnership Agreement

National Cabinet welcomed the Commonwealth Government's \$752 million extension to the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response through to 30 June 2022. The National Partnership on COVID-19 Response provides Commonwealth funding to support state and territory efforts to address the pandemic, including the Hospital Services Payment, State Public Health Payment, Vaccine Schedule, Aged Care Schedule, and the Private Hospital Viability Guarantee.

Under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, the Commonwealth Government has provided to date an estimated \$5.765 billion to support states and territories to proactively manage the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the broader Commonwealth health response which totals more than \$27 billion.

International Passenger Arrivals

National Cabinet noted that international aviation remains critical to supporting the return of Australians from overseas as well as maintaining freight access (imports and exports) and Australia's long-term international connectivity. It was also noted that international passenger arrival caps introduced by National Cabinet have been essential to safely managing and aligning international passenger arrivals with available quarantine capacity.

The Commissioner of Australian Border Force Michael Outram APM presented information to National Cabinet on international passenger arrivals which was noted. Around 83.9 per cent of travellers to Australia during June 2021 are Australian permanent residents and their families.

National Cabinet agreed to temporarily reduce the current international passenger arrival caps by 50 per cent to manage the pressure on quarantine facilities due to the increased risks posed by the Delta strain of the virus. These arrangements will:

- commence by 12.01am Wednesday 14 July and remain in place until 31 August; and
- be subject to a review by National Cabinet before the end of August and on a regular basis throughout the remainder of 2021.

National Cabinet agreed that returning Australians will continue to be prioritised as part of these arrangements.

Given the impact of the reduction in current cap arrangements the Commonwealth will fund an:

- increased number of facilitated commercial (repatriation) flights, utilising capacity at the Centre for National Resilience at Howard Springs; and
- extension of additional support through the International Freight Assistance Mechanism to maintain essential freight supply lines.

[ENDS]

Media Contacts:

Prime Minister's Press Office, (02) 6277 7744

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Sydney



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to elders past and present.

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Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 11:13 AM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: epidemic_sit_report_7July.pdf
Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:10:55 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Coleman, Kerryn
Johnston, Vanessa
(Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
(Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [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.

Dear Members,

Please find attached the epidemic situational assessment report for the week of 7 July 2021.

Apologies for the delay in sending this report out this week.

Kind Regards



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

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Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:20 PM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : Doherty revised - WORKPLAN FOR MODELLING TO INFORM THE NATIONAL PLAN TO TRANSITION AUSTRALIA'S COVID RESPONSE [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: MudMap_NationalStrategy_Revised_13Jul.pptx; National_Plan_Modelling_20210714.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:17:02 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Coleman, Kerryn
[REDACTED] Johnston, Vanessa
(Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
(Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Subject: For Information : Doherty revised - WORKPLAN FOR MODELLING TO INFORM THE NATIONAL PLAN TO TRANSITION AUSTRALIA'S COVID RESPONSE [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.

Good afternoon Members,

Please find attached MudMap and WORKPLAN FOR MODELLING TO INFORM THE NATIONAL PLAN TO TRANSITION AUSTRALIA'S COVID RESPONSE.

Kind Regards



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

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Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 9:13 AM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: epidemic_sit_report_13July2021.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:11:49 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
(Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Coleman,
Johnston, Vanessa

Subject: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [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.

Good morning Members

Please find attached the epidemic situational assessment report for this week for your information.

Kind Regards



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to 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."

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Attachment B

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools

3 February 2021

Since COVID-19 first emerged in early 2020, Australians have embraced methods to prevent the spread of disease and keep our community safe. AHPPC encourages schools to remain vigilant and continue to prevent opportunities for transmission in school settings.

With COVIDSafe plans and principles in place and health systems ready to quickly identify and respond to cases, schools remain safe places. Students and staff at risk should feel reassured to work and learn onsite and enjoy the benefits of doing so.

Variants of the COVID-19 virus that spread more easily between people have emerged overseas resulting in rapidly expanding outbreaks. People have also been infected with these variants in Australia. In response to this, the National Cabinet has taken steps to reduce the likelihood of these new variants becoming established in the Australian community. The evidence available to us suggests the new variants do not affect children more than adults.

The emergence of new variants highlights the need for Australians to keep taking measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19. The same methods that have prevented the spread of COVID-19 so far will also prevent the spread of the new variants. These include physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, regular cleaning and disinfection of the environment and staying home if unwell.

As students return to school, AHPPC recommends schools consult with their jurisdictional education departments and peak organisations, and review the current health requirements and plans.

Public health authorities have well established systems to rapidly identify and respond to cases, which may involve a temporary closure of a school to contain transmission. Where there is community transmission of COVID-19, public health and education authorities should adjust measures to prevent transmission, balanced against the risk. The benefits and risks of school closures should be carefully weighed. This includes the impact on educational, social, health and wellbeing outcomes, especially for disadvantaged students.

If cases of COVID-19, including new variants, emerge in Australia, there is a risk that state and territory borders will have restrictions on entry. Boarding school students can be affected by this. Responsibility for decisions regarding border exemptions ultimately lie with the Chief Health Officer for the relevant state or territory – see [AHPPC statement on boarding students and students living in border zones](#).

Principles to maintain protection against COVID-19

Schools should continue to maintain good behaviours to prevent the spread of disease. This includes frequent handwashing, respiratory hygiene and physical distancing where possible. Children and staff should not attend school if unwell and should stay home and be tested. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from the GP is sufficient to allow return to school without a negative test.

Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection, especially of frequently touched surfaces, and promoting outdoor air ventilation where possible, also reduce the risk of transmission.

Settings that enable frequent and close contact between individuals or groups pose a risk of transmission. Therefore, large events require COVIDSafe plans and there may be limits on the number of people who

can attend. If there are no restrictions in place, activities such as school camps or excursions may be considered if COVIDSafe plans are in place.

Any additional measures in schools should be balanced against the local risk, such as whether there are cases in the community. If community restrictions are in place, such as requirements to wear masks, these may apply in schools where appropriate. Schools should refer to their own state or territory requirements and recommendations.

It is important that we continue to protect the health and wellbeing of students and staff. Students and staff may experience loneliness, confusion and see distressing scenes and stories from overseas. [Head to Health](#) provides online resources on mental health and COVID-19, including information for parents, which may also assist teachers. School systems should support staff with existing Employee Assistance Programs.

Attachment D

NSW Department of Education

COVID-Safe School Operations



	Overview	Guidance on mask wearing
<p>Level 1</p> <p>School operating in a COVID-safe/ COVID-normal way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools can operate in a COVID-normal way Students and staff to not attend school if they have symptoms; negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school Parents, carers and visitors are allowed on-site QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors COVID safety plans required in line with NSW Health advice (such as large gatherings or events) Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in line with broader Health settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines Community use in line with broader Health settings SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) operational Community Language Schools operational PLC on site Additional closing measures in place Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website.
<p>Level 2</p> <p>COVID-safe; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors</p>	<p>As per Level 1, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-essential visitors not allowed on-site (including parents and carers) Mask wearing recommendations Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in outdoor settings only Assemblies must have COVID-Safe practices in place and no parents/ carers are allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excursions within Local Government Area only, and strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website.
<p>Level 3</p> <p>COVID-safe; further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors</p>	<p>As per Level 2, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask wearing requirements Introduction of staggered breaks and reduced mingling of student cohorts wherever possible Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted No assemblies No excursions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services) No uniform shops No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) No Community Language School on site Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website.
<p>Level 4</p> <p>Learning from home encouraged, schools are open for families who need it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are encouraged to keep their children at home, with no student to be turned away Schools activate plans to support continuity of education for all students learning from home. 	<p>Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services) No cafeterias Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website.

