

- 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](#).

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 11th 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 11th 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
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 Kerryn 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

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 132281 | © Australian Capital Territory, Canberra December 2020

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:21 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 #3
Attachments: 20201220 - On-call Officer Briefing #3 DRAFT.doc

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please see attached the draft minutes from the 1400hrs briefing today. Cleared by Dr Dinesh Arya. Awaiting any final changes from CHO.

Please note actions are in **bold** text. Please also note the discussion items that may inform your work.

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director | Situations and Briefings

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

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

2-6 Bowes Street, Woden, ACT



Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:21 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Cc: Reid, David (Health); English, Karin (Health); Clarke, Naomi (Health)
Subject: FW: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify
Attachments: Scanned signed Hotspot Direction 7 Northern Beaches LGA.pdf; Hotspots Directions - No 7 - 18.12.20 at 5.12pm.docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kerry,

Just confirming from NSW source who have recently advised Naomi, for the Public Health Direction we propose putting in the schedule that Canberrans need to go into quarantine and notify ACT Health (will confirm if we can put a link in the Direction) if they have been in:

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
Location	Dates
Northern Beaches local government area, New South Wales	Any date on or after 11 December 2020

And the following LGAs which will be subject to increased restrictions in NSW from tonight: But the date? Also any date on or after 11 December? Or on or after 11:59pm 20 December?

Essentially Greater Sydney (as defined by NSW Government) PLUS Central Coast, PLUS Wollongong.

Our CHO alert will reflect these LGAs.

Awaiting confirmation / clarification Kerry and will forward to Meg / GSO for drafting.

Thanks in anticipation.

Bayside	Lane Cove Municipality
Blacktown City	Mosman Municipality
Blue Mountains City	North Sydney
Burwood	Northern Beaches
Camden	Parramatta City
Campbelltown City	Penrith City
Canada Bay City	Randwick City
Canterbury-Bankstown	Ryde City
Central Coast	Strathfield Municipality
Cumberland	Sutherland Shire
Fairfield City	Sydney City

Georges River	The Hills Shire
Hawkesbury City	Waverley
Hornsby Shire	Willoughby City
Hunter's Hill Municipality	Wollondilly Shire
Inner West	Wollongong
Ku-ring-gai	Woollahra City
Liverpool City	

Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

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

Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:36 PM

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

Cc: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerry (Health)

<Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; GovernmentBusinessHealth <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

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)

Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 5:37 PM

To: GovernmentBusinessHealth <GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au>

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

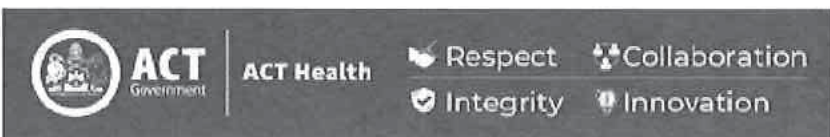
Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

Australian Capital Territory

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

Notifiable Instrument NI2020–

made under the

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

1. Name of instrument

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

2. Commencement

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

3. Public Health Emergency Direction

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

4. Duration

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

5. Revocation

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



Dr Kerryn Coleman
Chief Health Officer

18 December 2020

Public Health Emergency Direction

Public Health Act 1997

*Made under the Public Health Act 1997,
section 120 (Emergency actions and directions)*

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

The purpose of this Direction is to limit the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (**COVID-19**), caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

In making these directions I have had regard to relevant human rights and I am satisfied that the limitations imposed as a result of these Directions are both demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society and necessary to protect the ACT community from the serious public health risk posed by COVID-19.

PART 1 – QUARANTINE FOLLOWING TRAVEL TO AND FROM COVID-19 HOTSPOTS

Direction

1. An **affected person** who is in or arrives into the Australian Capital Territory must:
 - a. travel immediately to **designated premises** to undertake a **period of quarantine**; and
 - b. not leave the **designated premises** other than in an emergency; and
 - c. not permit any other person who does not reside at the **designated premises** to enter the premises, unless for medical, law enforcement or emergency purposes; and
 - d. comply with any request by an **authorised person** to produce proof of identification.

PART 2 — MATTERS RELEVANT TO THESE DIRECTIONS

2. For the purposes of Part 1, the point at which a person arrives into the Australian Capital Territory means:
 - a. for travel by air – from the Canberra airport;
 - b. for travel by bus – from the bus station or other place where the person disembarks;



- c. for travel by train – from the train station where the person disembarks;
 - d. for travel by car – from the point at which the car crosses the border from New South Wales into the Australian Capital Territory; and
 - e. by any other means – from the point at which the person crosses the border from New South Wales into the Australian Capital Territory.
3. The Chief Health Officer may, in writing and subject to any conditions that the Chief Health Officer considers necessary, exempt a person from the directions in Part 1.
 4. An **authorised person** may, in writing and subject to any conditions that the **authorised person** considers necessary, exempt a person from the full **period of quarantine**.

