

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 19 December 2020 10:02 PM  
**To:** Arthy, Kareena; Hare, Merryn (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: **\*\*URGENT\*\*** Covid information - Stromlo Leisure centre

I agree with the risk assessment and action.

If any of the attendees develop covid we will be notified as part of contact tracing.

Thanks Kareena

K

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**From:** Arthy, Kareena <Kareena.Arthy@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 9:55:34 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fwd: **\*\*URGENT\*\*** Covid information - Stromlo Leisure centre  
 Hi. minister berry's office asked that I close the loop with you on this issue. Berry's office said they had discussed it with Minister Stephen Smith's office, and was told it was low risk. The office contacted me tonight to ask if you knew, hence this email.

Cheers  
 Kareena

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**From:** Ceramidas, Joshua <Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 9:49:12 PM  
**To:** Arthy, Kareena <Kareena.Arthy@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fwd: **\*\*URGENT\*\*** Covid information - Stromlo Leisure centre

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Treasury DLO <TreasuryDLO@act.gov.au>  
**Date:** 18 December 2020 at 14:57:13 AEDT  
**To:** BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>, "Ceramidas, Joshua" <Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Cursley, Megan" <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** **\*\*URGENT\*\*** Covid information - Stromlo Leisure centre

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

FYI – please see below for an urgent and critical update.

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**From:** Clarke, Liz <Liz.Clarke@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 December 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; Bailey, Daniel <Daniel.Bailey@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Bradley, Kellie <Kellie.Bradley@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** Urgent information - Stromlo Leisure centre

**Importance:** High

Hi Dave and Daniel

As discussed – we were informed by the YMCA this morning that during the triathlon event being held at Stromlo leisure centre (SLC).

Over the last three days the SLC has been hosting a Triathlon event in the 50m pool and carpark. Over 150 competitors have been on site from Triathlon Clubs from NSW and Victoria, including members from Northern Beaches.

All members from Northern Beaches who had been racing in this event were informed by the event organiser that they must follow current Public Health Orders, withdraw from the event and immediately get tested if they have visited a designed hot spot between 13-16 December 2020.

Advice from the YMCA NSW is that these members have returned to Sydney.

ACTPG has contacted the COVID Operations Team - Director Tim Floan-Gardner (02 51246166). Tim has advised that at this point all the centre is required to do is a normal clean, which has been actioned.

ACTPG has spoken to the YMCA NSW Regional Manager and they had already contacted Health and advised the same – there is no other action required at this stage.

Daniel – will you inform above and the Office?

Regards liz.

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Stephen-Smith, Rachel  
**Sent:** Saturday, 19 December 2020 10:08 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Cc:** Jonasson, Kylie (Health); Cross, Rebecca; Leigh, Kathy; Bergin, Catherine; Brighton, Meg (Health); Arya, Dinesh (Health); Whitley, Amanda  
**Subject:** Re: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update

Thank you Kerryn. Good to hear re flight manifests!

R

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
 Member for Kurrajong  
 ph: 02 6205 2661

On 19 Dec 2020, at 9:07 pm, Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Minister

I have had a brief conversation with Vic CHO this evening and understand they are intending to widen their entry restrictions to Greater Sydney - i am awaiting further specific information tomorrow morning to help us understand the implications, as you say for travel to and from all 3 jurisdictions as we will need to have operational responses and appropriate communications - the changes will come into effect from 11.59 pm Sunday evening... Allen has shared in confidence prior to announcement later tomorrow morning.

As you identify we haven't been meeting planes at the airport - the majority of travellers are likely to travel by road and there are resource requirements for meeting planes (there are many more from Sydney than Adelaide) and we are reassessing where best to put those ongoing.

We have received the plane manifests from all Sydney to Canberra flights from and including 11 Dec and sent a text message to all notifying them of the requirement to quarantine, the recommendations for testing and contact details for us... (we even received a lovely reply from one person informing us she was only in transit but she will keep the info in mind!).

I am meeting with the HECC team tomorrow morning at 10am to reassess the ACT situation and do some forward planning on the potential for widening the ACT's scope of direction, operational requirements for implementation of this, how this interacts with other jurisdictional possible moves over the next few days, etc... Following AHPPC at 1, i will have a better idea of NSW, other jurisdictions intentions (if they haven't already moved), and therefore aspects of our response.

I will provide further info then - if you hear anything further from NSW, Vic etc it would be welcome!  
 Thanks, K

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**From:** Stephen-Smith, Rachel <Rachel.Stephen-Smith@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 8:50:50 PM  
**To:** Jonasson, Kylie (Health) <Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>; Leigh, Kathy <Kathy.Leigh@act.gov.au>; Bergin, Catherine <Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au>; Brighton, Meg (Health) <Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au>; Arya, Dinesh (Health) <Dinesh.Arya@act.gov.au>; HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; HECC Logistics <HECC.Logistics@act.gov.au>; Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>; English, Karin (Health) <Karin.English@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update

Hi all.

Took a call from Martin Foley earlier. Vic will ramp up a bit tomorrow, which will have an impact on anyone flying from the ACT, as Vic Health will start meeting flights from Canberra and requiring a permit/declaration.

Which raised one other thing for us to put into the mix - whether to meet flights from Sydney (if not already, but last I heard we weren't)? This is more a signal, I think, given the majority of people presumably come in by road, but could be an important one to send.

Has HECC already worked with airlines to ensure people receive info about ACT restrictions and advice prior to boarding a Sydney-Canberra flight?

Sorry if this is very much at the "sucking eggs" end of the spectrum of input!

Cheers,  
 Rachel

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
 Member for Kurrajong  
 ph: 02 6205 2661

On 19 Dec 2020, at 7:30 pm, Jonasson, Kylie (Health) <Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Kerryn and Rebecca.

Kerryn given the information we have to hand I support your approach of discussion Monday morning. Noting your suggestion to bring forward if needed tomorrow afternoon following ahppc discussion and further information.

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**From:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 6:43 pm  
**To:** Cross, Rebecca; Stephen-Smith, Rachel; Leigh, Kathy; Jonasson, Kylie (Health)  
**Cc:** Bergin, Catherine; Brighton, Meg (Health); Arya, Dinesh (Health); HECC Operations; HECC Logistics; Reid, David (Health); English, Karin (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update

Yes to all those considerations... it won't be a straight forward decision from a trigger perspective nor timing... with the added context of signalled alignment with NSW etc - so will need an explicit consideration of this decision point.



In the absence of ACT cases, and absence of close contacts in quarantine (the highest risk) I do not believe there is a need to rush.  
Suggest we work on a Monday meeting, we will try and pull something together tomorrow afternoon post AHPPC to inform this.

K

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**From:** Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 6:36 pm  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health); Stephen-Smith, Rachel; Leigh, Kathy; Jonasson, Kylie (Health)  
**Cc:** Bergin, Catherine; Brighton, Meg (Health); Arya, Dinesh (Health); HECC Operations; HECC Logistics; Reid, David (Health); English, Karin (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update  
 Thanks Kerry

I think it would be good to talk thru the pros and cons of increasing restrictions in the ACT - and whether the situation in NSW triggers this, or whether it would be cases in ACT.

Do you have any sense of the backlog currently with test results - ie. what is the wait time from test to result? I am guessing it is longer than usual, but still well under 24 hrs?

And final thought is it might be hard to maintain high levels of compliance with restrictions over Xmas. NSW seems to have gone hard early so they might be able to ease late next week - do we also need to think about compliance when considering further restriction and their timing?

Regards  
 Rebecca

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**From:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 6:18:18 PM  
**To:** Stephen-Smith, Rachel <Rachel.Stephen-Smith@act.gov.au>; Leigh, Kathy <Kathy.Leigh@act.gov.au>; Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>; Jonasson, Kylie (Health) <Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Bergin, Catherine <Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au>; Brighton, Meg (Health) <Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au>; Arya, Dinesh (Health) <Dinesh.Arya@act.gov.au>; HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; HECC Logistics <HECC.Logistics@act.gov.au>; Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>; English, Karin (Health) <Karin.English@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: NSW Northern Beaches cluster update  
 Dear all

Tonight's update - please note in confidence, particularly case numbers and details, until NSW releases data:

- NSW case numbers continue to rise - majority still reside in Northern Beaches (Avalon region)... a handful reside outside of NB area
- Some seeding of locations outside of NB due to visiting by positive cases - list on NSW website
- Only 1 cluster detected outside of NB - workplace cluster of 4 in Sydney
- Testing remains high, turnaround times adequate
- NSW considering reimplementation of last level of restrictions across NSW - for announcement and implementation tomorrow... due to anticipated high level of movement around NSW with Christmas and school holidays

#### ACT implication

- Make preparations in am so ready to expand quarantine region to greater Sydney if evidence of transmission rises outside Northern Beaches (one cluster at present)
- Consider need to apply similar tightening of restrictions in ACT mirroring NSW

#### Actions

- AHPPC tomorrow at 1pm
- David - please organise a 10am meeting for HECC team - including CHECC liaison - i will email agenda and items i need worked up before then
- Question - should we (MSS/DG/CG) discuss pros/cons of community restrictions in line with NSW and at what point?
- I am not sure of timing on announcement and coming into effect in NSW, sometime Sunday.
- Currently we have NO people who are close contacts/been to the specific venues/locations - but do know of numbers who are in quarantine from being in this region in general...
- This decision depends on likelihood of seeding - at present no close contacts identified and parameters of cluster still being identified
- My current feeling is that we would not do this before Monday... we are not the source of the cluster, and have more time to implement if needed.
- Recommendation - current plan is to reconsider current parameters of response on Monday morning for scope of quarantine direction. Suggest need for community restrictions are included in this - if escalation of risk outside of NB tomorrow at AHPPC then reconsider need for meeting Sunday afternoon with MO/DG/CG.

Happy for discussion, calls, other thoughts etc.