COVID-Safe School Operations



	Overview	Guidance on mask wearing
<p>Level 1</p> <p>School operating in a COVID-safe/ COVID-normal way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools can operate in a COVID-normal way Students and staff to not attend school if they have symptoms; negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school Parents, carers and visitors are allowed on-site QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors COVID safety plans required in line with NSW Health advice (such as large gatherings or events) Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in line with broader Health settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines Community use in line with broader Health settings SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) operational Community Language Schools operational P&C on site Additional cleaning measures in place Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and students are supported to wear a mask or face covering should they choose to do so.
<p>Level 2</p> <p>COVID-safe; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors</p>	<p>As per Level 1, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-essential visitors not allowed on-site (including parents and carers) Mask wearing recommendations Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in outdoor settings only Assemblies must have COVID-Safe practices in place and no parents/ carers are allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excursions within Local Government Area only, and strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While in indoor settings in schools, masks or face coverings are recommended for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above.
<p>Level 3</p> <p>COVID-safe; further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors</p>	<p>As per Level 2, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask wearing requirements Introduction of staggered breaks and reduced mingling of student cohorts wherever possible Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted No assemblies No excursions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services) No uniform shops No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) No Community Language School on site Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While in indoor settings in schools, masks or face coverings are required for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above.
<p>Level 4</p> <p>Learning from home encouraged, schools are open for families who need it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are encouraged to keep their children at home, with no student to be turned away Schools activate plans to support continuity of education for all students learning from home. 	<p>Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services) No canteens Further detailed guidance available on the Department's website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While in indoor settings in schools, masks or face coverings are mandatory for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
Social Gatherings, Leaving Home and Visitors	<p>Stay at home unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake essential work or study, if they cannot work or study from home or remotely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Employers must allow an employee to work from home if it is reasonably practicable to do so. • To access childcare or school including schools, early childhood education and care and out of school hours care, to the extent that care cannot reasonably be obtained in the person's residence (ie. parents or carers who cannot work from home). • To shop for essentials like groceries, medicine, and supplies that are essential for personal needs or for vulnerable people. • To attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements and looking after the vulnerable. • To visit a terminally ill relative. • To attend a facility to obtain a COVID-19 test • To attend a facility to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, where the individual is eligible for a vaccination in the ACT, an appointment has been booked, and the individual is not in isolation or in quarantine. • To exercise outdoors, with one other member of your household (excluding any dependent children), limited to one hour per day. Individuals should aim to remain within their regions (eg, Belconnen, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong) and minimise their travel. • For essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere where there is no-one on site to feed them). • To access care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, family violence, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition or other essential support services. • Continue existing arrangements for access to, and contact between, parents and children • To attend a facility to donate blood. • Attend a funeral or a wedding (in accordance with conditions for funerals and weddings). • To return to your principal place of residence . • Move to a new place of residence or between different places of residence (either within the ACT or in another jurisdiction). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Note: If leaving the ACT you must ensure you comply with another jurisdiction's travel requirements prior to entering. • Fulfill or undertake any legal obligations (eg court attendance). • To assist with or participate in an investigation or other action by a law enforcement authority, whether voluntarily or not. • To comply with or give effect to the exercise of a power or function of a government agency or entity under a law. • Leaving due to an emergency.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
	<p>Face Coverings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be carried at all times. • All individuals aged over 12 years must wear a mask at all times upon leaving home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In indoor environments, this includes in all non-residential indoor settings, in the workplace (if dealing with members of the public), when using public transport, when travelling in a vehicle with someone you do not live with, in health facilities, residential aged care facilities, when working in a hospitality venue and in airports. ○ In outdoor environments, this includes, when waiting for public transport (light rail platform, bus stop, bus interchange, taxi rank). • All students in Year 7 and above must wear a mask in all indoor settings while at school, unless an exemption applies. • Exemptions to these requirements could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the person has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face mask detrimental to their condition. ○ If the person is consuming food, drink or medicine ○ If the person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication ○ Due to the nature of a person’s essential work ○ Because of an emergency <p>Note: A face covering means a mask or other covering that fits securely around the face and covers the nose and mouth to provide the wearer with protection against infection. A scarf or bandana is not a face mask.</p>
	<p>Private Gatherings at Home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than two people permitted to visit another household, but only for the approved reasons outlined above under stay at home or for compassionate purposes. • Intimate partner visits are allowed. • People who live alone can identify one other household that they can visit or receive visits from.
	<p>Public Gatherings:</p>

Commented [DMV(1): Check this against our current mask direction. I d assumed that we could re-institute our mask direction, with some minor tweaks – see new dot point re schools.

I ve left workplace as per our current mask direction, but this will depend on Kerryn s view, I think as to whether we extend to all workplaces.

Also, consider whether we ask people queuing in outdoor spaces to wear a mask too.. NSW requests masks when walking in a busy street, near other people in a park or crowded place, working outdoors, when near other people you do not live with, outdoors next to a food and drink premises (ie when queuing).

OR

Do we say wear a mask whenever out of home – rather than making it confusing from compliance perspective.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoors - Not permitted. Two people for exercise, or more than two people only if all from the same household. • Organised Gatherings – Not permitted, regardless of whether indoors or outdoors. • Mass Gatherings and Events – not permitted. Any event that has been previously planned during the lockdown period will not be permitted to go ahead.
	<p>Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you can work from home, you must work from home. • Essential Workers and workplaces are defined below.
Education and Childcare	<p>Early childhood education and care (eg childcare, family day care, early learning centres) and out of school hours care (eg vacation care, before and after school care):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted to remain open for staff, vulnerable children and the children whose parents or carers cannot work from home.
	<p>Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools open for school-based staff, vulnerable children and the children whose parents or carers cannot work from home.
	<p>Higher Education and Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed. Remote learning only.
Public Transport	<p>Buses and Light Rail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating.
	<p>Taxis, Hire Car and Ride Share Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating.
Hospitality and Licensed Venues	<p>Cafes, Restaurants and Food Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed except for takeaway. • A café at a hospital, residential aged care facility, correctional centre, or one that provides food or drink to those experiencing homelessness are permitted to remain open.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School canteens are permitted to remain open. <p>Licensed Venues and Night Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed except for takeaway. • Nightclubs closed, but can trade as an off licence venue.
<p>Retail</p>	<p>Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The businesses outlined below can remain open. • Businesses should aim to provide click and collect arrangements wherever possible. • Shoppers should buy what they need and then leave – no browsing. • Density of one person per four square metres applies. <p>Essential Retail/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger • an indoor or outdoor market, but only to obtain groceries or fresh food • a bottleshop • a bank or financial institution • a post office • a news agent • a pharmacy • a petrol station (including a petrol station that sells groceries) • vehicle and mechanical repair services • hardware, building supplies • agricultural and rural supplies • laundry and dry cleaners • a pet store • a locksmith • a 'click and deliver' or 'click and collect' service this is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ordered by phone or internet

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ delivered to customers ○ collected by customers. <p>Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The businesses outlined below can remain open. • Businesses should aim to provide click and collect arrangements wherever possible. • Density of one person per four square metres applies.
	<p>Other Retail (General Retail)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed.
Places of Worship	<p>Religious gatherings and ceremonies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No in person gatherings permitted. • Live Streaming or broadcast or a service is permitted, with only the person(s) conducting the service, camera operator(s) and a translator permitted.
Funerals	<p>Funerals (indoor and outdoor):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 10 people (excludes persons necessary to conduct the funeral).
Weddings	<p>Weddings (indoor and outdoor):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 5 attendees (including the two persons being married, celebrant and two witnesses).
Fitness and Sport	<p>Gyms, Health Clubs, Fitness Centres or Wellness Centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed.
	<p>Personal Training/Bootcamps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not permitted, regardless of whether the activity is being undertaken indoors or outdoors.
	<p>Community Sport and Organised Sporting Activities (including Training Activities)</p>

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not permitted, regardless of whether indoors or outdoors. Training not permitted.
	Swimming Pools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed, except for hydrotherapy pools.
	Venues hosting professional sporting competitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open, with essential staff attending to ensure the safe running of the event. No spectators.
	Dance Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
Outdoor physical recreation and campgrounds	Campgrounds, Caravan Parks and Camp Sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Outdoor playgrounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Nature Reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed to the public. Essential staff may continue to attend work.
Community Facilities	Community Centre, Facility or Youth Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed, unless hosting essential public support services.
	Libraries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Indoor or Outdoor Play Centres

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
Play Centres, Arcades or Amusement centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Indoor or Outdoor Arcades or Amusement Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
Cultural Facilities, Attractions and Cultural Activities	Galleries, Museums, National Cultural Institutions and Historic Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed to the public. Essential staff may continue to attend work.
	Outdoor Attractions (Zoos and Attractions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed. Essential staff may continue to attend work.
	Choirs, Bands and Orchestras <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not permitted.
Performance Venues, Conference Venues and Cinemas	Theatres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed. Any event that has been previously organised will not be permitted to go ahead.
	Concert Venues, Auditoriums and Performance Halls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed Any event that has been previously organised will not be permitted to go ahead.
	Dance, Music and Concert Halls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Cinemas and Movie Theatres (including open air drive in cinemas) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Conference and Convention Venues

