

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 4 May 2021

C040. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

I refer to advice provided to you and the State Emergency Coordinator from the Chief Health Officer and any person subordinate to or acting in that position, and I ask:

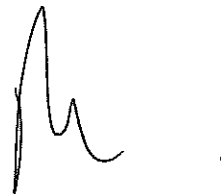
1. Please table all and any advice provided to you and the State Emergency Coordinator from 22 April 2021 to date in relation to the management of COVID-19;
2. Why has the advice provided by the Acting Chief Health Officer, Dr Paul Armstrong on 23 April 2021 not been published on the 'COVID-19 Coronavirus: Chief Health Officer advice' webpage;
3. At what point and from whom did the government receive advice that recommended those who have been in the Perth and Peel region from 17 April 2021 and travelled to another region to observe the lock down as if they were in the Perth-Peel region; and
4. Please table the advice received in relation to (3) which altered the governments initial advice that those persons were only required to wear a face covering?

Answer

(1 - 2) This was a rapidly evolving situation occurring on the eve of the ANZAC Day long weekend. As such, the advice referred to by the Member was provided by the Acting Chief Health Officer directly via email to the State Emergency Coordinator. I am happy to table this advice now (see-attached).

(3) The Chief Health Officer advised the State Emergency Coordinator on Saturday 24 April, resulting in the publication of directions to provide clarity to the public.

(4) Advice was provided verbally to the State Emergency Coordinator.





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

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

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

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Dear Premier

On 29 April 2021, I advised that, as we had identified no further community or local acquired cases since the 23 April 2021, further easing of restrictions should be implemented from 00:01 am on Saturday 01 May 2021 and remain in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 08 May 2021. Further contact tracing and testing would be undertaken, and, depending on the results of these measures, further easing of restrictions could be considered from 08 May 2021.

Based on the situation at the time, I recommended the following restrictions, which came into force on 01 May 2021:

- All venues, except nightclubs and stadiums, could open subject to the usual 2 square metre and capacity arrangements under Phase 4C. Nightclubs could open subject to complying with the 4m² rule. The intent of this was to allow people to socialise, but in restricted numbers to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 from large numbers and mixing, should a case be subsequently identified in the community. Weddings and funerals would be allowed up to 200 persons, with exemptions available for these events with more than 200 people. Music events may continue in accordance with current events guidelines. Where a person wishes to have a gathering at their own premises, this should be restricted to a maximum of 30 guests, given limited physical distancing, mask wearing and contact registers in such settings.
- The requirement for face masks should remain in place, but be further eased. They should remain mandated for public indoor areas (e.g. shopping centres, hospitals, bars, restaurants, churches), on public transport, and required outside where physical distancing is not possible, including stadiums and larger outdoor events. As we remained within the first incubation period of the three cases, further cases could still be detected, and I therefore recommended that the requirement to wear face masks continue, except for primary school students, those with medical

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exemptions and those people undertaking exercise. Easing requirements would allow people to remove masks outside in low risk settings, such as when they are not in a mass gathering.

- Regarding healthcare facilities, I recommended that non-urgent category 2 or 3 elective surgery should resume. Visits to aged care facilities and hospitals should remain restricted, but be eased to allow one personal visitor per day. COVID-19 presents risks to older people, who are particularly vulnerable to respiratory diseases. As physical distancing is the most important action to protect vulnerable people from exposure to COVID-19, visitors to aged care facilities should still be restricted as above.
- Arenas could open to 75% capacity with a mandatory requirement for masks. Seated outdoor events are lower risk and any potential spread would be further mitigated by physical distancing from reduced capacity and masks.

On 01 May 2021, a new case of COVID-19 was detected in a 22-year-old man who was working as a security guard at the Pan Pacific quarantine hotel (Case 1001). He had worked shifts at the hotel on 24, 25 and 26 April 2021, had negative saliva tests for each of those days, and had developed symptoms on the evening of 29 April 2021. He had received the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on 23 April 2021. He had a routine weekly PCR test on 30 April 2021, which was positive. He was working on the floor on 24 April during the arrival of passengers from an international flight, two of whom subsequently tested positive. Review of CCTV does not identify any breaches or reasons for his subsequent infection. There were no cases on the floors that he worked in subsequent days. The man has been placed in hotel quarantine. Whole genome sequencing is expected to be available late on 02 May 2021.