Thanks all,

K

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

**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 1:58 pm

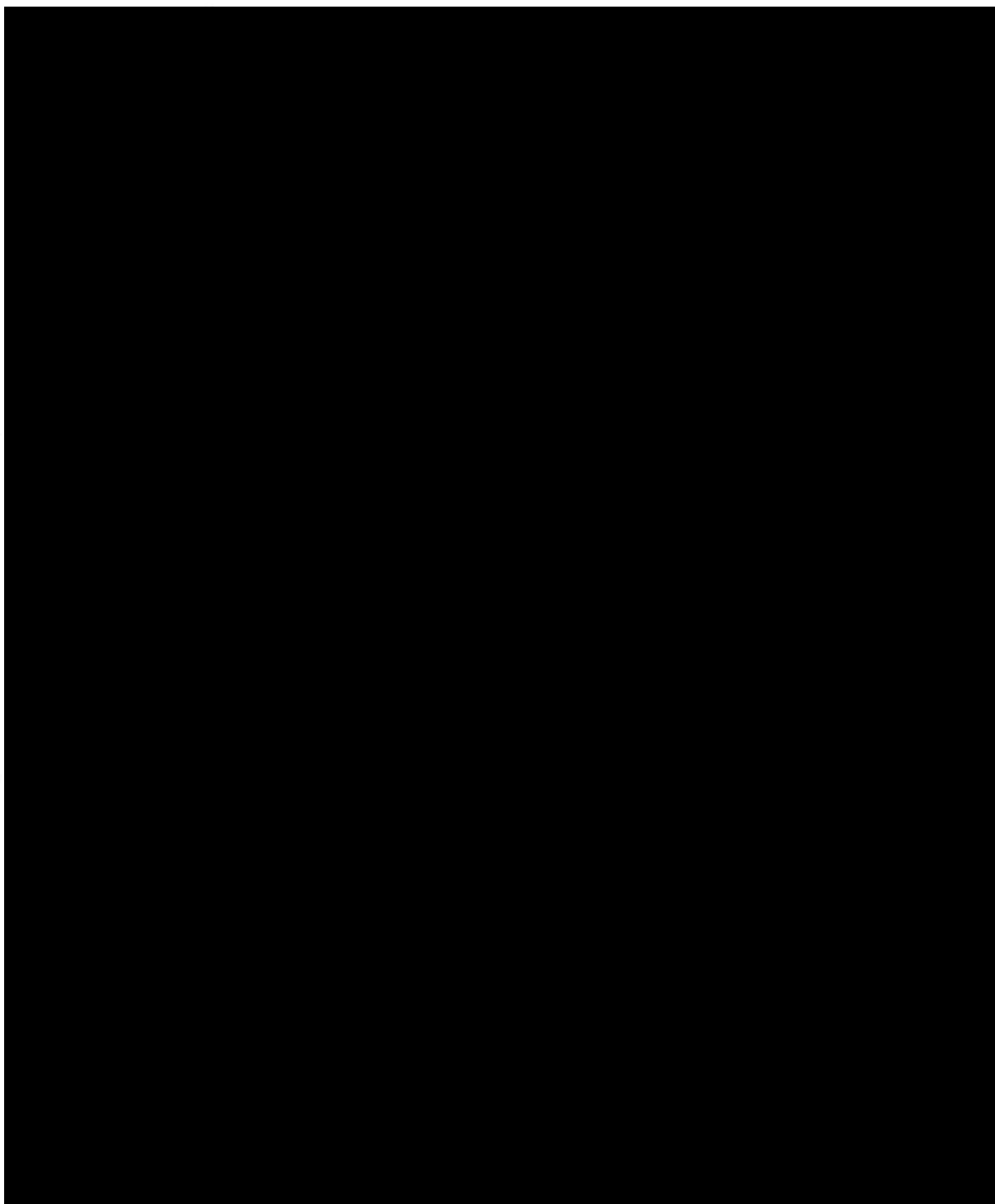
**To:** Stephen-Smith, Rachel; Leigh, Kathy; Cross, Rebecca; Jonasson, Kylie (Health)

**Cc:** Bergin, Catherine; Brighton, Meg (Health)

**Subject:** NSW Northern Beaches cluster update

Hi all

Key points from AHPPC catch up today (thanks for keeping in confidence):



Thanks all, K

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**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** ACT Health, HPSOps  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health); Arya, Dinesh (Health)  
**Cc:** Reid, David (Health)  
**Subject:** For review - HECC On-Call Officer Minutes  
**Attachments:** 20201220 - On-call Officer Briefing #2.doc

**OFFICIAL**

Hello,

Could you please review today's minutes? A bit War and Peace, but the actions are in bold text.

Once cleared, I can forward to the team.

P.S. Lunch being sorted for people at Bowes for 1pm. Logs putting order in.

Regards,

**David Reid | Assistant Director | Situations and Briefings**

Ph: 5124 6177 | Email: [david.reid@act.gov.au](mailto:david.reid@act.gov.au) | [hecc.planning@act.gov.au](mailto:hecc.planning@act.gov.au)

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

2-6 Bowes Street, Woden, ACT







## Health Emergency Control Centre

### On-Call Officer Briefing

### 1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020

<b>Chief Health Officer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Kerryn Coleman (Chair)</li> <li>• Dr Dinesh Arya (On-call)</li> </ul>	<b>HEMU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Reid (Secretariat)</li> </ul>
<b>HECC Operations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danielle Briones</li> <li>• Sue Reid</li> <li>• Dr Karin English</li> </ul>	<b>Public Information Coordination Centre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Verden</li> <li>• Alex McConachie</li> <li>• Amanda Whitley</li> </ul>
<b>Exemptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merryn Hare</li> <li>• Nicole Wynants</li> </ul>	<b>Clinical Health Emergency Coordination Centre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Wells</li> </ul>
<b>HECC Logistics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jody Clouten</li> </ul>	

Dr Kerryn Coleman convened the meeting and advised of two outcomes for today's meeting

- Determine justification to include Greater Sydney area for ACT public health direction (including need to work out who does what to implement this process, how to identify and support those in quarantine)
- NSW will likely announce state-wide back up on community restrictions. The ACT will need to develop a position that can go to whole-of-government whether we will do the same in the ACT.

CHO provided an update on AHPPC meeting:

- NSW has seen an increase in confirmed cases linked to the Northern Beaches cluster:
  - Concern regarding community transmission has gone beyond Northern Beaches
  - Numerous locations identified where infectious people have visited
- NSW confirmed 64 cases in total, and more expected today.
  - Of 64, identified 54 directly linked to Northern Beaches cluster, 2 cases in Central Coast, 2 in South Sydney
  - Several cases linked to gym and oceanic fish shop
  - One cluster outside of Northern Beaches with four accountants in CBD location (linked to drummer of Nothing Too Serious band) (Of those four, 3 live in Nth Sydney)
- Commonwealth advised GP RACs saw a significant increase in testing with 400% in government run clinics (especially QLD, NSW, ACT)
- Of the 64 cases, all links found, but approximately 5 reside outside Northern Beaches area.
- No further intel on sewerage testing
- Northern Beaches are in lockdown until Wednesday midnight.
- NSW announcement at 1100hrs today, likely for all of NSW to take one step in back in restrictions:
  - E.g. 1 in 4 per square metres
  - TBC on period of time.
- Most jurisdictions have implemented border restrictions on Northern Beaches with some extending to Greater Sydney and North Coast
- QLD are maintaining Northern Beaches as hot spot for quarantine:
  - Also hard on Greater Sydney and Central Coast



## Health Emergency Control Centre

### On-Call Officer Briefing

### **1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020**

- Cleveland, Gold Coast, Cairns and Townsville have positive tests in sewerage (don't have quarantine hotels, likely old positive cases are shedding).
- CHO expects QLD will increase exemption requirements for Greater Sydney
- Victoria is going to be expanding red zone for Greater Sydney and Central Coast from midnight tonight:
  - To allow returning residents to go home to Vic.
  - Albury and W bubble in place
  - Could be issues regarding cross border travel.
- SA is only Northern Beaches, may likely close to NSW later today
- WA shut to all of NSW
- NT closed only to Northern Beaches may close tomorrow to NSW.

### **Operations**

Danielle Briones provided an update:

- Asked Access Canberra to forward calls regarding Northern Beaches quarantine to ACTH (Starting to get increase of calls)
- Had 16+ people yesterday call in quarantine under Northern Beaches public health direction
- NSW unable to provide further information on any other Northern Beaches people in ACT.
- From 11-18 December, 1,836 travellers from NSW to ACT on planes:
  - Operations have sent texts to all passengers
  - Self-isolate, test, report to ACTH.
  - Dr Dinesh Arya proposed use of "report to" instead of "contact" for SMS messages to people from Northern Beaches in self-quarantine to report to ACTH.
- Merryn Hare asked about content of messages and how visitors are recorded:
  - Call ACTH, quarantine, test
  - Collect name, contact details, if tested, last date of exposure, where in Northern Beaches
  - Record management to be updated (E.g. separate project on RedCap)
- One call yesterday from ACTP regarding complaint from member of public:
  - From Nth Beaches
  - Person out exercising
  - ACTP queries use of RedCap regarding compliance checks
  - CHO, rather than vigorous compliance, we will aim for community engagement and education.
  - If people apply for exemptions who are high risk could be put into Red Cap to monitor for compliance etc.

**Action: Danielle Briones to liaise with ACT Policing on education process for complaints received by ACT Policing.**

**Action: Danielle Briones and Merryn Hare to discuss record management options.**

Operations has capacity to surge over the next several weeks:

- 15-20 contact tracers available
- Louise Smith on-call next week, then Toby Keene week after
- 4/5 operational managers can be recalled any time



## **Health Emergency Control Centre**

### **On-Call Officer Briefing**

### **1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020**

- Tim and Bec available for epidemiology
- Surge for well-being and data too.