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed. Any event that has been previously organised will not be permitted to go ahead.
Hairdressing, beauty and personal services	Hairdressing and Barbers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Beauty Therapy, Day Spas, Nail Salons, Waxing Salons, Tanning Salons, Steam Rooms and Spas, Massage Parlours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed. Remedial massage services are regarded as Allied Health Services which can remain open.
	Tattoo Parlours and Body Modification Studios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
	Strip Clubs, Brothels, Escort Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed.
Gaming and gambling venues	Casinos, Clubs, Gambling Venues and Betting Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed. Venues with hospitality facilities can offer take away.
Real Estate Services and Auction Houses	House Inspections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person inspections not permitted. Online inspections are permitted
	Auctions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed. Online auctions are permitted.
	Auction Houses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new 'recreational' bookings to be taken during the defined lockdown period. Bookings may be accepted for:

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Category	Lockdown Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a person avoiding or escaping an emergency ○ a person who is an essential worker ○ a person requiring any other form of emergency accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals staying in temporary accommodation in the ACT, including short term or holiday accommodation, may stay at the accommodation until the booking expires and may extend their booking to remain in place, should the accommodation provider remain open. When bookings expire, travellers may leave the accommodation to return to their place of residence, or other accommodation. Whilst staying in the ACT, travellers must comply with the pause and assess directions.
Tours and transport	Tourism related facilities and activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed
	Tour transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed
Residential Aged Care Facilities	Visitor Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visitors permitted into aged care or other residential facility settings, except for end of life or other compassionate reasons, as approved by the Facility. • Essential workers permitted on premises. • Non-essential contractors are restricted from entry.
Hospital Visitors	Visitor Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visitors permitted into health care settings, except for end of life reasons, as a support partner for birth, a parent to accompany a child, or compassionate reasons, as approved by the Facility.. • Non-essential contractors are restricted from entry.
Consular and Diplomatic Services	Only essential services to be offered.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Essential providers include:

Category	Business / Service Type
Retail	<p>Essential Retail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger • an indoor or outdoor market, but only to obtain groceries or fresh food • a bottleshop • a bank or financial institution • a post office • a news agent • a pharmacy • a petrol station (including a petrol station that sells groceries) • vehicle and mechanical repair services • hardware, building supplies • agricultural and rural supplies • laundry and dry cleaners • a pet store • a locksmith • shops that predominately carry out repairs of mobile phones. • a 'click and deliver' or 'click and collect' service this is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ordered by phone or internet ○ delivered to customers ○ collected by customers. • Department stores (but only for essential retail purposes outlined above). <p>Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The businesses outlined above can remain open. • Businesses should aim to provide click and collect arrangements wherever possible. • Density of one person per four square metres applies.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]



ACT
Government

ACT Health

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)

Category	Business / Service Type
Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a restaurant, café, pub, bar, whether licensed or unlicensed, but only to the extent that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ it provides takeaway meals or drinks or a meal delivery service; or ○ it provides food or drink to the homeless • A café at a hospital, residential aged care facility, correctional centre, or one that provides food or drink to those experiencing homelessness. • School canteens.
Services:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essential government services • crisis support for individuals, children and families • disability support services (whether in home or out of home) • correctional centres, detention places or other places of custody • court, tribunal or commission services • essential consular and diplomatic services • a veterinary clinic • urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person or animal • essential child protection activities • a childcare, early learning centre, preschool or family day care provider • a primary or secondary school or college • a boarding school • removalist services, for essential removals which cannot be reasonably delayed • services connected with animal health, husbandry or welfare (including RSPCA) • commercial cleaners • urgent repair and maintenance services, including for example plumbing, electrical and heating repair. • Media and journalist

Commented [DMW(2): Comment from David Pryce
can we work to strengthen this to indicate that Access Canberra Service Centres would be closed in a hard lockdown (ie only online or telephone services)

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Essential Workers include:

Workers:

A person who is:

- working for an essential provider or business that is permitted to operate
- critical to, and involved in, the ACT's COVID-19 response
- a fly in fly out worker or a drive in drive out worker who is required for industry or business continuity and maintenance where the service is time-critical, who is responsible for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to the ACT
- a transport, freight or logistics driver
- employed as flight crew
- a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly or the person on the staff of such a member
- a member of the Commonwealth Parliament, or the person on the staff of such a member
- anyone required to ensure the functioning of the ACT Legislative Assembly or the Commonwealth Parliament
- Federal, State or Local Government worker determined to be essential by the relevant Head of the Government Agency

Any person who performs work that is essential for the continued operation of:

- essential health services
- funerary or mortuary services or related activities
- emergency services, including:
 - the State Emergency Services
 - fire fighting services
 - paramedical services
 - ambulance services
 - air ambulance and medical retrieval services
 - police services or protective services officers stationed on border duties or otherwise engaged in policing duties
 - military and defence services deployed for activities in the ACT

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Workers:

- state security or national security

- a wedding or a funeral
- specialist services at telecommunications stores to support telecommunications as a critical service

Any person who provides or works in the following:

- essential infrastructure and essential services required to maintain or protect the safety, health or welfare of the community or a section of the community (whether provided by a public or private undertaking), includes construction, maintenance and repair of such infrastructure.
- organisations that provide urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person or animal (for example, food banks, domestic and family violence services, RSPCA).
- urgent repair and maintenance services, including plumbing, electrical and heating repair.
- roadside assistance services.
- domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery services (including collection, treatment and disposal services).
- journalist and media services.
- services related to the administration of justice.
- essential legal services that are not able to be provided electronically.
- a factory or facility that is not able to be shut down without causing damage or loss to plant and equipment, but only those operations that are necessary to prevent that damage or loss.
- Building and road construction services.
- veterinarians and any staff to ensure the safe functioning of a veterinary clinic, including home visits where there is a genuine animal welfare issue.
- public transport, including taxis, rideshare services and other public passenger services.
- air transport, including the operation of airports.
- freight services, including postal and courier services.
- furniture removalists, but only where moves cannot be reasonably delayed.
- essential security services
- a blood bank.
- care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition.
- production and distribution of:

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Workers:

- food and groceries for sale by a supermarket, butcher, fruit and vegetable store, market or fishmonger (including for sale by operators of such premises at an indoor or outdoor market)
- liquor for sale at a bottle shop
- medical and pharmaceutical products.
- primary industries only to the extent necessary to ensure adequate supply of food to, and care of, animals and maintenance of crops.
- a hotel, motel or other accommodation facility to the extent that they provide accommodation services in accordance with approved reasons.
- manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary for or related to supporting defence or security industries or construction and building industries.
- Maintenance of essential research activities.

Essential Health Providers to undertake necessary healthcare services

Providers:

- Telehealth or other virtual care options should be considered wherever possible and where clinically appropriate.
- Emergency surgery, procedures and medical consulting undertaken for the investigation, diagnosis and management of conditions where failure to do so expediently and safely will lead to the following outcomes:
 - loss of life; or
 - loss of limb; or
 - permanent disability.
- Non-emergency but urgent surgery, procedures and medical consulting undertaken for the investigation, diagnosis and management of conditions where failure to do so in a clinically appropriate timeframe will lead to a predictable and evidence based outcome as follows:
 - loss of life where appropriate health intervention would otherwise have prevented this; or
 - permanent disability where appropriate health intervention would otherwise have prevented this; or

Commented [DMW(3)]: Minister's Comments:

Unclear what the benefit of delaying other emergency surgery is? For example, time sensitive plastics. Is this about reducing aerosolising anaesthetics as much as possible?

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Providers:

- where clinical evidence supports an increased risk should appropriate health intervention be significantly delayed.
- emergency and licensed non-emergency patient transport.
- any health services provided in a hospital or in a community health facility, including immunisation and vaccination services.
- An appointment at an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Health Service.
- any health services provided by a general practitioner.
- any health services provided by nursing professionals or midwives.
- any health services provided at a hospital radiology service (other than routine screening services).
- any dental services provided to patients with urgent needs, or where failure to provide care in a clinically appropriate timeframe will lead to adverse outcomes.
- the following allied health services:
 - allied health services provided by allied health professionals working as essential workers in hospitals or in residential care facilities providing critical clinical care;
 - allied health services provided by allied health professionals working in private practice or community services;
 - students, medical/nursing/midwifery/allied health on placement providing essential care in hospitals or in residential care facilities.
- the following mental health services:
 - the hospital emergency or inpatient psychiatric services;
 - allied health professionals providing mental health services in hospital;
 - private consultant psychiatry practice;
 - allied health professionals providing mental health services in community settings.
- procedures to complete:
 - any cycle of IVF treatment that a patient has commenced before the commencement of the public health direction; or
 - any procedure required for the preservation of eggs for future IVF where required health treatment will render eggs non-viable.
- termination of pregnancy.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Providers:

- drug and alcohol services.
- the conduct of human medical research trials.