Case 1001 was sharing a house with seven other friends. All these close contacts were tested and two of the man's close contacts also tested positive (Cases 1003 and 1004). The five other close social contacts tested negative. All have been placed in hotel quarantine for 14 days. A further 11 close social contacts, who had attended various venues with the cases, have all been confirmed as negative. They will be placed in quarantine for 14 days.

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) has been progressively identifying the close and casual contacts of Cases 1001, 1003 and 1004 and has required them to be immediately tested for COVID-19 and to quarantine for 14 days at home if a close contact. 21 initial close contacts have been identified and are being tested, with 16 contacts negative on testing. 113 casual contacts have been identified and are being tested, with 28 yet to be interviewed. Extensive testing has commenced, with 3,295 tests yesterday. While the previous restrictions on capacity numbers and the requirements for mask use are anticipated to have mitigated the spread of the virus, there are a number of venues that people attended, including the Mirrabooka Mosque: Masjid Al Taqwa, the Perth College of Business and Technology and some food delivery services, including the restaurants and the clients they serve, that need to be further investigated and the people present at the identified times tested, which warrants further restrictions in crowd sizes and mixing.

With these results in mind, I now recommend that the restrictions be further modified as follows:

- All venues, except nightclubs, the Casino and stadiums, can remain open subject to the usual 2 square metre and capacity arrangements under Phase 4C. Nightclubs and the Casino should be closed. The intent of this is to allow people to socialise in smaller numbers in restaurants and clubs, but to restrict the size of gatherings to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 from large numbers and mixing with non-household contacts, should other cases be subsequently identified in the community. Weddings and funerals should continue to be allowed up to 200 persons, with exemptions available for these events with more than 200 people. Where a person wishes to have a gathering at their own premises, this should continue to be restricted to a maximum of 30 guests, given limited physical distancing, mask wearing and contact registers in such settings.
- The requirement for face masks should remain in place, but return to the previous requirements. They should remain mandated for public indoor areas (e.g. shopping centres, hospitals, bars, restaurants, churches), on public transport, and when outside. The wearing of masks, particularly where there may still be community transmission and we have reopened venues, can provide extra protection. As we are in the early stages of the incubation period of the three cases, further cases may still be detected, and I therefore recommend that the requirement to wear face masks continues, except for primary school students, those with medical exemptions and those people undertaking exercise.
- Arenas should be closed with matches allowed without spectators. While seated outdoor events are lower risk, transit to and from the events at large grounds can assist in the spread of the disease and is not recommended while further community cases are possible. Music events may continue in accordance with current events guidelines, but should all be subject to a review of their COVID event plans if they involve over 500 people.

I recommend that these eased restrictions become effective immediately on Sunday 02 May 2021 and are in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 08 May 2021.

I am happy to re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

02 May 2021



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

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EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Dear Premier

On 26 April 2021, I advised that, as we had identified no further community or local acquired cases since the 23 April 2021, eased restrictions should be implemented from 00:01 am on Tuesday 27 April 2021 and remain in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 01 May 2021. Further contact tracing and testing would be undertaken, and, depending on the results of these measures, further easing of restrictions could be considered from 01 May 2021.

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) has identified the close and casual contacts of the Victorian case, Case 984 and Case 986 and required them to be immediately tested for COVID-19 and to quarantine for 14 days at home if a close contact. All 391 close contacts have been identified and tested, with 390 contacts negative on testing and 1 pending. 903 casual contacts have been identified and 802 contacts tested, with 727 negative and 75 pending results. Extensive testing has taken place, with 49,440 tests being completed between 23-28 April 2021. Whole Genome Sequencing of the Victorian Case and Case 984 has confirmed that the strain was the B.1.1.7 (United Kingdom) variant, and was linked to the Mercure cluster. There have been no further positive locally acquired COVID-19 test results received in respect to either the contacts or the public.

With these results in mind, I now recommend that the restrictions can be further eased as follows:

- All venues, except nightclubs and stadiums, can now open subject to the usual 2 square metre and capacity arrangements under Phase 4C. Nightclubs can open subject to complying with the 4m² rule. The intent of this is to allow people to socialise, but in restricted numbers to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 from large numbers and mixing, should a case be subsequently identified in the community. Weddings and funerals should be allowed up to 200 persons, with exemptions available for these events with more than 200 people.

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Music events may continue in accordance with current events guidelines. Where a person wishes to have a gathering at their own premises, this should be restricted to a maximum of 30 guests, given limited physical distancing, mask wearing and contact registers in such settings.