Dr Karin English identified one new unrelated case in the ACT:

- Not linked to Northern Beaches cluster
- In hotel quarantine

#### **Exemptions**

Nicole provided an update on exemptions:

- Received total of 33 applications
- 1 new application overnight
- 6 approved to return to NSW
- Need feedback on 1 application:
  - Not NSW resident
  - Has family residence to stay in (Nth Sydney)
  - CHO approved.
- 2 applications regarding custody arrangements leaving ACT
- CHO emphasised getting people home safely.

#### **Clinical Health Emergency Coordination Centre**

Patrick Wells provided an update:

- Testing numbers:
  - Friday, 1,000 through
  - Saturday, 700 through
  - Processing another 400 tests today
  - Process time for test results is within 24 hours (From swab to result)
  - Busiest site was EPIC (Open to 7pm yesterday)
  - Queues at Garran Oval Centre
  - ACT Pathology received 1,620 swabs
- Capacity for staff, swabs (150,000 in stock), and testing products is fine
- Reports of people upset at testing clinics regarding 14 day quarantine requirements
- CHECC considering testing operations for Xmas Day (Currently only Weston Creek WiC)
- CHO advised of likely exit testing for 14 day quarantine.
- CHO thanked CHECC on clarification of testing requirements
- Non-Gov testing clinic hours over Christmas:
  - YourGP – Closed Sundays, open Sat 10am-2pm, open 29 December to 31 December between 9am-5pm
  - Lakeview – Closed weekends, closed 24 dec-3 Jan
  - Winnunga – Closed weekends, open 9am-1pm from Tuesday 29 December to Thursday 31 December

#### **Public Information Coordination Centre:**

Amanda Whitley advised that social media has been quiet (e.g Few questions regarding NSW travel).





## **Health Emergency Control Centre**

### **On-Call Officer Briefing**

### **1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020**

Alex McConachie advised of no new media enquiries (One reply outstanding from Canberra Times yesterday).

Jo Verden advised of meeting tomorrow morning with Nicole Mahar and Tracey Pullie regarding updated PICC Xmas Shutdown arrangements (e.g. On-call roster will be reviewed).

#### **Discussion**

CHO proposed to extend the current public health direction for Greater Sydney.

Members discussed appropriate time for new direction to enter into force (e.g. 1159hrs tomorrow) and when to communicate.

**Action: CHO to liaise with Government Solicitor Office for update to public health direction.**

**Action: CHO to consider changes to current restrictions in the ACT.**

CHO agreed to Operations proposal putting an online form on the ACT COVID-19 website:

- Similar to Adelaide online declaration form
- Self-reporting of travellers from Greater Sydney region.
- To manage and maintain information

**Action: Danielle Briones, Merryn Hare, Nicole Wynants, and Alex McConachie to develop an online process for travellers from Greater Sydney to notify and declare before arrival in the ACT.**

Dr Karin English advised that the change to the public health direction means changes for high risk setting advice.

**Action: Patrick Wells, Dr Karin English and Dr Dinesh Arya to discuss consequences of public health direction change in relation to healthcare settings, visitors, and workers.**

The CHO will be attend the following briefings:

- AHPPC at 1300hrs
- Brief DG Health, Coordinator-General, Head of Service and Minister for Health post-AHPPC
- Attend HECC Briefing at 1400hrs

**Meeting Ended: 1055hrs**

**Next Meeting: 1400hrs 20/12/2020**



**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** ACT Health, HPSOps  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Arya, Dinesh (Health); Briones, Danielle (Health); Reid, Sue (Health); English, Karin (Health); Wynants, Nicole (Health); Whitley, Amanda; Verden, Jo; McConachie, Alex (Health); Wells, Patrick (Health); Reid, David (Health)  
**Cc:** Clarke, Naomi (Health); HECC Operations; HECC Planning; HECC Logistics; ACT Health, HPSOps; COVID Exemptions; Cannon, Craig (Health); CHECC; COVID-19 Media; COVID-19 Comms  
**Subject:** Interim Minutes - Sunday 20 December On-Call CHO Briefing #2  
**Attachments:** 20201220 - On-call Officer Briefing #2 DRAFT.doc; 20201219 - On-call Officer Briefing FINAL.doc

## OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please see attached the draft minutes from the 1000hrs briefing today. Cleared by Dr Dinesh Arya. Awaiting any final changes from CHO.

Please note actions are in **bold** text.

Also see attached yesterday's final minutes, as cleared by CHO.

The next briefing is scheduled at 1400hrs in the Level 2 Conference Room at Bowes Street.

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director | Situations and Briefings

Ph: 5124 6177 | Email: [david.reid@act.gov.au](mailto:david.reid@act.gov.au) | [hecc.planning@act.gov.au](mailto:hecc.planning@act.gov.au)

HECC Support Systems | Health Emergency Control Centre | ACT Health Directorate  
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**Health Emergency Control Centre**  
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**1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020**

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## Health Emergency Control Centre On-Call Officer Briefing **1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020**

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- 15-20 contact tracers available
- Louise Smith on-call next week, then Toby Keene week after
- 4/5 operational managers can be recalled any time



**Health Emergency Control Centre**  
**On-Call Officer Briefing**  
**1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020**

- Tim and Bec available for epidemiology
- Surge for well-being and data too.

Dr Karin English identified one new unrelated case in the ACT:

- Not linked to Northern Beaches cluster
- In hotel quarantine

**Exemptions**

Nicole provided an update on exemptions:

- Received total of 33 applications
- 1 new application overnight
- 6 approved to return to NSW
- Need feedback on 1 application:
  - Not NSW resident
  - Has family residence to stay in (Nth Sydney)
  - CHO approved.
- 2 applications regarding custody arrangements leaving ACT
- CHO emphasised getting people home safely.

**Clinical Health Emergency Coordination Centre**

Patrick Wells provided an update:

- Testing numbers:
  - Friday, 1,000 through
  - Saturday, 700 through
  - Processing another 400 tests today
  - Process time for test results is within 24 hours (From swab to result)
  - Busiest site was EPIC (Open to 7pm yesterday)
  - Queues at Garran Oval Centre
  - ACT Pathology received 1,620 swabs
- Capacity for staff, swabs (150,000 in stock), and testing products is fine
- Reports of people upset at testing clinics regarding 14 day quarantine requirements
- CHECC considering testing operations for Xmas Day (Currently only Weston Creek WiC)
- CHO advised of likely exit testing for 14 day quarantine.
- CHO thanked CHECC on clarification of testing requirements
- Non-Gov testing clinic hours over Christmas:
  - YourGP – Closed Sundays, open Sat 10am-2pm, open 29 December to 31 December between 9am-5pm
  - Lakeview – Closed weekends, closed 24 dec-3 Jan
  - Winnunga – Closed weekends, open 9am-1pm from Tuesday 29 December to Thursday 31 December

**Public Information Coordination Centre:**

Amanda Whitley advised that social media has been quiet (e.g Few questions regarding NSW travel).





## Health Emergency Control Centre On-Call Officer Briefing **1000-1100hrs 20 December 2020**

Alex McConachie advised of no new media enquiries (One reply outstanding from Canberra Times yesterday).

Jo Verden advised of meeting tomorrow morning with Nicole Mahar and Tracey Pullie regarding updated PICC Xmas Shutdown arrangements (e.g. On-call roster will be reviewed).

### **Discussion**

CHO proposed to extend the current public health direction for Greater Sydney.

Members discussed appropriate time for new direction to enter into force (e.g. 1159hrs tomorrow) and when to communicate.

**Action: CHO to liaise with Government Solicitor Office for update to public health direction.**

**Action: CHO to consider changes to current restrictions in the ACT.**

CHO agreed to Operations proposal putting an online form on the ACT COVID-19 website:

- Similar to Adelaide online declaration form
- Self-reporting of travellers from Greater Sydney region.
- To manage and maintain information

**Action: Danielle Briones, Merryn Hare, Nicole Wynants, and Alex McConachie to develop an online process for travellers from Greater Sydney to notify and declare before arrival in the ACT.**

Dr Karin English advised that the change to the public health direction means changes for high risk setting advice.

**Action: Patrick Wells, Dr Karin English and Dr Dinesh Arya to discuss consequences of public health direction change in relation to healthcare settings, visitors, and workers.**

The CHO will be attend the following briefings:

- AHPPC at 1300hrs
- Brief DG Health, Coordinator-General, Head of Service and Minister for Health post-AHPPC
- Attend HECC Briefing at 1400hrs

**Meeting Ended: 1055hrs**

**Next Meeting: 1400hrs 20/12/2020**



**Health Emergency Control Centre**  
**On-Call Officer Briefing**  
**1400-1445hrs 19 December 2020**

<b>Chief Health Officer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Kerry Coleman (Chair)</li> <li>• Dr Dinesh Arya (On-call)</li> </ul>	<b>HEMU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Reid (Secretariat)</li> </ul>
<b>HECC Operations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danielle Briones</li> <li>• Sue Reid</li> <li>• Dr Karin English</li> </ul>	<b>Public Information Coordination Centre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Verden</li> <li>• Penny Gibson</li> <li>• Amanda Whitley</li> </ul>
<b>Exemptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole Wynants</li> </ul>	

Dr Kerry Coleman convened the meeting and provided an update from AHPPC:

- NSW has seen an increase in confirmed cases:
  - At 1000hrs, total of 42 total cases
  - Of which, 38 cases are Northern Beaches residents, 2 are from central coast, and 2 from South Sydney
  - To be confirmed on patient zero
  - 17 year old male attended Anytime fitness (onset of symptoms on 10 December), with work underway to identify contacts up and down stream
  - 24 year old female, attended a 30 person household party (to be confirmed on contact tracing).
- Since 1000hrs this morning, another 17 cases have been identified to North Sydney PHU
- Next AHPPC meeting at 1730hrs today with further updates on NSW.
- NSW testing saw 15,000 tests yesterday, with a turnaround of results within 8 hours.
- Sewerage testing for Northern Beaches shown negative results for 10 December and positive results on 16 December (therefore highly unlikely community transmission prior to 10 December).
- All jurisdictions have implemented tighter restrictions in relation to travellers from Northern Beaches.
- All jurisdictions are receiving flight manifests to contact travellers.
- Likely that NSW Government will issue restrictions for Greater NSW or whole of NSW tomorrow (TBC).