ACT Government – Lockdown – Summary of Potential Restrictions

From [Insert Time] on [Insert Date] to [Insert Time] on [Insert Date]

(The information below provides a guide on the various points of consideration that will take place. Restrictions may change depending on the outbreak situation that is being managed.)



ACT
Government

ACT Health

Professional sport

Providers:

- Professional athletes.
- Individuals who are required to attend a venue to ensure the safe running of a professional-sporting event.
- No spectators permitted into the event venue.



OVERVIEW OF LOCKDOWN COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE

July 2021

Introduction

- The preparation of the COVID-19 Lockdown communications package is well advanced.
- In order to prepare materials a lockdown plan was developed with input from each directorate to ensure that if required, the roll out of public information regarding restrictions in the ACT is smooth and consistent.
- The communications package is currently in DRAFT form and yet to be provided widely due to information gaps (which can only be filled as the situation unfolds).
- The package is designed to provide high level templates that enable each directorate to adapt to suit individual stakeholder and directorate needs whilst maintaining consistency.
- The PICC has been working with directorates in the development of targeted collateral.



Objectives and audience

Objectives

- **Protect** - to 'protect our community' to help 'stop the spread' of COVID-19.
- **Inform** - to help advise and inform the community that the ACT will be implementing lockdown phases to assess and manage the risks of COVID-19 community transmission.
- **Communicate** – the impacts of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Lockdowns and clearly articulate the acceptable reasons for leaving home.

Audience

- General public with creative targeted to specific groups:
 - ACT residents
 - ACT residents that work in NSW
 - Non-ACT residents wishing to enter the ACT for essential reasons
 - The vulnerable, or close contacts of vulnerable
 - Restricted businesses / Essential businesses
 - Aged care facilities and workers
 - Health care settings and health care workers
 - Essential workers, workplaces and education settings
 - CALD communities
 - High density residences
 - Young people



CALD communities

- Previous experience has demonstrated the need for targeted and appropriate communications for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- The PICC will work closely with CSD to ensure that messaging is fit-for-purpose and to support community outreach with communications materials.
- Communication materials will be translated.
- The PICC will work closely with local ethnic media to ensure appropriate messages are distributed to CALD communities.



Key messages

- There are two distinct messaging approaches to reflect the situation and relevant risk to the ACT community.
- Phase 1 – Lockdown: pause and assess the risk and associated restrictions.
- Phase 2 – Lockdown: minimise community transmission through increased restrictions.
- Messaging will be adapted to align with these two phases and will be used across channels as appropriate, with priority/hierarchy assigned as the situation evolves.
- All ACT Government channels will focus on COVID-19 related messaging as it applies to their directorate.



Communications Pack

General Public

- DRAFT media statement
- DRAFT radio lines
- DRAFT Community Partners Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) - in consultation with CSD
- DRAFT Our Canberra (EDM and website)

Stakeholder/Business

- Specific Lockdown business pack including posters, fact sheets, digital tiles etc.
- DRAFT Business Partners EDM (in consultation with ED)
- DRAFT Community Partners EDM (in consultation with CSD)
- Translated information for Website
- Easy English translation

Internal Communications

- Head of Service DRAFT message
- Director General DRAFT message (with room for specifics to be added)
- Wallpapers & digital signs for ACT Government buildings



Channels

Owned

- ACT Health Facebook and Twitter
- ACT Govt Twitter & Facebook / ACT Policing
- Website – COVID-19
- Our Canberra (EDM and website)
- Daily COVID-19 update media statement

Paid

- Social/digital advertising
- Radio ads and live reads
- Outdoor - roadside signs (printed and digital), Billboards

Earned

- Hotel, business, community services and other tourism operator messages - distribute through ED channels
- Promote through schools and health networks
- Partnership with ABC as the Emergency Broadcaster
- Signage at airport, bus depots, train station



Creative and design approach

Public Health Alert

The ACT is in lockdown

We are assessing the current COVID-19 situation to protect the Canberra community.



ACT Government

covid19.act.gov.au



Public Health Alert

Confirmed COVID-19 case

in the ACT



ACT Government

covid19.act.gov.au



Public Health Alert

Exposure locations in the ACT

Placeholder for date



ACT Government

covid19.act.gov.au



Social media – Lockdown phase 1



Social media – Lockdown phase 2



Signs/posters – directorates/venues



We are closed
until further notice
due to COVID-19

Due to restrictions associated with COVID-19 we are currently closed.

We want to thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

For the latest information go to www.covid19.act.gov.au



covid19.act.gov.au



The ACT is in lockdown

Public transport restrictions in place

Due to restrictions associated with COVID-19 there are travel restrictions in place. You should only use public transport for essential purposes.

There are interim bus and light rail services in place.

Please ensure you use 'Check In CBR' for all essential travel.

For travel information go to: www.transport.act.gov.au

For the latest COVID-19 information go to: www.covid19.act.gov.au



covid19.act.gov.au



Public space closed

Due to restrictions associated with COVID-19 this public space is currently closed to the general public until further notice.

While this site may not be fenced off, please do not use it.

For all enquiries please contact:
Phone: 13 22 81
Web: www.cityservices.act.gov.au

For the latest COVID-19 information go to: www.covid19.act.gov.au



covid19.act.gov.au



Signs/posters – directorates



Due to restrictions associated with COVID-19 this library is currently closed to the general public until further notice.

For all enquiries please contact:
 Phone: 6205 9000
 Web: www.library.act.gov.au

For the latest COVID-19 information go to: www.covid19.act.gov.au



covid19.act.gov.au



Due to restrictions associated with COVID-19 the Yarralumla Nursery is currently closed.

For all enquiries please contact:
 6207 2447

For the latest COVID-19 information go to: www.covid19.act.gov.au



covid19.act.gov.au



This Health facility is still open however restrictions are in place:

<<To be updated as required>>

- You must wear a mask.
- Maximum of XX visitors.
- Physical distancing.
- Check in
- Hygiene
- Limited visiting hours are in place.
- Additional information as needed

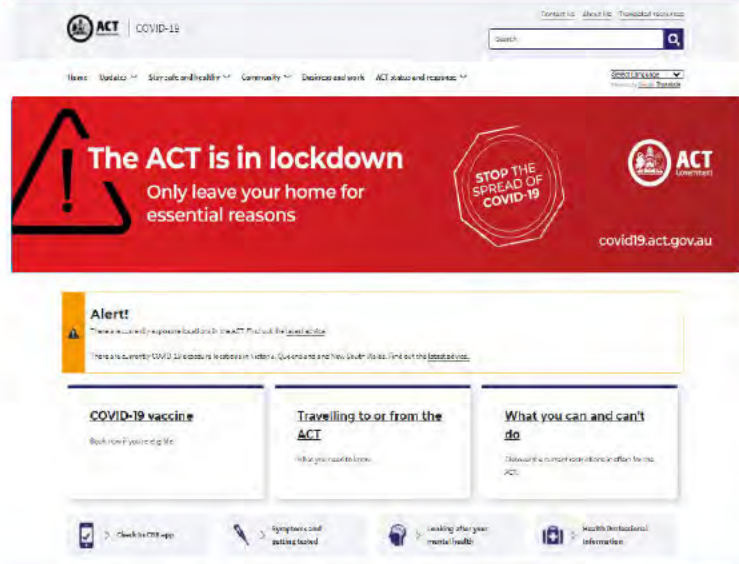
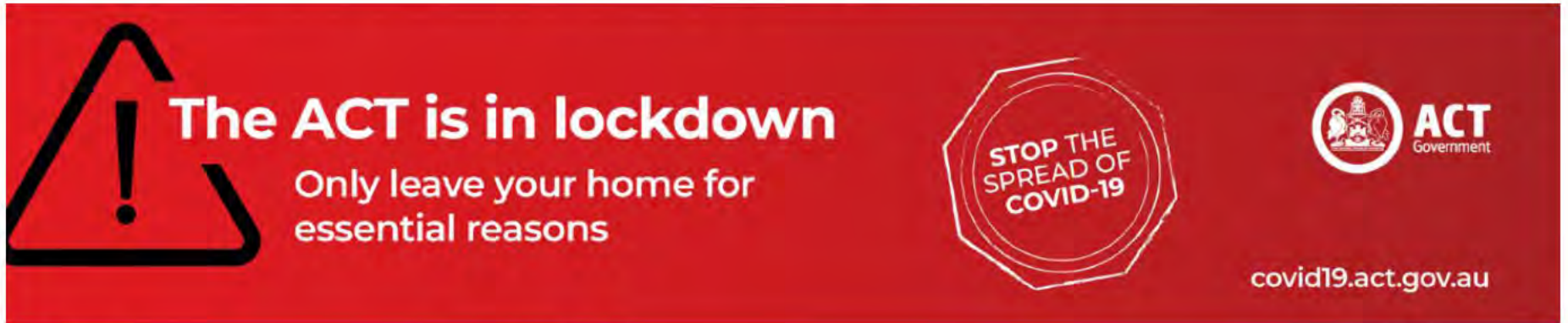
For the latest COVID-19 information go to: www.covid19.act.gov.au