- The requirement for face masks should remain in place, but be further eased. They should remain mandated for public indoor areas (e.g. shopping centres, hospitals, bars, restaurants, churches), on public transport, and required outside where physical distancing is not possible, including stadiums and larger outdoor events. The wearing of masks, particularly where there may still be community transmission and we have reopened venues, can provide extra protection. As we remain within the first incubation period of the three cases, further cases may still be detected, and I therefore recommend that the requirement to wear face masks continues, except for primary school students, those with medical exemptions and those people undertaking exercise. Easing requirements will allow people to remove masks outside in low risk settings, such as when they are not in a mass gathering.
- Regarding healthcare facilities, I recommend that non-urgent category 2 or 3 elective surgery should resume. Visits to aged care facilities and hospitals should remain restricted, but be eased to allow one personal visitor per day. COVID-19 presents risks to older people, who are particularly vulnerable to respiratory diseases. As physical distancing is the most important action to protect vulnerable people from exposure to COVID-19, visitors to aged care facilities should still be restricted as above.
- Arenas can open to 75% capacity with a mandatory requirement for masks. Seated outdoor events are lower risk and any potential spread will be further mitigated by physical distancing from reduced capacity and masks.

Please see Attachment 1 for a table detailing my recommendations. I recommend that these eased restrictions become effective from 00:01 am on Saturday 01 May 2021 and are in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 08 May 2021. If no further community cases outside home or hotel quarantine occur, I would anticipate we can return to Phase 4C from 08 May 2021.

I am happy to re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

29 April 2021

Further easing restrictions from Saturday 1 May, 12:01am – Saturday 8 May 2.01am

Approach (based on Health advice)				Return to pre-lockdown restrictions with some exceptions until 12.01am 8 May	
Activity type	Activity	Measure	Specific details		
Public health	Hygiene and distancing	Maintain handwashing, stay home when sick, 1.5m social distancing	Guidance only, not for legal directions		
PPE	Mask wearing	Mandatory for public indoor areas and public transport, and required outside where physical distancing not possible (i.e. stadium)	For example indoor venues: shopping centres, hospitals, restaurants, places of worship. Outdoor includes stadiums and larger outdoor events.		
Businesses and venues	Businesses and workplaces		All reopen		
	Hospitality	Open. (pre-lockdown restrictions apply)	Includes cafes, bars, pubs.		
	Entertainment venues	Open. (pre-lockdown restrictions apply)	Theatres, cinemas, concert halls etc.		
	Hairdresser/beauty salons	Open. 2sqm rule. (pre-lockdown restrictions apply)			
	Retail	Open			
	Public venues	Open. 2 sqm rule. (pre-lockdown restrictions apply)	Community centres, libraries, museums, galleries, rec centres.		
	Indoor fitness venues	Open. 2sqm rule. (pre-lockdown restrictions apply)	Gyms, fitness centres, dance studios, yoga studios etc		
	Nightclubs	Open. 4sqm rule.			
	Casinos	Open			
	Childcare	Open			
	Primary school and childcare	Open. Masks not required for children/students	Teaching staff exempt from mask wearing while teaching		
	Secondary school	Open. Masks mandatory for students and staff in line with direction	Teaching staff exempt from mask wearing while teaching		
	Higher education	Open.	Teaching staff exempt from mask wearing while teaching		
	Boarding schools	Open.			
	Places of worship	Open. 100% capacity.			
	Contact registration	Mutual responsibility to register details.	Includes events and functions		
	Health services	Hospitals	One personal visitor per day.		
Congregate living	Community health services	Open			
	Aged care, disability care facilities	One personal visitor per day.			
	Private gatherings	30 people at home. Private outdoor permitted.	Events over 500 people require COVID Event Plan.		
Gatherings	Weddings and funerals	Maximum of 200 attendees. Exemptions can be sought for above 200 people	Exemption process managed by Public Health		
	Community sport and training	Open			
Events	Events and functions	Pre-lockdown restrictions apply excl. stadiums 75% capacity	Outdoor events more than 500 people with approved Event plan.		
Borders	Intrastate borders	No intrastate border. For those travelling from Perth-Peel region to other regions mask wearing required.	Continue restricted access to Remote Aboriginal Communities only		
	Rest of the state	No restrictions, except people previously in Perth-Peel region must wear masks			



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RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS

Dear Premier

On 23 April 2021, the Acting Chief Health Officer, Dr Paul Armstrong, provided advice to the Commissioner of Police and the State Government of Western Australia (WA) supporting a 3-day lockdown of the Perth and Peel regions in response to the detection of a COVID-19 case in a traveller who had recently left a State Quarantine Facility (Victorian case), and had been infectious in the WA community between 17-21 April 2021, and a secondary case who had infectious in the community from 19-21 April 2021. The Victorian case had been identified as a 'close contact' of a couple in a room diagonally opposite and a family in the room immediately next to him in the Mercure Hotel, who had been infected by an intra-hotel transmission of SARS-CoV-2. All other close contacts have tested negative. He was notified by the WA Department of Health and was tested in Victoria, where a positive result was reported on 23 April 2021. At 12:40pm on 23 April 2021, one of his close contacts, an adult female, returned a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 (Case 984). She was believed to be early in her infection.

Contact tracing conducted throughout the day revealed that the Victorian case had visited numerous venues across a wide area of metropolitan Perth whilst he was infectious. This included a variety of cafes and restaurants, a public swimming pool, various retail outlets, a medical practitioner, an alternative health practitioner, a family of three with whom he stayed, and commercial accommodation. Contact tracing efforts revealed that Case 984 had visited numerous venues with the Victorian case and had worked in a publicly-facing role in a dental clinic.

The 3-day lockdown came into effect from midnight on 23 April 2021 and required:

- people in the Perth and Peel regions not to leave these regions, unless they had an exemption;
- a 'stay at home' requirement, with exemptions for work, essential shopping, medical care and limited exercise;

- wearing of face masks becoming mandatory from 6pm on 23 April 2021, with exceptions for home, car, when doing vigorous exercise, or if aged less than twelve years;
- closure of places of worship, and hospitality, entertainment and community facilities;
- ceasing of entertainment events and community sport;
- banning of visitors to hospitals or residential aged care or disability facilities, unless there are exceptional circumstances; and
- allowing weddings and funerals with a 100-patron capacity, not including staff, and requiring masks be worn.

The 3-day lockdown was recommended as a circuit breaker that was designed to immediately minimise everyone's number of close contacts until it could be established whether there had been any community spread of disease. This was implemented from 00:01 am Saturday 24 April for 3 days until 00:01 am Tuesday 27 April by way of the 'Stay at Home and Closure (Perth, Peel and Rottneest)) Directions', issued under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) identified the close and casual contacts on the Victorian case and Case 984 and required them to be immediately tested for COVID-19 and to quarantine for 14 days at home if a close contact. On 24 April 2021, an adult male WA resident (Case 986), who had coincidentally been at the Kitchen Inn restaurant in Kardinya on 18 April at same time as the Victorian case and Case 984, was diagnosed with COVID-19 after developing symptoms and seeking testing on 23 April 2021. He was transferred to a SHICC hotel for hotel quarantine, as Case 984 had been. Tests of household members and all other close contacts in the Kitchen Inn have been negative. Extensive contact tracing for the Victorian case and Cases 984 and 986 is progressing. Whole Genome Sequencing of Case 984 has confirmed that the strain was the B.1.1.7 (United Kingdom) variant, and was linked to the Mercure cluster. There have been no further positive COVID-19 test results received in respect to these cohorts.

Extensive testing of the public has also been undertaken, with all persons, who were present at a list of locations that the 3 cases visited on the dates and times specified, instructed to get tested as soon as they were able. 1,112 close and casual contacts have been identified, with all the tests returned being negative at this stage. Additionally, people who were symptomatic were strongly encouraged to be tested. This has resulted in over 28,000 people presenting for testing at our COVID clinics. I am pleased to advise that there have also been no further positive COVID-19 test results received in respect to these cohorts.

With these results in mind, I now recommend that the lockdown restrictions can be relaxed as follows:

- The stay at home order can be removed and replaced with a requirement that most venues may open, subject to complying with the 4m² rule to allow venues to accommodate 1 person per 4m², up to a maximum of 20 patrons. This is to include cafes, restaurants, hospitality and entertainment venues. The intent of this is to allow people to socialise, but in very restricted groups to reduce the potential for

G O V E R N M E N T O F W E S T E R N A U S T R A L I A

the spread of COVID-19 from large numbers and mixing, should a case be subsequently identified in the community. I recommend that casinos, nightclubs and large events continue to remain closed, as they accommodate large numbers of people mixing in close groups. Where a person wishes to have a gathering at their own premises, this should be restricted to a maximum of 20 guests.