**HECC Operations:**

Sue Reid provided an update on flights:

- Received flight manifests from Sydney to Canberra from 11-17 December yesterday:
  - Have contacted travellers via SMS regarding ACT public health direction and advice
  - Waiting on manifests for yesterday (18 December)
  - CHO tasked HECC Operations to talk to National Incident Room to get flight manifests for Sydney to Canberra
- Called NSW State Control Centre regarding any ACT contacts involved in Northern Beaches.

**Action: Danielle Briones to collect flight manifests into the ACT from 18 December onwards.**

**Action: Sue Reid to follow up with NSW about any ACT contacts.**



## **Health Emergency Control Centre**

### **On-Call Officer Briefing**

### **1400-1445hrs 19 December 2020**

Dr Karin English provided an update on medical matters:

- Received questions regarding exit testing on Days 10-12 of people in quarantine
- Advised that anyone from 11 December will come up to exit testing time shortly
- CHO recommended that those in quarantine have their name and contact details collected and that the ACT will reassess requirements on Monday
- CHO also advised that quarantine requirements will be reassessed on Monday following further assessment of NSW.

**Action: HECC Operations to continue collecting contact details of people travelling from Northern Beaches (e.g. RedCap) in preparation for further public health assessment on Monday.**

**Action: Danielle Briones to liaise with Access Canberra once above information for Exit Testing for People in Quarantine is confirmed.**

Sue Reid / Danielle Briones provided an operations update for last 24 hours:

- Numerous calls received for people enquiring about requirements under new public health direction
- Two minor logistical items identified (e.g. people staying in campervan requiring quarantine)
- Walk in Centres are testing everyone from Sydney (not just Northern Beaches):
  - Danielle advised that HECC had issued fact sheet to testing clinics about testing requirements
- Advised that for compliance, not reporting contact details on Red Cap (Chair noted the public health direction was a 'flag' rather than issuing of compliance requirements by ACT Policing).

**Action: Danielle Briones to liaise with Weston Creek WIC and other ACTGOV testing clinics on fact sheet and to gauge testing levels.**

**Action: David Reid to invite CHECC Liaison Officer (Patrick Wells) to tomorrow's On-call Officer Briefing.**

#### **Exemptions**

Nicole provided an update on exemptions:

- Received 2 applications overnight
- Received further 25 applications today
- Most applicants had not been in hot spot or want to return to NSW
- CHO advised to maintain consistent advice until Monday
- CHO advised that NSW advising no one to travel at the moment, and for ACT exemption to utilise lines of "In line with NSW direction... the ACT will reassess the situation on Monday."

#### **Public Information Coordination Centre:**

Penny Gibson provided an update on media:

- One media enquiry today (Tom Lawry?) regarding footage of testing clinic
- One media enquiry from Canberra Times regarding update on NSW situation (used pre-approved lines preparing by Tracey Pulli last night)
- Media outlets focused on NSW.



**Health Emergency Control Centre**  
**On-Call Officer Briefing**  
**1400-1445hrs 19 December 2020**

Jo Verden provided an update on communications:

- Social media to be reviewed, with further messaging to reiterate arrangements in place for ACT
- CHO advised of clearance process (see action below).

**Action: PICC to clear new social media messaging via HECC Operations, Dr Dinesh Arya and Dr Kerry Coleman.**

**On-Call CHO**

Dr Dinesh Arya confirmed with CHO:

- CHO to provide dot point summary of AHPPC meeting to Dinesh
- CHO to provide update to DG Health and Dinesh.

**Meeting Ended: 1445hrs**

**Next Meeting: 1400hrs 20/12/2020**



**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Johnston, Vanessa (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health); English, Karin (Health)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NSW Health PHRB Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sitrep 333 - 19 December 2020  
**Attachments:** Sitrep 333 19 December 2020 COVID-19.pdf

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**From:** Melanie Tulloch (Sydney LHD) [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 9:33:12 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NSW Health PHRB Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sitrep 333 - 19 December 2020

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

Dear colleagues

Please find attached the Public Health Response Branch Situation Report #333 - 19 December 2020.

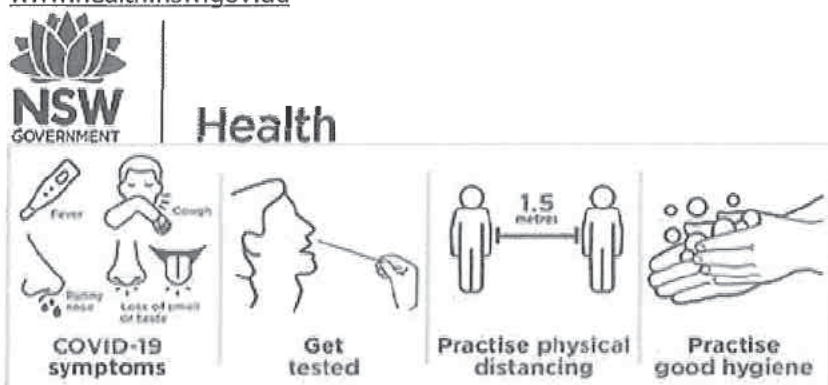
Kind regards

Melanie Tulloch

Operational Policy | **COVID-19 Public Health Response Branch**

NSW Ministry of Health | 100 Christie Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)



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

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# NSW Health Public Health Response Branch COVID-19 Situation Report

## Report details

<b>SITREP #</b>	333	<b>Date of issue</b>	19/12/2020 20:00
<b>Last SITREP</b>	18/12/2020 20:00	<b>Next SITREP</b>	20/12/2020 20:00
The Public Health Response Branch (PHRB) remains operational. Australia remains at pandemic phase 'targeted response'.			
<b>Distribution</b>	Minister's office MOH Executive NSW Health Agency Executive NSW Health PHUs	State Emergency Operations Controller State Health Emergency Operations Centre (SHEOC) NSW Police NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet ACT Health	

## Surveillance

### Key data

As at 8pm 19 December 2020

Additional  
information  
is available in  
the Appendix

**Table 1: Daily and cumulative COVID-19 case and testing data summary**

Cases in the last 24 hours*	36
Tests in the last 24 hours*	28,210
Deaths in the last 24 hours*	0
Total Cases	4,559
Total Tests <sup>1</sup>	3,692,747
Total Deaths	55

\*Notified since 8pm 18 December 2020.

<sup>1</sup> PCR tests are defined as one test per person per day, up to and including a positive detection (i.e. excludes tests for confirmed cases after their first positive test)

**Table 2: Daily and cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by likely source of infection in NSW, reported up to 8pm 19 December 2020**

Likely source of infection	Cases last 24 hours*	Cases last 7 days**	Cases all
Overseas	6	35	2,528
Interstate	0	0	90
Locally acquired - linked to known case or cluster	27	67	1,504
Locally acquired - no links to known case or cluster	0	1	434
Locally acquired – investigation ongoing	3	3	3
Under initial investigation	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>4,559</b>

Note: Case counts reported for a particular day may vary over time due to ongoing investigations and case review.

\*notified since 8pm on 18 December 2020

\*\*from 13 December up to 8pm 19 December 2020



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Epi data is available on the NSW Health website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/recent-case-updates.aspx>

The latest weekly report has been released and is available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/weekly-reports.aspx>.

There are no cases in ICU.

In total there are 69 COVID confirmed patients admitted in NSW Health (incl. ICU, other ward types, hospital in the home, and other out of hospital care). Most (96%) are in non-acute out of hospital care.

A full report on sewage surveillance is published in the COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance in NSW reports. The weekly reports are available at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/weekly-reports.aspx>

## International travellers

## Quarantine Hotel Surveillance

	Tested	Pending	Positive	%Positive	Refused (%)
Symptomatic (since 29 March 2020)					
18-Dec	38	0	1	2.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,059</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>2.1</b>	
Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 2 (since 30 June 2020)					
17-Dec	318	0	4	1.3	
18-Dec	321	63	0	0.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,701</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>0.6</b>	
Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 10 (since 15 May 2020)					
17-Dec	403	1	0	0.0	0.0%
18-Dec	321	2	0	0.0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,940</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>264 (0.4%)</b>

## New Zealand passengers symptomatic or tested on arrival since October 16 2020:

Collection date	Tested	Pending	Positive	%Positive
19-Dec	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## International Airport arrival passenger screening:

Date of screening	Number of arrivals screened for symptoms	Symptomatic arrivals transferred to hospital for further evaluation and testing	Percent evaluated and tested
17 Dec 2020	813	12	1.5
18 Dec 2020	918	15	1.6
<b>Total since 02 Feb 2020</b>	<b>197,439</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>1.2</b>

## Public health preparedness and response

## Clusters and high-risk settings

## LOCALLY ACQUIRED CASES

There are 30 new cases reported today who acquired COVID-19 locally. 3 of the 30 remain under investigation.

## AVALON CLUSTER

27 of the locally acquired cases reported today are linked to the cluster. 2 cases reported yesterday as under investigation have now been linked to this cluster. There are now 67 cases linked to this

cluster. The source of the cluster remains under investigation. The cases attended multiple venues and contact tracing is underway.

#### JAPARA BAYVIEW GARDENS AGED CARE HOME

One case reported in the Avalon Cluster previously works at a residential aged care facility. NSW Health and Australian Government collaborating on response. No cases identified to date in residents or other staff.