covid19.act.gov.au



Website and email header (EDM)



Digital advertising



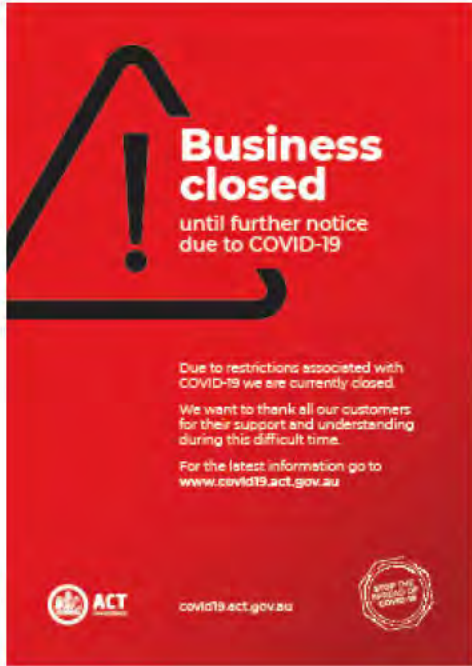
Canberra Times Billboard - 970 x 250



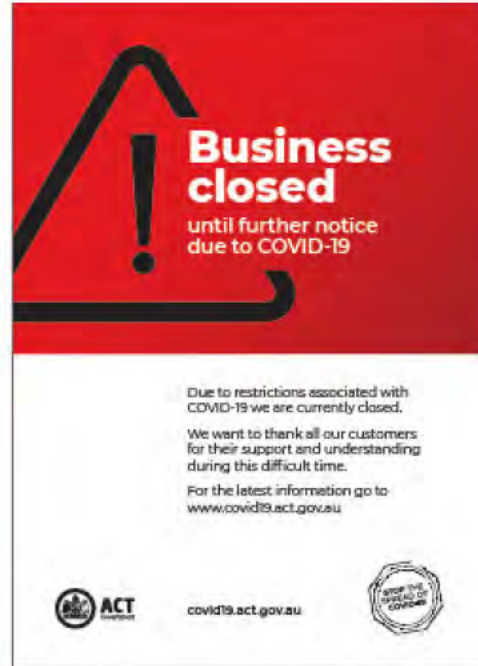
Canberra Times Billboard - 300 x 50



Business pack



Business poster - 1



Business poster - 2



Airport billboard



Sample digital road signs



Sample text message

Sample only
(160-character limit)



ACT Government desktop wallpaper and digital screens



Sample radio ads

Sample radio script 30 sec version 1

Tone – serious, calm, reassuring narrator (i.e. not enforcement tone)

The ACT will go into Lockdown on XX/XX to help protect our community from COVID-19.

You can only leave your home for essential reasons.

<UPDATE REASONS BELOW>

- essential work or study*
- childcare arrangements, where you need to undertake essential work or study*
- to shop for essentials*
- for medical needs*
- to get a COVID-19 vaccination*
- to exercise outdoors for one hour per day*
- due to an emergency.*

For other advice, visit [covid19 dot act dot gov dot au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au) or call the ACT COVID-19 helpline on 02 6207 7244.

Let's all play our part to stop the spread.

Authorised by the ACT Government, Canberra.

Sample Radio script 15 sec version 2

Tone – serious, calm, reassuring narrator (i.e. not enforcement tone)

The ACT is now in Lockdown to help protect our community from COVID-19.

You can only leave home for essential reasons.

For advice on what these reasons are, visit [covid19 dot act dot gov dot au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au) or call the ACT COVID-19 helpline on 02 6207 7244.

Authorised by the ACT Government, Canberra.




Translated materials




Do you need information in your language about the COVID-19 virus and what you should do to stay safe?

www.covid19.act.gov.au/community/translated-resources



**COVID-19
TRANSLATED
RESOURCES**



Support messaging – masks, mental health, testing, domestic and family violence,

Face masks are mandatory in the ACT when out in the community



Keep CBR safe & strong

ACT Government

[covid19.act.gov.au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au)

Use Check In CBR to keep CBR safe and strong



Check In CBR app means faster contact tracing.

DOWNLOAD NOW

ACT Government

COVID-19 TESTING EXPANDED

STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

For updates, visit [covid19.act.gov.au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au)



ACT Government



YOU DON'T NEED TO STAY HOME IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES ARE **OPEN AND READY TO HELP**

visit [covid19.act.gov.au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au)

ACT Government



Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 12:33 PM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: epidemic_sit_report_20_July.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:32:01 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
(Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Coleman,
Johnston, Vanessa

Subject: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [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.

Good afternoon Members

Please find attached the epidemic situational assessment report for this week for your information.

Kind Regards



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to 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."

Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 5:08 PM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : CDGN SARS-CoV-2 VOC Literature Summary and Laboratory Case Definitions - 19 July 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: FINAL - CDGN VOC Literature Summary - 19 July 2021.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 5:07:49 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Coleman,
 Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au> Johnston, Vanessa
 (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Subject: For Information : CDGN SARS-CoV-2 VOC Literature Summary and Laboratory Case Definitions - 19 July 2021 [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.

Good afternoon Members,

Please find attached the latest Communicable Diseases Genomics Network (CDGN) *literature summary on known and emerging SARS-CoV-2 genomic variants and mutations of concern* for your information.

Many thanks to CDGN for developing this report.

Kind regards,



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to 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."

Out of Scope

Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 9:47 AM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: epidemic_sit_report_28_July.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 9:44:41 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
 (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

[REDACTED] Coleman, Kerryn
 [REDACTED] Johnston, Vanessa

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [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.

Good morning Members

Please find attached the epidemic situational assessment report for this week for your information.

Kind Regards



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to 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."

Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 12 August 2021 10:33 AM
To: Ryan, Liam (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Connell, Patrick (Health)
Subject: FW: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: epidemic_sit_report_10_August.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Add to AHPPC tracker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 10:30:09 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Coleman,
 Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
 [REDACTED] Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>;

Subject: For Information : Epidemic situational assessment report [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.

Good morning Members

Please find attached the **epidemic situational assessment report** for this week for your information.

Best wishes,



Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

Office of Health Protection | Australian Government Department of Health
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to 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."