- The requirement for face masks should remain in place in all public places, including workplaces. The Australian Health Principal Protection Committee (AHPPC) advise that where there is low community transmission of COVID-19, the wearing of masks in the community is not generally recommended. However, where there is significant community transmission, covering the face with a mask can provide extra protection. As we remain within the first incubation period of the three cases, there is a possibility that further cases may be detected, and I therefore recommend that the requirement to wear face masks continues, except for primary school students, those with medical exemptions and those people undertaking strenuous exercise.
- Regarding healthcare facilities, I recommend that non-urgent category 2 or 3 elective surgery be deferred; healthcare provided outside the hospital setting, such as at physiotherapy and radiology practices, should recommence, but that visits to aged care facilities and hospitals should remain restricted. COVID-19 presents risks to older people, who are particularly vulnerable to respiratory diseases. As physical distancing is the most important action to protect vulnerable people from exposure to COVID-19, visitors to aged care facilities should be restricted.
- Finally, the current 'Stay at Home and Closure (Perth, Peel and Rottnest)) Directions' apply to the Perth and Peel Regions. This decision was made due to the large volume of people who travel between these regions for both business and pleasure. Based on the testing results received to date, I am satisfied that travel between the Perth and Peel regions and other regions should be permitted, although masks should continue to be worn by those coming from the Perth and Peel region.

Please see Attachment 1 for a table detailing my recommendations. I recommend that these eased restrictions become effective from 00:01 am on Tuesday 27 April 2021 and are in place until 00:01 am on Saturday 01 May 2021.

I am happy to re-consider the above advice should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

26 April 2021

G O V E R N M E N T O F W E S T E R N A U S T R A L I A

Easing restrictions from Tuesday 27 Apr, 12:01am



Approach (based on Health advice)

Perth-Peel: Stay at Home Order Revoked. Restrictions eased with a view to review on Thursday 29 April once contact tracing complete

Activity type	Activity	Measure	Specific details
Public health	Hygiene and distancing	Maintain handwashing, stay home when sick, 1.5m social distancing	Guidance only, not for legal directions
PPE	Mask wearing	Mandatory in indoor and outdoor public areas, and on public transport	Existing exemptions apply
Businesses and venues	Businesses and workplaces	Reopen, except casino, fitness venues and nightclubs	Includes professional sports
	Hospitality	Open. 4sqm and 20 patrons only excluding staff. Seated food and drink service only	Includes cafes, bars, pubs
	Entertainment venues	Open. 4sqm and 20 patrons only excluding staff	Theatres, cinemas, concert halls etc. For cinemas 20 people per screen
	Hairdresser/beauty salons	Open. 4sqm rule. Maximum 20 patrons	
Businesses and venues	Retail	Open. 4sqm rule	
	Public venues	Open. 4 sqm rule and maximum 20 patrons, excl. staff, per venue. Outdoor playgrounds open	Community centres, libraries, museums, galleries, rec centres. Public pools 20 persons per pool
	Indoor fitness venues	Closed	Gyms, fitness centres, dance studios, yoga studios etc
	Casinos and nightclubs	Closed	
	Childcare	Open	
	Primary school and childcare	Open. Masks not required for school children. Mandatory for staff	Teaching staff exempt from mask wearing while teaching
Health services	Secondary school	Open. Masks mandatory for students and staff	Teaching staff exempt from mask wearing while teaching
	Higher education	Universities open for online learning only. TAFE open. Masks mandatory for students and staff.	Teaching staff exempt from mask wearing while teaching
	Boarding schools	Open	
	Places of worship	Open. 4 sqm rule and 20 patrons	
Health services	Contact registration	Mutual responsibility to register details	Includes events and functions
	Hospitals	Non-urgent category 2 and 3 deferred. All non-urgent outpatient and community health visits via telehealth or suspended	
	Community health services	Open	Physiotherapy, osteopathy etc
Congregate living	Aged care, disability care facilities	No visitors to aged and disability facilities and hospitals	Compassionate visits permitted i.e. end of life, advocates, official visitors
	Private gatherings	20 people	Refers to indoor and outdoor gatherings i.e. Households, parks etc
Gatherings	Weddings and funerals	20 people. Exemptions can be sought up to a maximum of 100 people	Exemption process managed by Office of the Chief Health Officer
	Community sport and training	Players and officials. Not spectators.	
Events	Events and functions	Not permitted. Sporting events permitted but no spectators	For example Perth Glory match can commence with no spectators
Borders	Intrastate borders	No intrastate border. For those travelling from Perth-Peel region to other regions mask wearing required. Continue restricted access to Remote Aboriginal Communities only	
	Rest of the state	No restrictions, except people previously in Perth-Peel region must wear masks	

From: Armstrong, Paul <Paul.Armstrong@health.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 24 April 2021 9:23 AM
To: Chris Dawson
Cc: CHO; Russell-Weisz, David; DREIBERGS Gary [PD06865]; STEEL Paul [PD09517]; 'n.egan@sso.wa.gov.au'
Subject: RE: Imposition of lockdown restrictions-public health advice

[NB: this is reissued advice with the following correction to second sentence under Case Details: "On 2221 April, the Department of Health (DoH) received whole genome sequencing results..."]