#### SOUTH SYDNEY CASE

One case reported on 16 December is a driver who transports flight crew to and from the airport and their hotels. Close contacts are isolating.

#### INTERSTATE/OVERSEAS ACQUIRED

There are 6 new cases reported today who acquired COVID-19 overseas.

A list of venues attended by cases where people may be at risk of infection is available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>.

## Policy

### Key updates

The Public Health (COVID-19 Northern Beaches) Order 2020 contains directions on staying at home, entering the Northern Beaches, public gatherings, exempted gatherings and places that are closed. The Order commenced at 5.02 pm on 19 December and is repealed at the end of 23 December 2020.

A person must not be away from their place of residence or short-term accommodation in the Northern Beaches, without a reasonable excuse. A reasonable excuse includes the need to do the following activities:

1. To obtain food or other goods or services for the personal needs of the person's household, or other household purposes (including for pets) or for vulnerable persons
2. To travel for work purposes, if the person cannot work from home, and to travel to and from a school or other educational institution
3. To exercise
4. To obtain medical care or supplies, or to fulfil carer's responsibilities

A person must not enter the Northern Beaches unless they have a reasonable excuse. A reasonable excuse includes entering the Northern Beaches to:

- Go to the person's place of residence in the Northern Beaches
- Travel through the Northern Beaches in a vehicle if the person does not leave the vehicle while in the area
- Do any of the activities that people living or staying on the Northern Beach may leave home to do, except for exercising

Public gatherings are limited to 2 persons, with certain exceptions. A number of premises and places are directed to close.

The Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) Amendment Order commenced on 17 December.

The Amending Order amends the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) 2020 to:

- update the reference to the checklists so that a COVID-19 safety plan under the Order must address the matters in the relevant checklist as updated from time to time,
- update the definition of agricultural field days (as the current definition doesn't appropriately capture field days),



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• remove the references to “regional” from the provisions relating to regional agricultural shows, so that it is clear that the relevant provisions apply to all agricultural shows, and</li> <li>• include a new provision requiring the organiser of an outdoor rehearsal or performance to ensure all persons attending as spectators are assigned to a specific seat or seating area.</li> </ul> <p>The <u>Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities) Order (No 4) 2020</u> commenced on 15 December 2020 and replaced the No 3 Order. It continues most of the restrictions and requirements in the No 3 Order (relating to limiting entry and requiring person permitted to enter to be screened prior to entry). However, the No 4 order loosens the restrictions that apply in residential aged care facilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• removing the restrictions on the number of care and support visitors a resident can receive at one time (that is, residents will no longer be limited to two visitors per visit),</li> <li>• removing the requirement for persons entering to provide a care and support visit to have the flu vaccination, and</li> <li>• allowing a person to enter a residential aged care facility to provide a “welfare or wellbeing” visit to residents or to accompany a prospective resident. Such visitors do not have to have a flu vaccination.</li> </ul> <p>However, the No 4 Order requires the operator of a residential aged care facility to consider the advice of the Chief Health Officer in deciding the number of visitors who can enter the premises.</p> <p>The <u>Public Health (COVID-19 Maritime Quarantine) Order (No 4) 2020</u> commenced on 14 December. The No 4 Order is substantially the same as the No 3 Order apart from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if a person disembarks a vessel or leaves a quarantine facility because of an emergency, they must comply with directions of the Commissioner of Police,</li> <li>• a person who is allowed to temporarily embark on a vessel to perform functions or provide services must disembark immediately after providing the functions or services,</li> <li>• minor changes are also made to define a “wharf” (under the Order, the occupier of the wharf must develop and comply with a COVID-19 safety plan), and</li> <li>• the use of a hire car will be considered “appropriate transportation” for transporting crew between a vessel and a quarantine/medical facility or an airport.</li> </ul> <p>The <u>Public Health (COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine) Order (No 4) 2020</u> commenced on 14 December 2020. The No 4 Order continues the restrictions in the No 3 Order, subject to certain amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a “designated quarantine facility worker” cannot carry out services, or continue to carry out services, at a quarantine facility unless the person has been tested for COVID-19 in accordance with the NSW Testing Program for that class of workers. Similar restrictions apply to a “designated transportation worker”.</li> <li>• The NSW Testing Program will be set out in the Quarantine Worker Surveillance and Testing Program, which must be approved by the Chief Health Officer. The NSW Testing Program sets out when different categories of worker must be tested – if a worker in that category is not tested in accordance with the Program, they cannot provide services at the quarantine facility until they have been tested.</li> <li>• On 14 December, persons providing security services (but not police officers) were the only category of workers required to be tested in order to provide services. The category of workers included in the Testing Program may expand as time goes on.</li> <li>• The No 4 Order also requires a person who leaves a quarantine facility because of an emergency to comply with the directions of the Commissioner of Police.</li> <li>• The Order also requires designated air crew who are self-isolating to comply with the <i>Air Transportation Guidelines</i> as updated from time to time.</li> </ul>
COVID-19 National Guidelines	<p>The COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units (COVID-19 SoNG) V3.11 was published on 10 December 2020. Changes from the last version have been highlighted within the link.</p> <p><a href="https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm">https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm</a></p>

## Communications

### Public Information

- Comms
  - NSW Health website
    - Daily case updates <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>, <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-nsw.aspx>, <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-local.aspx> and <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/recent-case-updates.aspx>
    - Updated case locations
      - Multiple close contact venues added <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#self-isolate>
      - Multiple casual contact venues added <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#monitor>
      - Multiple public transport routes added <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#routes>
      - Updates to virus fragments detected in sewage section (Batemans Bay, Riverstone, Western Sydney, and Rouse Hill removed. Warriewood treatment plant detected 16 December added. Detection date for Liverpool treatment plant added) <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#sewage>
    - Updated advice
      - Residential aged care facilities <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx> linked from <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/aged-care.aspx>
      - Disability support providers <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-latest-advice.aspx> linked from <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-support.aspx>
      - Home care services <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/home-care-latest-advice.aspx> linked from <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-support.aspx>
    - Casual contact fact sheet updated <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/covid-19-casual-contact.aspx>
    - Revised COVID-19 screening guidelines for NSW healthcare facilities (current 18 December) <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/screening-procedure-nsw-health-facilities.aspx> and pdf <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Documents/screening-procedure-nsw-health-facilities.pdf>
    - New fact sheet for staff undergoing surveillance testing at hotel quarantine facilities <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/saliva-testing.aspx> and pdf <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Factsheets/saliva-testing.pdf> linked from <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/saliva-testing.aspx> and



- <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/factsheets-brochures.aspx>
- Public Health (COVID-19 Northern Beaches) Order 2020 added  
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#nb> Direct link to legislation:  
[https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/file/Public%20Health%20\(COVID-19%20Northern%20Beaches\)%20Order%202020.pdf](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/file/Public%20Health%20(COVID-19%20Northern%20Beaches)%20Order%202020.pdf)
- DCS website
  - Updated case locations
    - Multiple close contact venues added <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#self-isolate-and-get-tested>
    - Multiple casual contact venues added <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#monitor-for-symptoms>
    - Multiple public transport routes added <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>
    - Updates to virus fragments detected in sewage section (Batemans Bay, Riverstone, Western Sydney, and Rouse Hill removed. Warriewood treatment plant detected 16 December added. Detection date for Liverpool treatment plant added) <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw>
  - Page for ‘Restrictions for Northern Beaches – what you can and can’t do’ added  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/northern-beaches>
  - Northern Beaches clinics page updated <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/clinics/northern-beaches>
- Stakeholder communications
  - Confirmed DCS paid advertising to support recent public health alerts and advice around Avalon cluster:
    - Expanded media buy for ‘Testing is strongly encouraged in this area’ creative across Greater Sydney on out-of-home, social and digital channels
    - ‘NSW on high COVID-19 alert’ creative to run across all NSW on out-of-home, social and digital channels
    - Upweighted testing message creative across NSW channels over the next 2 weeks – online video, out-of-home, radio, digital, social, press, CALD channels, Indigenous channels
  - Testing information social tile for Northern Beaches translated into Armenian, Chinese and Tibetan for NS LHD
  - Reviewed updated DCS content for alert to Northern Beaches for Public Health Order
- Social
  - Live: 11am Press conference
  - Posts: Daily case numbers, carousel of all testing clinics on Northern Beaches, plan ahead for weather conditions (when going to get tested), public health alert – Anytime Fitness Avalon, NSW Health website intermittent outage notification, updated opening times for Northern Beaches testing clinics (pinned post), Thanks for getting tested NSW (boosted in key locations), Public Health Alert – new locations in Mona Vale, Avalon and Newport, Public Health Alert – Public Health Order for Northern Beaches
  - Completed: Updated Northern Beaches testing clinics social media tiles with revised days and times. Boosted and pinned post on Facebook. Shared with NSLHD and SHEOC.
- Media
  - Daily case numbers issued  
[https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219\\_01.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219_01.aspx)
  - 11am press conference <https://vimeo.com/492701839/eb5b2c0c13>
  - Public Health Alert – Anytime Fitness  
[https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219\\_00.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219_00.aspx)

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H20/5829-670

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Health Alert – new venues Northern Beaches <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219_02.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219_02.aspx</a></li><li>• Public Health Alert – Public Health Order for Northern Beaches LGA <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219_03.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20201219_03.aspx</a></li></ul>
--	--

<b>Sitrep issued by:</b>	Melanie Tulloch PHRB Operational Policy	<b>Authorised by:</b>	Dr Jan Fizzell Deputy PHRB Controller
--------------------------	--	-----------------------	--

**Pond, Aleks (Health)****Sent:**

Sunday, 20 December 2020 1:20 PM

## NSW update

- Additional 11 locally acquired cases since pm last night – 8 linked to cluster and 3 being interviewed, ALL live in northern beaches
- Only 2 clusters outside Northern Beaches – x5 CBD workplace, x3 hair salon – well managed re contact tracing etc...
- All other clusters/outbreaks are within Northern Beaches
- Testing very high – 28,000 yesterday; 17,000 at 9am this morning, turn around time holding up well (14 hours)
- Community restrictions apply to Wollongong region, Greater Sydney, Blue Mountains, Central Coast (Gosford and Wyon), Wollondilly (?), likely Hawkesbury – transmission potential is high at present – to reduce transmission risk overall in the event there is seeding – need to look postcodes up in public health direction when signed
- Confirm approach – limit risk of seeding through 'locking down' northern beaches area and exposure sites action, reduce transmission risk and hence impact if seeding occurs in wider NSW...