Communications on a page

Issue: Preparing for COVID-19 'pause and assess'

Directorate: ACT Health Directorate

Release date: TBA – dependant on COVID-19 cases

<p>What is government's involvement/interest?</p>	<p>The ACT Government is actively managing the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. There is concern that the recent case numbers and the nature of the cases in greater Sydney could lead to an outbreak in the ACT.</p> <p>Directorates are now preparing to be ready to move into a 'pause and assess' scenario. This COAP outlines the communications that will be enacted when a 'pause and assess' is announced. It is important that in communicating to staff, we also acknowledge that the changed arrangements may trigger stress, isolation and uncertainty for some. It is important to positively influence and foster positive organisational culture – at a time when staff are experiencing another round of significant change.</p> <p>This plan provides for the use of quality communication channels that we know work well for staff and considers alternative channels that can be incorporated to ensure staff are well supported.</p> <p>A Whole of Government communications pack will supplement this COAP – to be made available within one hour of a pause and assess period being announced.</p>		
<p>Why are we communicating on this issue?</p>	<p>Our objective is to clearly communicate any 'pause and assess' decision to staff, as quickly as possible, and as accurately as possible to reduce stress on staff and enable continuity of their work. In doing so, we will provide the information that staff will need to continue to work from home and be safe and healthy.</p>		
<p>Does it cross over other Directorates/ agencies?</p>	<p><i>The whole of the ACTPS will be impacted. This communication is just for ACTHD</i></p>	<p>Spokesperson</p>	<p><i>Rebecca Cross speaks on behalf of the ACT Health Directorate</i></p>
<p>Communications project tier</p>	<p><i>Targeted, internal communication plan. Content will develop continuously as the Pause and Assess situation evolves</i></p>		
<p>Target audience</p>			
<p>ACT Health Directorate staff – delineating:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential workers • Non- essential workers • Front facing staff • Non-front facing staff • NBHF 		
<p>Non-government organisations (NGO)s</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organisations providing direct services 		
<p>Whole of Government communications and support</p>	<p>A Communications Plan has been developed by CMTEDD to outline whole of government communications. This plan provides for the development of whole of government messaging and information and brand and assets.</p>		

Approved by: Jo Spencer, Executive Branch Manager [REDACTED]

Action officer: Angie Drake [REDACTED] 48995 or healthcomms@act.gov.au

Date: 10 August 2021

Communications on a page

Issue: Preparing for COVID-19 'pause and assess'

Directorate: ACT Health Directorate

Release date: TBA – dependant on COVID-19 cases

Key Messages

Note: The communications team will continue to work with the Whole of Government communications team through CMTEDD to prepare a final comm's pack. This comms pack will be provided to Directorate communications teams within one hour of a pause and assess scenario commencing and will allow for customisation and dissemination. Communication will commence with a Head of Services message to all ACT Public Servants.

- The ACT is now in a 'pause and assess' arrangement for the next XX days
- The pause and assess situation restricts movement across our community to contain the spread and allow contract tracers to do their work
 - Pause and assess is to support rapid effective contact tracing and stop further transmission of the virus as the situation unfolds
 - The pause and assess mirrors the stay-at-home requirements which are used for outbreaks in other jurisdictions. This means that during a pause and assess period, all community members would be required to stay at home except for the following reasons:
 - to undertake essential work or study, if you cannot work or study from home or remotely
 - to attend usual childcare arrangements, where parents or guardians need to undertake essential work or study
 - to shop for essentials like groceries, medicine and necessary supplies
 - to attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements, and looking after the vulnerable
 - to attend a facility to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, where you are eligible for a vaccination in the ACT, an appointment has been booked, and you are not in isolation or in quarantine
 - to exercise outdoors, limited to one hour per day
 - for essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere)
 - leaving due to an emergency.
 - More information can be found at <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/act-status-and-response/be-prepared>
- Importantly, the pause and assess will also ensure that we don't put additional pressure on our health services.
- The pause and assess is in effect from [XX:XX on XX Date for X days] and will be reviewed at the completion of that time

Communications on a page

Issue: Preparing for COVID-19 'pause and assess'

Directorate: ACT Health Directorate

Release date: TBA – dependant on COVID-19 cases

- This means that all Health Directorate staff are required to work from home unless you are identified as an essential worker.
- If you are an essential worker, you will receive an email about this and what it means for your working arrangements during a Pause and Assess.
- If you require more information, you can also speak to your Manager.
- Managers will be making contact with direct reports to confirm changes and check on staff wellbeing.
- Most staff should have their laptop, charger and headset already set up and able to operate from home.
- It is important that everyone continues to observe social distancing and hygiene requirements including the wearing of a mask in public facing roles, and regular hand sanitising.
- More information for Health Directorate staff can be found on the ACT Health HQ Intranet page
- If staff have concerns or require additional support, they should speak to their Manager
- [insert information about exemption/letters for those staff who need to attend the workplace]
- More information about Pause and Assess can be found here - <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/act-status-and-response/be-prepared>
- And don't forget that all information relating to the ACT response to COVID-19 can be obtained at www.COVID19.act.gov.au and on the Health HQ intranet page.
- Links below for staff support
 - Assure – telephone 1800 808 374 or <https://assureprograms.com.au/>
 - Converge – telephone 1300 687 327 or <https://www.convergeinternational.com.au/>
 - Benstar – telephone 1300 360 364 or <https://www.benestar.com/>
 - PeopleSense – telephone 1300 307 912 or <https://www.peoplesense.com.au/psychological-services/clinical-services/employee-assistance-program>

Communications on a page

Issue: Preparing for COVID-19 'pause and assess'

Directorate: ACT Health Directorate

Release date: TBA – dependant on COVID-19 cases

Action plan – how will we reach the target audience?

Note: A communication pack will be provided to Directorate communication teams within one hour of a pause and assess period commencing. The communication will commence with a Head of Service Message to all ACT Public Servants.

Date	Communications collateral	Attachm ent	Responsibility
	DG SMS to Executive (if outside of core business hours) SMS to be sent to ACT Health Directorate Executive to alert of the move to pause and assess, with cascading messages to division staff		ODG
	ACT Health workforce (if outside of core business hours) SMS to be sent to all workers to provide information about forthcoming messaging and workplace requirements using ESA emergency SMS system	A	ACTHD People Strategy
TBA	New DG Banner for Pause and Assess emails The new banner will be a variation on the existing email banner that the DG uses to send out for her email messages – it will be clear to recipients that the message relates to the COVID-19 pause and assess. This has been used successfully in other directorates in the past and assists users to prioritise messages when busy.	B	
TBA	New Pause and Assess/COVID-19 WFH SharePoint page This page is the 'window' to all of the information that already exists across the ACTHD and the ACTPS – however the value that this new portal provides is that it can be designed to focus the attention on the most important information at this time. We can control what is seen as 'important' in how we design the page. The page will also be a repository for all COVID-19 DG Messages. The latest FAQ will be provided on this page	C – page mock up	Comms (with support from line areas to review existing material)
TBA	Revision of existing Health Intranet information With the assistance of the line areas, this work is already underway to contemporise existing information.	D – List of existing info	Line areas (with prompting from comms)
TBA	DG Messages – specific to lockdown (stand-alone messages) – all messages located on the New Sharepoint page	E – Draft #1	Comms (with support from ODG)
TBA	DG Weekly Wrap Up The weekly wrap provides a perfect opportunity to wrap up the week (and especially where changes have occurred) and reflect on staff wellbeing and support. Where the weekly standalone messages are more technical in nature – the weekly Wrap Up messages can focus on ensuring staff are well and supported.		Comms (with support from ODG)

Approved by: Jo Spencer, Executive Branch Manager

Action officer: Angie Drake 48995 or healthcomms@act.gov.au

Date: 10 August 2021

Communications on a page

Issue: Preparing for COVID-19 'pause and assess'

Directorate: ACT Health Directorate

Release date: TBA – dependant on COVID-19 cases

TBA	Weekly/Fortnightly DG As things change, it important that the DG makes herself available regularly for quick verbal updates. This provides an opportunity for information sharing, familiarisation and importantly for staff to ask questions. As the revised arrangements become the new normal – depending on how long this goes for – the DG's constant and regular voice can reduce confusion and uncertainty.		ODG/support from comms
TBA	DG Video blog (twice a week) This is a new idea that could be used to engage every couple of days with staff. The DG could take the time to film herself for 30 seconds to 2 minutes – covering one or two most current topics and then we can send it out/post it to the News page.		ODG/Support from comms
TBA	Desktop Wallpaper Outlining new page – pause and assess details Message to staff 'Support each other'		Comms
TBA	Talking Points for Managers/toolkit Support your staff – ways to engage – things to be thinking about in a pause and assess		Comms/P&C culture

Attachment A
Draft SMS message to all staff (to be used if outside of core business hours)

“The ACT Government has updated advice on COVID-19 in the ACT. The ACT is now in Pause and Assess. Please check your emails for a message from the Director General about what this means for you. For more information on Pause and Assess visit

<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/act-status-and-response/be-prepared> “