Dear Commissioner Dawson,

I write in relation to public health advice I provided to the Emergency Management Team (EMT) on the risk posed by a case of COVID-19 who was infectious in the community from 17-21 April 2021, and a secondary case infectious in the community from (approximately) 19-21 April.

Case Details

The first case (Case A) was a Victorian adult male who returned to Australia from China on 3 April, via Singapore. He was quarantined in the Mercure Hotel, a State Quarantine Facility, from 3-17 April. He had a negative Day 12 test for SARS-CoV-2 on 15 April and was released from quarantine on 17 April. On 21 April, the Department of Health (DoH) received whole genome sequencing results which conclusively showed that an intra-hotel transmission of SARS-CoV-2 had occurred from a couple in a room diagonally opposite Case A, to a family in the room immediately next to him. He was deemed a 'close contact' of both the couple and the family, owing to his proximity to their rooms, and subsequent contact tracing efforts by DoH and WA Police (WAPOL) determined that he had travelled to Melbourne, Victoria. He was reported to Victorian health authorities, who undertook testing for SARS-CoV-2. A positive result was reported this morning by Victorian health authorities.

Contact tracing outcomes and public health risk

Contact tracing conducted throughout the day revealed that he had visited numerous venues across a wide area of metropolitan Perth whilst he was infectious. This included a variety of cafes and restaurants, King's Park, a public swimming pool, various retail outlets, a medical practitioner, an alternative health practitioner, a family of three with whom he stayed, and a residential college. He was asymptomatic, which often, but not always, corresponds with a lower transmission risk compared to a case who had respiratory symptoms.

At 12 40pm, one of his close contacts, an adult female, returned a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 (Case B). It was a 'high Ct' result, which indicated that it was early in her infection. Early contact tracing efforts revealed she had visited numerous venues with Case A and worked in a publicly-facing role in a dental clinic.

Overall, owing to the prolonged period that Case A and Case B have spent in the community visiting numerous venues, I judge the risk of transmission to others to be considerable.

Response measures

As you are aware, several EMT meetings occurred throughout the day. My advice on public health was considered and the EMT, which decided to institute a series of 'lockdown' restrictions for an initial period of three days. These include:

- from midnight 23 April, people in the Perth and Peel regions will not be able to leave these regions, unless they have an exemption.
- reasons why people would be allowed to leave their houses will be restricted to:
 - attending work because they cannot work from home or remotely
 - shopping for essentials such as groceries, medicine and necessary supplies
 - attending to their medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements and looking after the vulnerable

- o exercising with a maximum of four people, limited to one hour per day, and masks must be worn.
- wearing of face masks will be mandatory from 6pm, 23 April and over the three day lockdown period for Perth and Peel residents, except when the person is in their home, in their car with people they live with, doing vigorous exercise, or if they are aged less than twelve years. People who have left Perth or the Peel region since 17 April will be required to wear a mask whenever they are in public across WA.
- the following facilities within the Perth and Peel regions will close:
 - o pubs, bars and clubs, except for takeaway
 - o gyms and indoor sporting venues
 - o playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor recreational facilities
 - o cinemas, entertainment venues, and casinos
 - o large religious gatherings and places of worship
 - o libraries and cultural institutions.
- no community sport will be permitted.
- people will be able to enter Perth and Peel only to access or deliver essential health and emergency services and other essential requirements, or returning residents.
- visitors to hospitals or residential aged care or disability facilities will not be allowed, unless there are exceptional circumstances
- weddings and funerals will be permitted with a 100 patron capacity, not including staff, and masks must be worn.

Support these measures as they will allow time for a better understanding of the degree to which the virus has transmitted in the community, and help prevent further transmission should additional infections exist currently, or develop over the three day period.

The Chief Health Officer will provide further advice over the three-day lockdown period.

Regards

Paul

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