## Other jurisdictions

- All jurisdictions (bar WA) are implementing either no entry (non-residents) or mandatory quarantine for at least Greater Sydney +/- other areas identified by community restriction impact in NSW at midnight tonight. Some also have permit application for wider NSW.
- Melbourne will turn anyone around at airport who arrives from Canberra who doesn't have a permit – anticipate NSW residents may bypass?? Need to explore this and put in place operational requirements...
- SA – requesting us to consider the airport to check licenses before boarding again? Not a health issue.

## Considerations for ACT

- 1) Reduce risk of seeding from cluster (and quick detection and rapid response)
  - a. Direction in place requiring all people who have been in northern beaches from 11 Dec to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure, recommend testing immediately
  - b. Expand direction to include all areas to which additional community restrictions apply in NSW.
    - i. Soft implementation:
      1. strong messaging do not travel to ACT or you will be required to quarantine,
      2. fill in web-based form if do choose to come into ACT – so we can support you,
      3. hotels identify matching residential addresses,
      4. testing recommended for day 1/2 and 12,
    - ii. date: ?midnight tonight aligns with other jurisdictions, but limited implementation time given anticipated impact on workers
    - iii. consider how to manage essential HCW and ACW – risk of implementation tonight is lack of detail and support for clinical services managing the impact
    - iv. no permit or declaration system for all NSW arrivals, no border reception or management
  - c.

**Dr Kerry Coleman****ACT Chief Health Officer****Public Health Physician****Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate**

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

E [Kerry.coleman@act.gov.au](mailto:Kerry.coleman@act.gov.au) W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** McConachie, Alex (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Cc:** HECC Operations; COVID-19 Media; Whitley, Amanda; Verden, Jo  
**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 20 December 2020

OFFICIAL

Hi Kerry,

Please see below today's statement for your approval. Note I am asking you to approve with the negative test number still to come due to tight timeframes, but we will ensure this has been received and included before the statement progresses to the MO.

Thanks

Alex

---

**From:** Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** HECC Operations  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 1:52 PM  
**To:** McConachie, Alex (Health) <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 20 December 2020

OFFICIAL

Can we please put in Update on travel and health advice for Northern Beaches outbreak first then the Victoria information afterwards? So that we can emphasize ACT response in the statement?

As discussed, I am still waiting for negative numbers. Will send that through as soon as I receive this.

Thank you,  
Dani



**From:** McConachie, Alex (Health) <[Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au](mailto:Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 1:30 PM

**To:** HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; Briones, Danielle (Health) <[Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au](mailto:Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au)>; Whitley, Amanda <[Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au](mailto:Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au)>; Verden, Jo <[Jo.Verden@act.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Verden@act.gov.au)>; Pretorius, Dion <[Dion.Pretorius@act.gov.au](mailto:Dion.Pretorius@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 20 December 2020

OFFICIAL

Hello,

Today's update for approval. In this we will message out the new case and mirror Victorian messaging as per 1000 meeting, with any further messaging on updates to Greater Sydney advice/declaration to be made in a separate media statement later today if needed.

We will also need the negative test number updated, as we have not received this yet.



# COVID-19 update



## ACT COVID-19 Update – 20 December 2020

### Confirmed cases update

There has been **one new case** of COVID-19 recorded in the ACT in the past 24 hours, bringing the ACT's total to **118**. There is **one active case** in the ACT.

The new case of COVID-19 is a female returned Commonwealth official in her 40s who is currently in hotel quarantine.

She underwent a routine day 12 test yesterday which returned a positive result. She remains in hotel quarantine and is being supported by ACT Health.

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

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

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

The number of negative tests recorded in the ACT is now **12x,xxx**.

### Update on travel and health advice for Northern Beaches outbreak

There are now **68** confirmed cases linked to the Northern Beaches cluster, as reported by NSW Health this morning.

Our travel and health advice is as follows:

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

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

This remains a rapidly evolving situation and we will keep the community updated if the situation changes.

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

#### **Important advice for ACT residents who have been in Greater Sydney wishing to return to Victoria**

The Victorian Government has today announced that, from 11.59pm tonight, anyone who has been in Greater Sydney and the Central Coast that arrives in Victoria will be required to undertake 14 days mandatory quarantine.

Greater Sydney and the Central Coast has been declared a 'red zone' by the Victorian Government, which will impact travel between NSW and Victoria.

Anyone who has been in a red zone will be required to undergo 14 days mandatory quarantine if they enter Victoria.

This means anyone intending to travel to Victoria from the ACT, who has spent time in a red zone in the past 14 days, will be impacted by these changes once they come into effect at 11.59pm tonight.

At this point the rest of NSW and the ACT remains a green zone. If you are planning to travel to VIC, you will need to apply for a new permit to enter the state, even if you already have one. Keep up-to-date on the latest COVID-19 advice in your area and find more information on our Travel page at [www.covid19.act.gov.au/travel](http://www.covid19.act.gov.au/travel)

#### **General information**

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

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

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

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

**Statement ends**

Media contact:  
COVID-19 media M 0435 258 508 E [COVID-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19media@act.gov.au)



**ACT Government | Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)**

GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



13 22 81

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

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie

**Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)**

T: (02) 5124 9525 | E: [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)

ACT Health Directorate – Level 2, 2 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** English, Karin (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 1:58 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Cc:** Clarke, Naomi (Health)  
**Subject:** CHO alert high risk settings  
**Attachments:** COVID-19 Advice on interstate COVID-19 outbreaks\_20122020\_draft2a.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi Kerry

For your consideration – a CHO alert about high – risk settings.

We can discuss in the meeting now

Karin

**Karin English | Public Health Registrar**

Ph: (02) 5124 9243 | Email: [karin.english@act.gov.au](mailto:karin.english@act.gov.au)

**Health Protection Service | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate**

2-6 Bowes St. Woden | ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

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

### Key Points

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

### What is the situation?

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

### What are geographical areas of risk?

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

- Greater Sydney (excluding transit through Sydney Airport)



## ACT Public Health Directions regarding interstate COVID-19 outbreaks

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

## What are high-risk settings?

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

## Advice for high-risk settings

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) must not visit or work in a high-risk setting.
- Anyone who has been in a geographical area of risk (see above) should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days since leaving these areas.
- If facilities identify staff who have been in the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA since the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, they should advise their staff to go into quarantine.
- If someone is excluded from visiting or working in a high-risk setting, but is seeking to visit on compassionate grounds, or to work because they are deemed essential (e.g. someone with expertise that cannot be sourced elsewhere):
  - If they are in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), they will need to apply for an exemption by emailing [COVID.exemptions@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID.exemptions@act.gov.au).
  - If they are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), this should be considered following a risk assessment, in consultation with ACT Health.



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

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

### Advice for general practitioners and other community health practitioners

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) must not work in a community health setting, unless ACT Health grants them an exemption to do so.
- GPs and other community health practitioners who have been in a geographical area of risk (see above), but who are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction, should be particularly vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- Health practitioners should actively seek a patient's travel history and advise them to go into quarantine and get tested if applicable. If unsure, contact ACT Health on (02) 5124 6209.

### For more information

- Visit the Chief Health Officer alerts page: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts>
- Visit the ACT COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>
- Contact ACT Health on (02) 5124 6209.

Dr Kerry Coleman  
ACT Chief Health Officer  
20 December 2020

#### Accessibility

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



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

For further accessibility information, visit: [www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility](http://www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility)

[www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) | Phone: 13 22 81

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra December 2020

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

**From:** AHPPC Secretariat <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 2:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW.docx

**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 CHOs

Please note the attached COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory.

Jurisdictions, if our table does not reflect your current/proposed situation please let us know.

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

A: MDP 140, GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601, Australia

*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."







**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Spurrier, Nicola (Health) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW\_NS.docx

**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.

Sorry now attached.

**Professor Nicola Spurrier**  
Chief Public Health Officer  
SA Health

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

---

**From:** Spurrier, Nicola (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Please note the SA section was not correct – I have updated - can the secretariat update the track changes and reissue.

Thanks Nicola

**Professor Nicola Spurrier**  
Chief Public Health Officer  
SA Health

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

---

**From:** AHPPC Secretariat [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 2:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon CHOs

Please note the attached COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory.

Jurisdictions, if our table does not reflect your current/proposed situation please let us know.

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

A: MDP 140, GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601, Australia

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**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** ACT Health, HPSOps  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health); Arya, Dinesh (Health)  
**Cc:** Reid, David (Health)  
**Subject:** For review - HECC On-Call Officer Briefing Minutes  
**Attachments:** 20201220 - On-call Officer Briefing #3 DRAFT.doc

OFFICIAL

Hello,

For your review please.

Once cleared, will redistribute to previous email chain.

Regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director | Situations and Briefings

Ph: 5124 6177 | Email: [david.reid@act.gov.au](mailto:david.reid@act.gov.au) | [hecc.planning@act.gov.au](mailto:hecc.planning@act.gov.au)

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

2-6 Bowes Street, Woden, ACT





**Health Emergency Control Centre**  
**On-Call Officer Briefing #3**  
**1400-1500hrs 20 December 2020**

<b>Chief Health Officer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Kerry Coleman (Chair)</li> <li>• Dr Dinesh Arya (On-call)</li> </ul>	<b>HEMU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Reid (Secretariat)</li> </ul>
<b>HECC Operations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toby Keene</li> <li>• Danielle Briones</li> <li>• Sue Reid</li> <li>• Dr Karin English</li> <li>• Dr Naomi Clarke</li> </ul>	<b>Public Information Coordination Centre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Verden</li> <li>• Alex McConachie</li> <li>• Amanda Whitley</li> </ul>
<b>Exemptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merryn Hare</li> <li>• Nicole Wynants</li> </ul>	<b>Clinical Health Emergency Coordination Centre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Wells</li> </ul>
<b>HECC Logistics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jody Clouten</li> </ul>	

The CHO convened the meeting and provided an update from AHPPC:

- 11 new cases since 2000hrs last night:
  - All in Northern Beaches
  - Community transmission contained
  - NSW doing great job on contact tracing
  - 28,000 tests done yesterday, 17,000 done by 0900hrs today
  - Testing turnaround within 14 hours
- NSW issued public health directions for Greater Sydney, including Central Coast, Illawarra Shoalhaven, and Nepean Blue Mountains regions:
  - Limit on household capacity, 1 person per 4 square metres etc
  - List of post codes in public health direction from NSW won't be available until tonight
  - To limit risk of further community transmission
- Every jurisdiction doing no entry or quarantine for Greater Sydney zone

CHO advised on public health directions:

- ACT from midnight tonight will declare Greater Sydney, including Central Coast, Illawarra Shoalhaven, and Nepean Blue Mountains regions, COVID-affected areas:
- We are not implementing community restrictions in ACT
- But the quarantine arrangements in NSW will apply here (Any traveller who has left the Northern Beaches region, must do what the Northern beaches people are doing (e.g. quarantine)).

**Action:** Kylie Jonasson and Meg (GSO) will liaise with Merryn Hare to finalise public health direction for Greater Sydney.

**Action:** Merryn Hare to look at transit issue for travellers into ACT (e.g. affected person exempt for people who fly from Adelaide to Canberra via Sydney).



## **Health Emergency Control Centre**

### **On-Call Officer Briefing #3**

### **1400-1500hrs 20 December 2020**

#### **Operations**

Operations presented proposal for notification form for NSW areas:

- Utilise online form on ACT COVID-19 website
- Collecting info from where travellers come from, symptoms, etc (simple 10 fields)
- One question regarding ability to quarantine (that ACTH can review back of house)
- Data saved in separate project on RedCap
- Online form can be updated with locations at later times (e.g. post codes)
- ACTH can link data to SMS for daily pushout (passive, no replies, that they remain in quarantine).
- Consulted with Peter O'Halloran and Merryn Hare
- We can go live by midnight.

CHO agreed on soft implementation of above process from midnight tonight:

- Strong messaging "Do not come to ACT. If you do, you will need to quarantine."
- Use of tick box that requires applicant to acknowledge they have to quarantine upon entry
- No public health team at airport etc.
- Use of hotels for quarantine (Hotels able to record addresses of guests):
  - Communicate to hotel, anyone who comes from Sydney regions, we appreciate their validation of addresses on entry
  - Jonathon Kobus, Visit Canberra, to assist.
- Regarding testing:
  - No mandated exit testing
  - Recommended testing on day of entry and Day 12 (as part of SMS process)
  - ACTH will consider Day 5 testing at later time.

**Action: Operations to implement new procedure, communicate with hotels and Visit Canberra, and go live with new notification form tonight.**

#### **Other Discussion**

Members discussed stakeholder engagement:

- CHO agreed to finalising and issuing CHO alert as advice to various stakeholders.
- Karin mentioned carers for disability sector.
- CHO noted we can only notify high risk settings tonight, and not consult directly

**Action: Dr Karin English to finalise and distribute the CHO advice to high-risk stakeholders.**

**Action: Dr Karin English, Toby Keene and Patrick Wells to reach out to Anthony Dombkins regarding aged care and risk assessments.**

#### **Communications**

Press conference proposed for 1700hrs:

- Catherine Bergin (CM Chief of Staff) wants to do a standup
- CHO will present.

**Action: Amanda Whitley will action messaging for ACT inbound road signs, buses, Murrays etc.**





**Health Emergency Control Centre**  
**On-Call Officer Briefing #3**  
**1400-1500hrs 20 December 2020**

CHO provided input into messaging:

- Affected areas of Greater Sydney, including Central Coast, Illawarra Shoalhaven, and Nepean Blue Mountains
- "ACT is in line with NSW directions"
- People from other jurisdictions residing in ACT should consider their home jurisdiction arrangements
- ACT residents can return and live separately in homes with other family members
- If you're not an ACT resident, don't come to the ACT
- CMTEDD to lead communications on ACT public servants
- Exemptions will not be entertained unless for strenuous reasons
- Note in messaging the implications of the new direction on high risk settings
- If ACT residents travelling back to ACT drive through Greater Sydney, try to circumnavigate.

**Action: Alex McConachie to finalise messaging today.**

Regarding internal communications

- CMTEDD to talk to other ACT public service agencies
- CMTEDD deal with airport.
- ACTH will do high risk settings, including aged care

Merryn Hare asked about updating list of suburbs / post codes for Greater Sydney etc. This will inform various directions etc.

**Action: Merryn Hare and David Reid to collate postcodes of Greater Sydney, Illawara, Blue Mountains, Shoalhaven, Central Coast.**

**Meeting Ended: 1455hrs**

**Next Meeting: Nil planned**

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** AHPPC Secretariat <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 5:57 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** For Info - Proposed Greater Sydney LGAs [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 CHOs

Many thanks to NSW for supplying the below information. Please note this information is not for further distribution.



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  


A: MDP 140, GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601, Australia

*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."

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Hare, Merryn (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:15 PM  
**To:** Brighton, Meg (Health); Manzoney, Lisa  
**Cc:** Jonasson, Kylie (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Coleman, Kerryn (Health); GovernmentBusinessHealth  
**Subject:** RE: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Meg,..

Confirming locations and directions in an email to Kerryn now – as per my original email, we are in the process of clarifying locations.

Kind regards,

Merryn

**Merryn Hare | Senior Manager**Email: [Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au](mailto:Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au)**Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate**Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

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

**From:** Brighton, Meg (Health) <Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:12 PM  
**To:** Manzoney, Lisa <Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>; Jonasson, Kylie (Health) <Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; GovernmentBusinessHealth <GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Lisa

CHO has just verbally advised – change of the regions captured.

It is to include:

Greater Sydney, Central coast and Wollongong (not those other areas)

(Merryn – CHO is calling NSW CHO to confirm and advise of inconsistency between website and directions. Can you check if it should be Illawarra or Wollongong)

Meg

**Meg Brighton** | Deputy Director-General **ACT Health Directorate** | ACT Government

T: +61 2 512 46240 | E: [meg.brighton@act.gov.au](mailto:meg.brighton@act.gov.au) | [REDACTED]

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street, Phillip, 2606 Woden Valley | GPO [Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601](#) | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Brighton, Meg (Health) <[Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au](mailto:Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:53 PM

**To:** Manzoney, Lisa <[Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Hare, Merryn (Health) <[Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au](mailto:Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au)>; Jonasson, Kylie (Health) <[Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au](mailto:Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <[Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au](mailto:Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au)>; GovernmentBusinessHealth <[GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au](mailto:GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au)>; Brighton, Meg (Health) <[Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au](mailto:Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Lisa

See below for updated instructions for the new Hotspot Direction. To be implemented at midnight tonight. We won't be mandating testing at this stage but as things change we may need to update in a few days.

I will text you to let you know that I have sent the email.

Regards

Meg

**Meg Brighton** | Deputy Director-General **ACT Health Directorate** | ACT Government

T: +61 2 512 46240 | E: [meg.brighton@act.gov.au](mailto:meg.brighton@act.gov.au) | [REDACTED]

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street, Phillip, 2606 Woden Valley | GPO [Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601](#) | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Hare, Merryn (Health) <[Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au](mailto:Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:36 PM

**To:** Brighton, Meg (Health) <[Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au](mailto:Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au)>; Jonasson, Kylie (Health) <[Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au](mailto:Kylie.Jonasson@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <[Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au](mailto:Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au)>; GovernmentBusinessHealth <[GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au](mailto:GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Meg and Kylie,

I understand you will liaise with GSO re the drafting of the next PH Hotspots Direction (number 8) this afternoon. Attached please find the word version to assist with this process (and associated revocation of Direction number 7).

Please note the definition of affected persons needs to exclude those transiting through e.g. Sydney airport.

Identified HotSpots now to include: Greater Sydney; Illawarra; Nepean; Shoalhaven; Central Coast; and the Blue Mountains.

For the Schedule, the following relate to Greater Sydney:

Greater Sydney LGAs
Bayside (excluding transit through Sydney airport)



Blacktown City
Blue Mountains City
Burwood
Camden
Campbelltown City
Canada Bay City
Canterbury-Bankstown
Central Coast
Cumberland
Fairfield City
Georges River
Hawkesbury City
Hornsby Shire
Hunter's Hill Municipality
Inner West
Ku-ring-gai
Liverpool City
Lane Cove Municipality
Mosman Municipality
North Sydney
Northern Beaches
Parramatta City
Penrith City
Randwick City
Ryde City
Strathfield Municipality
Sutherland Shire
Sydney City
The Hills Shire
Waverley
Willoughby City
Wollondilly Shire
Woollahra City

I am in the process of confirming the level of detail for the other associated LGAs but hope this helps to start to drafting.