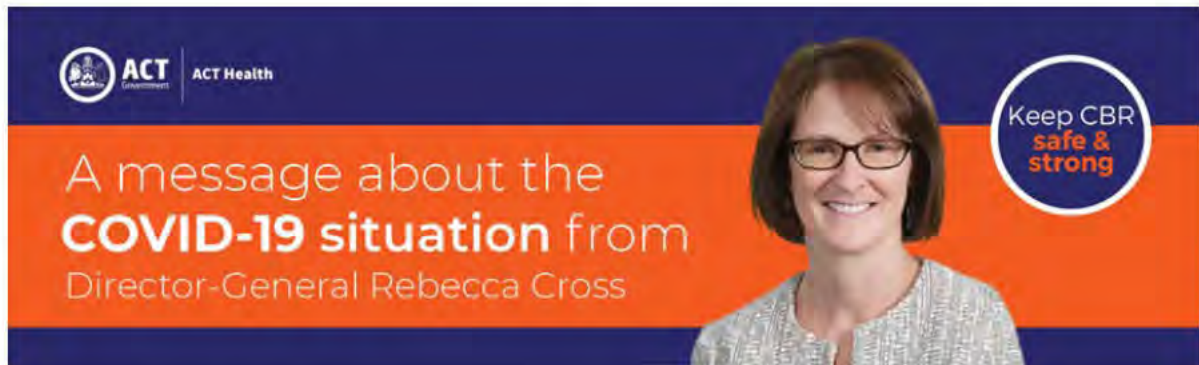
Approved by: Jo Spencer, Executive Branch Manager

 Action officer: Angie Drake 48995 or healthcomms@act.gov.au

Date: 10 August 2021

Attachment B

New COVID-19 DG banner for internal messages



Attachment C

New page mock-up – 'Pause and Assess staff information'



Communications on a page

Issue: Preparing for COVID-19 'pause and assess'

Directorate: ACT Health Directorate

Release date: TBA – dependant on COVID-19 cases

A new Pagetype category called 'staff information COVID-19' will be created so that we can filter any internal news to this page – you can see that it sits just below the hero banner with its own section, directly above the news items for ease of location.

A new hero image will replace the existing NAIDCOC banner to link to the new Pause and Assess page – with the same colours as the new DG banner (purple and orange) for clarity. If this occurs, the NAIDCOC banner will move to the bottom right.

Attachment D

Existing information for updating

[https://actgovernment.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet-ACTHealth/SitePages/Communicable-Disease-\(COVID-19\)-Work-Health-and-Safety-Information\(1\).aspx](https://actgovernment.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet-ACTHealth/SitePages/Communicable-Disease-(COVID-19)-Work-Health-and-Safety-Information(1).aspx)

Documents that require updating:

- Frequently Asked Questions – to be circulated as separate document and added to the new 'Pause and Assess' page.

Existing information will stay and continue to be updated as required – as information is provided by verified sources (ACTWhoG messages etc).

Communicable Disease (COVID-19) Work Health and Safety Information

What's new

- [Frequently Asked Questions - ACT Health](#)
- [ACTPS Requirements for Wearing Face Masks](#)
- [COVID19 Vaccination and Leave Arrangements](#)
- [Guide to Bowes Street Operations for 2021](#)
- [Working from Home Checklist](#)
- [ACTPS WHS Information: Managing a Hybrid Team](#)
- [COVID19 Vaccinations and Working in the ACTPS](#)
- [ACTPS Guide to Managing Workers Who Visit Designated COVID19 Areas](#)

For more information contact People Strategy by e-mailing HDHR@act.gov.au or calling 5124 9201



ACT Health Directorate HR
HDHR@act.gov.au

Information

Up to date information about the status of the current [novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) is provided on the [COVID-19 ACT website](#).

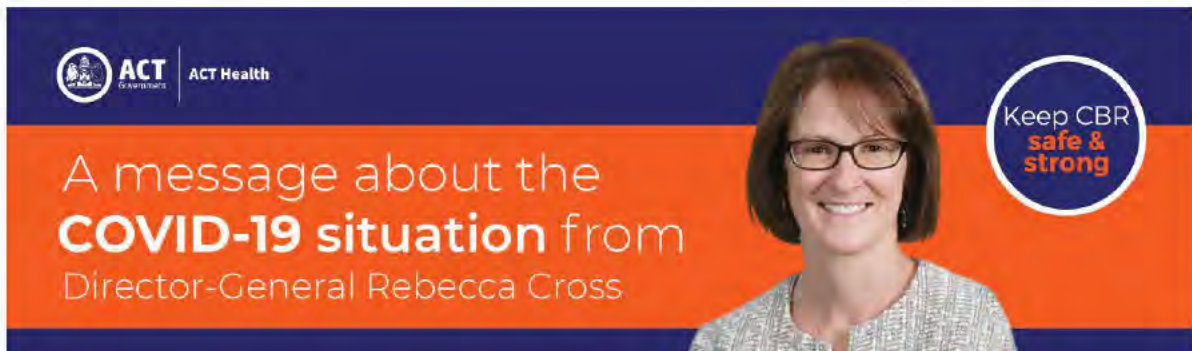
The [ACT COVID-19 Website](#) provides information about the action that people should take.

ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD), as an employer, is implementing work health and safety and [business continuity](#) plans to ensure the health and safety of staff and to maintain our services to the community.

The [COVID-19 Respiratory Communicable Disease WHS Action Plan](#) provides information about the steps that are being taken.

Attachment E

Draft DG message(s) **SAMPLE** – actual approved content will be provided at time of pause and assess period commencing



ACT has entered Pause and Assess arrangements

I am writing to confirm that the ACT will commence a [pause and assess](#) period from [from] to [to].

The purpose of Pause and Assess means is to support rapid effective contact tracing and stop further transmission of the virus as the situation unfolds. The pause and assess mirrors stay-at-home requirements which are used for outbreaks in other jurisdictions.

All ACT Health Directorate workers have now been contacted via SMS to let you know about the changes and to look out for more messaging via email.

All ACT Health Directorate employees are now required to undertake their work from home unless you have been identified as an essential worker. Essential workers have now received notification via SMS message along with all Health Directorate staff. If you have questions or concerns in the first instance, please speak to your Manager

Depending on where you are for this period, please continue to follow the guidelines for mask wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene. Please also remember that now, more than ever, it is important that you use the check-in app every time you enter a facility, workplace, store or business. **This is mandatory.**

I have asked that your manager make contact with you over this pause and assess period to make sure you have what you need to work safely and comfortably while this arrangement is in place.

If you need to come to the office to collect equipment or personal belongings, please discuss this with your manager before taking any action so that appropriate arrangements can be considered.

A new SharePoint page has been created to make sure you can easily locate the information that you need and existing material has been updated.

Approved by: Jo Spencer, Executive Branch Manager [REDACTED]

Action officer: Angie Drake [REDACTED] 48995 or healthcomms@act.gov.au

Date: 10 August 2021

Communications on a page

Issue: Preparing for COVID-19 'pause and assess'

Directorate: ACT Health Directorate

Release date: TBA – dependant on COVID-19 cases

I understand this can be a difficult time for some so please do not hesitate to reach out to your manager or others supports if you need assistance. [Include information here about EAP's etc].

If you have concerns or questions, please email XXXXXX / speak to your Manager.

DRAFT

Approved by: Jo Spencer, Executive Branch Manager [REDACTED]

Action officer: Angie Drake [REDACTED] 48995 or healthcomms@act.gov.au

Date: 10 August 2021

What is government's involvement/interest?	To provide rapid communications to the community and Directorates in response to a snap COVID-19 Canberra lockdown.
Why are we communicating on this issue?	In the event of a snap lockdown in the ACT, clear and concise information will need to be made available to the community and to key government stakeholders in a timely way.
Does it cross over other Directorates/agencies?	Yes.
Spokespeople:	<p>Government</p> <p><u>Ministerial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Minister, • Minister for Health, • other relevant Minister/s as required (e.g. Police and Emergency Services, Education, Transport, Business and better regulation). <p><u>Operational management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Chief Health Officer (Incident Controller), • ACT Chief Police Officer, • Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services (Deputy Incident Controller – clinical operations), • Other relevant Directorate/facility/service spokespeople as required (e.g. Education, Transport Canberra).
Communications project tier:	In response to COVID-19.
Timing:	Information will be issued by the Public Information Coordination Centre (PICC) as the situation unfolds. This communications plan is drafted with consideration to the first 72 hrs of the response.