Kind regards,

Merryn

**Merryn Hare | Senior Manager**

Email: [Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au](mailto:Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au)

**Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate**

Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



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

**From:** Hare, Merryn (Health)

**Sent:** Friday, 18 December 2020 5:37 PM

**To:** GovernmentBusinessHealth <[GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au](mailto:GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; Moxon, KarenL <[KarenL.Moxon@act.gov.au](mailto:KarenL.Moxon@act.gov.au)>; Masters, Skye <[Skye.Masters@act.gov.au](mailto:Skye.Masters@act.gov.au)>; Manzoney, Lisa <[Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au)>; HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>; Whitley, Amanda <[Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au](mailto:Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au)>; COVID Exemptions <[COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au)>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <[Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au](mailto:Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au)>; Stonham, Joshua <[Joshua.Stonham@act.gov.au](mailto:Joshua.Stonham@act.gov.au)>; Kimber, Bianca <[Bianca.Kimber@act.gov.au](mailto:Bianca.Kimber@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear All,

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

Thank you all for your patience and assistance.

Kind regards,

Merryn

**Merryn Hare | Senior Manager**

Email: [Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au](mailto:Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au)

**Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate**

Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



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**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** English, Karin (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Cc:** Wells, Patrick (Health); Clarke, Naomi (Health)  
**Subject:** CHO alert for clearance  
**Attachments:** COVID-19 Advice on interstate COVID-19 outbreaks\_20122020\_draft1a.docx;  
 Update geographical areas of risk\_final.docx

**OFFICIAL**

The CHO alert is only geographical areas of risk, nothing about the new public health direction, as we just want to get it out.

The updated geographical areas of risk is as per Naomi's discussion with NSW.

**Karin English | Public Health Registrar**

Ph: (02) 5124 9243 | Email: [karin.english@act.gov.au](mailto:karin.english@act.gov.au)

**Health Protection Service | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate**

2-6 Bowes St. Woden | ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

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

### Key Points

- There is a current outbreak of COVID-19 cases associated with the Sydney Northern Beaches Local Government Area (LGA) and other affected locations in NSW.
- Anyone who has been in a geographical area of risk should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days after leaving the affected area.
- A Public Health Direction came into effect at 11.59 AM on 18 December 2020 mandating testing and quarantine for anyone in the ACT who has been in Sydney Northern Beaches LGA from the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. Quarantine is required for 14 days from the date they were last there.
- Anyone in the ACT who has been to any listed locations at the time specified by NSW Health must follow NSW Health advice AND call ACT Health on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.

### What is the situation?

- There is a current outbreak of COVID-19 cases associated with the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA and other affected locations in NSW.
- Anyone who has been in an area of geographical risk in the previous 14 days should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days after leaving the area.
- Canberrans are strongly advised not to visit Sydney at this time.
- Under a Public Health Direction, anyone in the ACT who has travelled to the Sydney Northern Beaches LGA from the 11<sup>th</sup> of December must get tested and self-quarantine for 14 days after leaving the area.
- Anyone in the ACT who has been to any listed locations at the times specified by NSW must follow NSW Health advice AND call ACT Health on (02) 5124 9213 for further advice.
- Anyone in the ACT who has recently travelled interstate should keep up to date with public health alerts from the jurisdiction they travelled from.
- The advice in this Chief Health Officer alert will be reviewed regularly. The geographical areas of risk in Australia remain subject to change, depending on the COVID-19 situation.

### What are geographical areas of risk?

Current geographical areas of risk in Australia are the following areas:

- Greater Sydney
- Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama
- Lithgow and Blue Mountains City
- Central Coast

See a full list of affected LGAs.



## **ACT Public Health Directions regarding interstate COVID-19 outbreaks**

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

## **What are high-risk settings?**

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

## **Advice for high-risk settings**

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) must not visit or work in a high-risk setting.
- Anyone who has been in a geographical area of risk (see above) should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days since leaving these areas.
- If someone is excluded from visiting or working in a high-risk setting, but is seeking to visit on compassionate grounds, or to work because they are deemed essential (e.g. someone with expertise that cannot be sourced elsewhere):
  - If they are in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), they will need to apply for an exemption by emailing [COVID.exemptions@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID.exemptions@act.gov.au).
  - If they are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), this should be considered following a risk assessment, in consultation with ACT Health.

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

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) should not provide home-based aged care, disability or other support services.



- If the service deems it is essential for the staff member to continue in their role:
  - If they are in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), they will need to apply for an exemption by emailing [COVID.exemptions@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID.exemptions@act.gov.au).
  - If they are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above), the staff member's manager should undertake a risk assessment to determine whether it is appropriate for the staff member to return to work. Considerations include the staff member's risk of exposure to COVID-19, duration of close physical contact with clients and client vulnerability to COVID-19. The risk assessment should be done in consultation with ACT Health.

### **Advice for general practitioners and other community health practitioners**

- Anyone who is in quarantine under a Public Health Direction (see above) must not work in a community health setting, unless ACT Health grants them an exemption to do so.
- GPs and other community health practitioners who have been in a geographical area of risk (see above), but who are not in quarantine under a Public Health Direction, should be particularly vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- Health practitioners should actively seek a patient's travel history and advise them to go into quarantine and get tested if applicable. If unsure, contact ACT Health on (02) 5124 6209.

### **For more information**

- Visit the Chief Health Officer alerts page: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts>
- Visit the ACT COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>
- Contact ACT Health on (02) 5124 6209.

Dr Kerry Coleman  
ACT Chief Health Officer  
20 December 2020

### **Accessibility**

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



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

For further accessibility information, visit: [www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility](http://www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility)

[www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) | Phone: 132281 | © Australian Capital Territory, Canberra December 2020

Update for CHO alert page

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts/covid-19-testing-information#geographicalareasofrisk>

## On this page

- [Testing criteria in the ACT](#)
- [Geographical areas of risk](#)
- [Testing Locations](#)
- [Information for someone who is being tested for COVID-19 factsheet](#)
- [Specimen collection information](#)

## Testing criteria in the ACT

### Test all patients who meet the suspect case definition:

Fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) **OR** acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) **OR** loss of sense of smell or taste

### AND

One of the following epidemiological risk factors in the 14 days prior to illness onset:

- Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case; OR
- International travel, including cruise ship passengers and crew; in the 14 days prior to illness onset; OR
- Travel to a [geographical area of risk](#) within Australia; OR
- Healthcare, aged or residential care workers and staff with direct patient contact.

**In addition to the suspect case definition, test anyone who meets the following clinical criteria:**

- Fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or history of fever (e.g. night sweat, chills) in the absence of a clear alternative cause, such as a urinary tract infection or cellulitis

**OR**

- Acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat).

**OR**

- Sudden onset of loss of sense of smell or taste

Patients with sudden onset of runny nose/blocked nose, muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting or loss of appetite can be tested for COVID-19 in the absence of fever or respiratory symptoms if no alternative cause for these symptoms is apparent, at the discretion of the treating clinician.

Testing of asymptomatic individuals is not generally recommended. However, some individuals may be asked by ACT Health (or another public health authority such as NSW Health) to be tested even if asymptomatic.

## Geographical areas of risk (as of 20/12/2020)

Current *geographical areas of risk* for COVID-19 transmission in Australia are the following areas:

Geographical areas of risk	
<i>(note the following are LGAs, not single suburbs)</i>	
Bayside (excluding transit through Sydney airport)	Liverpool City
Blacktown City	Lane Cove Municipality
Blue Mountains City	Mosman Municipality
Burwood	North Sydney
Camden	Northern Beaches
Campbelltown City	Parramatta City
Canada Bay City	Penrith City
Canterbury-Bankstown	Randwick City
Central Coast	Ryde City
Cumberland	Strathfield Municipality
Fairfield City	Sutherland Shire
Georges River	Sydney City
Hawkesbury City	The Hills Shire

Hornsby Shire	Waverley
Hunter's Hill Municipality	Willoughby City
Inner West	Wollondilly Shire
Ku-ring-gai	Wollongong
	Woollahra City

## Testing Locations

- GPs can collect specimens for COVID-19 themselves if they wish to. Please refer to the [Specimen Collection Guidelines](#) for details.
- Patients can be directed to one of the [COVID-19 Testing Clinics](#) located across the ACT.
  - Testing is performed free of charge for symptomatic individuals.
  - No appointment is required for ACT Government COVID-19 Testing Clinics. Appointments are required for the GP Respiratory Clinics in Crace and Greenway.
  - Clinic locations, opening hours and booking details (where relevant) are available on the [ACT COVID-19 website](#). Many testing clinics operate 7 days a week.
  - Please note that asymptomatic individuals cannot be tested at these clinics, unless directed to be tested by ACT Health or another public health authority (e.g. NSW Health). Other asymptomatic patients who require COVID-19 testing (e.g. prior to boarding an international flight) can be sent to private pathology collection centres with a request form. Patients may be charged for their test in these circumstances.
- Patients can be sent to a suitable private pathology collection centre with a pathology request form.
  - Testing is free of charge for symptomatic patients who are eligible for Medicare.
  - Details of suitable collection centres for COVID-19 testing are included in the [Chief Health Officer alert for GPs and other community health practitioners](#).



**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** English, Karin (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:18 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Cc:** Wells, Patrick (Health); Clarke, Naomi (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: CHO alert for clearance  
**Attachments:** Update geographical areas of risk\_final.docx; COVID-19 Advice on interstate COVID-19 outbreaks\_20122020\_draft1a.docx

OFFICIAL

Sorry,

One additional edit required.

---

**From:** English, Karin (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Wells, Patrick (Health) <Patrick.A.Wells@act.gov.au>; Clarke, Naomi (Health) <Naomi.Clarke@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** CHO alert for clearance

OFFICIAL

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**Karin English | Public Health Registrar**

Ph: (02) 5124 9243 | Email: [karin.english@act.gov.au](mailto:karin.english@act.gov.au)

**Health Protection Service | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate**

2-6 Bowes St. Woden | ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

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Update for CHO alert page

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts/covid-19-testing-information#geographicalareasofrisk>

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