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<p>Communication approach:</p>	<p>This communications plan has been developed to outline the PICC response to a situation of escalating community transmission, and in the event control measures need to be implemented, in the form of a snap lockdown, to contain the cluster/outbreak. Separate communications plans have been developed to support communications for positive cases in the ACT and outbreaks in high-risk settings.</p> <p>Communications will need to be timely, responsive to changing circumstances and use a coordinated set of approaches through several channels.</p> <p>Dissemination of the top-level messaging will be managed by the PICC.</p> <p>Key external approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media engagement – daily COVID-19 update media statement and press conference/Facebook live. Follow-up proactive media opportunities as available. • Messaging issued predominantly through ACT Government digital platforms across identified message pillars – social media, web and the Our Canberra e-newsletter. • Key messaging provided to other Directorates to embed in own communication outreach, including hard to reach and vulnerable audiences. • Update of Always On campaign messaging – radio and digital (search and social media) advertising. • Roadside and other ACT Government digital signage. <p>Key internal approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) regular in person briefings and dissemination of situation reports. - Coordinated Communications Network (CCN) regular meetings and dissemination of messaging. - Whole of Government messages and Directorate messages. <p>Campaign branding A specific lockdown brand should be used to ensure information is distinct from existing Covid-19 communications to date.</p> <p>The brand and assets will be developed, managed and distributed to Directorates by the PICC.</p> <p>Working with other Directorates In the event of a snap lockdown, the PICC will surge up resources from across ACT Government communications teams to support the response for the period of the snap lockdown.</p> <p>The PICC will also work closely with other Directorates through the CCN to disseminate information quickly through ACT Government channels as appropriate. This includes, having specific Liaison Officers from Directorates and Agencies in the PICC as required, and holding regular CCN meetings to ensure a coordinated communications approach.</p>
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In addition, overarching key messages and relevant assets will be updated regularly and circulated to Directorates for them to use as a basis for their own communications with their stakeholders and audiences. See information flow chart at [Attachment A](#), which outlines how messaging will flow from the response through the PICC and disseminated out through communication channels.

Stakeholder engagement

To support this Communications Plan, relevant Directorates have undertaken a stakeholder mapping and messaging exercise. As part of this, Directorates have:

1. Identified key stakeholders for issues that would be associated with a snap lockdown, and
2. Outlined what we would communicate to them about those issues.

See collated stakeholder mapping and messaging at [Attachment B](#).

Key messages

Messaging will fit in to **distinct pillars** and be used across channels as appropriate, with priority/hierarchy assigned as the situation evolves.

The below dot points have been drafted to provide a guide to potential required messages and would be reviewed and assessed on going into the lockdown.

PILLAR 1: Lockdown requirements

- Why the lockdown is occurring [*XX cases of infectious strain in community*].
- The lockdown will restrict movement across our community to slow the spread and allow contact tracers to do their work.
- The lockdown will ensure that we don't put additional pressure on our health services.
- The lockdown is in effect from [XX:XX on XX Date for X days] and will be reviewed at that time.
- There are six reasons you can leave your home during this lockdown:
 - for essential work,
 - to access healthcare or provide help and care to others,
 - to exercise in your neighbourhood [*km radius*],
 - to buy essential groceries and medicine,
 - to get tested, and
 - to get vaccinated.
- Supermarkets will remain open for the duration of the lockdown. We encourage all Canberrans to buy only what they need, maintain social distancing and be considerate.
- You will need to wear a face mask in all indoor public places and outdoors where physical distancing is not possible.
- A list of businesses and services that can remain open and any restrictions, is available on the COVID-19 website.
- You should stay up to date on the evolving situation at [covid19.act.gov.au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au).

PILLAR 2: Health response

- There are currently [XX] active cases in the ACT community.

- Following contact tracing there are new exposure sites *[LIST]*, please keep up to date at [covid19.gov.au](https://www.covid19.gov.au) as these will be added to over time.
- We have *[XX]* testing clinics open, *[LOCATIONS]*. People with even the mildest of symptoms should come forward and get tested.
- Please be patient at the clinics as demand for testing increases.
- If you do need to go out and cannot socially distance, we encourage everyone to wear masks.
- Everyone should continue to maintain good hygiene practices to keep Canberra safe and strong.
- It is important during this time to ensure people check in with our most vulnerable and elderly community members.
- Lockdowns can be challenging for many people and people are encouraged to seek support with Lifeline if you are having a difficult time. There are also a range of resources available at [headtohealth.gov.au](https://www.headtohealth.gov.au)

PILLAR 3: Travel restrictions, border closures and border residents

- Checkpoints will be set up at the ACT borders. Canberra Policing will be checking all entry in to our community.
- Canberra residents should not travel outside of the ACT at this time.
- The ACT border *[will be closed/is closed]* to non-Canberra residents.
- Canberra residents currently outside the ACT are encouraged to stay where they are if possible. If you must return, residents will need to provide identification at the border/airport and on entry must comply with the lockdown rules.
- ACT border residents who need to enter the ACT will need to show their *[EXEMPTION/PASS]* at the border to enter and exit the ACT.
- We expect that there will be delays at checkpoints, please be patient and factor in delays to any essential travel.

PILLAR 4: Canberra services

- Schools will close for the period of the lockdown, parents are asked to keep children at home. ACT Education will provide further details around lesson plans and resources for this time.
- *[XX]* schools will be open for essential workers children, who cannot provide care at home.
- Transport ACT will continue to run services *(TBC emergency, Sunday, PH timetables)* across the Canberra network.
- ACT Emergency Services will continue to operate.
- ACT Hospitals will remain open *(INSERT INFO RE ELECTIVE SURGERIES ETC AS APPROPRIATE)* however no visitors will be allowed.
- ACT Policing will be in the community enforcing lockdown rules.
- Aged care facilities, prisons, hospitals *(ADD AS NECESSARY)* are closed to visitors during this time.
- A list of businesses and services that can remain open and any restrictions, is available on the Covid-19 website.

PILLAR 5: Workplaces/business

- Workers who can work from home should do so.
- Employers are encouraged to work with employees around flexibility of hours where possible during this time.
- A full list of businesses and any restriction in place is available at [covid19act.gov.au](https://www.covid19act.gov.au).

Action plan

The below action plan sets out the key tasks required for the first 72 hours of the lockdown.

Channel	Internal/external activity	Key messaging/actions	Responsibility
HECC Ops briefing <i>(convened as required)</i>	Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear overview of situation and action to be taken immediate hours Messages to be developed out of this meeting for approvals 	
Directorate engagement <i>(convened as required)</i>	Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene CCN meeting and provide update to directorates and expectation of materials that will be available to them Key message document to be circulated to directorates regularly Provide communications assets as available 	- PICC (PIC/DPICs lead) - CCN
Media – statement and press conferences <i>(ongoing and evolving – expected to be held each day)</i>	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media alert Media statement Talking points for key spokespeople (as required) Facebook live on ACT Health Media engagement opportunities as they arise Timely response to media enquiries Website content published with current available information 	- PICC - Chief Minister/Minister for Health's office
Digital – website content <i>(updated as situation evolves)</i>	External – covid19.act.gov.au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated stats News Updates New lockdown page Updated exposure locations (close and casual) FAQs published (as required) <p><i>Note: see Attachment C for web template.</i></p>	- PICC
Digital – Social media content <i>(updated as situation evolves)</i>	External – ACT Health Facebook and Twitter accounts. Messaging to also be shared through other government accounts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook live of press conferences (captioning and Auslan if available) Rotate messaging through five identified pillars Create assets to support messaging 	- PICC - CMTEDD Comms
Stakeholder engagement	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue specific updates provided by Directorates. 	- Individual Directorates (as required)

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(updated as required)		Note: PICC to be informed of communication activities to ensure coordinated approach across Government.	
Physical and digital signage (updated as required)	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of signage to relevant locations – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy roadside signage (VMS and permanent) Deploy digital ACT Government signage (Access Canberra shopfronts, health facilities) Directorate signage requirements as needed (Schools, transport) 	- PICC - Individual Directorates (as required)
Access Canberra (updated as situation evolves)	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide messaging and scripts to answer queries On hold messaging Monitor incoming call themes and amend FAQs/social content to address recurring themes Signage and messaging for service centres 	- Access Canberra - PICC
Vulnerable, hard to reach groups (updated as situation evolves)	External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messaging provided to key stakeholders through existing networks Community Partnership Bulletin Community radio engagement 	- PICC - CSD
ACT Government staff (updated as situation evolves)	Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole of Government messages Directorate specific internal messages 	- CMTEDD Comms - Individual Directorates (as required)

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ATTACHMENT A – Information flow chart through PICC

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