Enforcement

5. If a person fails to comply with this Direction, an **authorised person** may direct the person to do such things as are reasonably necessary to comply with this Direction including, upon request, to produce proof of identification to the **authorised person**.
6. If a person fails to comply with any direction given under paragraph 5, then the **authorised person** may take all reasonable steps to enforce compliance with the direction.

Guidance

7. If a person tests positive to COVID-19 during the **period of quarantine** they must comply with the *Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 4)* [NI2020-662].

Definitions

For the purposes of these directions:

8. **Affected person** means a person who has been in a declared **COVID-19 affected area** on one of the dates specified in Column 2 of Schedule 1.
9. **Authorised person** means an authorised person under section 121 of the *Public Health Act 1997*.
10. **COVID-19 hotspot** means a location outside of the Australian Capital Territory that is specified in Column 1 of Schedule 1 on the dates specified in Column 2 of Schedule 1.
11. Unless stated otherwise in writing by the Chief Health Officer, **designated premises** means:
 - a. the person's usual place of residence or other premises that is suitable for the person to reside in for a **period of quarantine**; or
 - b. if the person is not normally a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, a hotel or other premises that has been approved in writing by the Chief Health Officer as suitable to reside in for a **period of quarantine**.

**ACT**
Government**ACT Health**

12. A **period of quarantine** means a period of 14 days, including any period of time that has already elapsed since the person was last in a **COVID-19 hotspot**.

PENALTIES

Section 120 (4) of the *Public Health Act 1997* provides:

A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a direction under this section.

Maximum Penalty:

In the case of a natural person, \$8,000 (50 penalty units).

Dr Kerry Coleman

Chief Health Officer

18 December 2020


ACT
Government

ACT Health

SCHEDULE 1 – COVID-19 HOTSPOTS

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
Location	Dates
Northern Beaches local government area, New South Wales	Any date on or after 11 December 2020

Accessibility

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



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

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

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 132281

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra December 2020

Australian Capital Territory

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

Notifiable Instrument NI2020–

made under the

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

1. Name of instrument

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

2. Commencement

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

3. Public Health Emergency Direction

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

4. Duration

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

5. Revocation

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

Dr Kerry Coleman
Chief Health Officer

18 December 2020

Public Health Emergency Direction

Public Health Act 1997

*Made under the Public Health Act 1997,
section 120 (Emergency actions and directions)*

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

The purpose of this Direction is to limit the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (**COVID-19**), caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

In making these directions I have had regard to relevant human rights and I am satisfied that the limitations imposed as a result of these Directions are both demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society and necessary to protect the ACT community from the serious public health risk posed by COVID-19.

PART 1 – QUARANTINE FOLLOWING TRAVEL TO AND FROM COVID-19 HOTSPOTS

Direction

1. An **affected person** who is in or arrives into the Australian Capital Territory must:
 - a. travel immediately to **designated premises** to undertake a **period of quarantine**; and
 - b. not leave the **designated premises** other than in an emergency; and
 - c. not permit any other person who does not reside at the **designated premises** to enter the premises, unless for medical, law enforcement or emergency purposes; and
 - d. comply with any request by an **authorised person** to produce proof of identification.

PART 2 — MATTERS RELEVANT TO THESE DIRECTIONS

2. For the purposes of Part 1, the point at which a person arrives into the Australian Capital Territory means:
 - a. for travel by air – from the Canberra airport;
 - b. for travel by bus – from the bus station or other place where the person disembarks;

- c. for travel by train – from the train station where the person disembarks;
 - d. for travel by car – from the point at which the car crosses the border from New South Wales into the Australian Capital Territory; and
 - e. by any other means – from the point at which the person crosses the border from New South Wales into the Australian Capital Territory.
3. The Chief Health Officer may, in writing and subject to any conditions that the Chief Health Officer considers necessary, exempt a person from the directions in Part 1.
4. An **authorised person** may, in writing and subject to any conditions that the **authorised person** considers necessary, exempt a person from the full **period of quarantine**.

Enforcement

5. If a person fails to comply with this Direction, an **authorised person** may direct the person to do such things as are reasonably necessary to comply with this Direction including, upon request, to produce proof of identification to the **authorised person**.
6. If a person fails to comply with any direction given under paragraph 5, then the **authorised person** may take all reasonable steps to enforce compliance with the direction.

Guidance

7. If a person tests positive to COVID-19 during the **period of quarantine** they must comply with the *Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 4)* [NI2020-662].

Definitions

For the purposes of these directions:

8. **Affected person** means a person who has been in a declared **COVID-19 affected area** on one of the dates specified in Column 2 of Schedule 1.
9. **Authorised person** means an authorised person under section 121 of the *Public Health Act 1997*.
10. **COVID-19 hotspot** means a location outside of the Australian Capital Territory that is specified in Column 1 of Schedule 1 on the dates specified in Column 2 of Schedule 1.
11. Unless stated otherwise in writing by the Chief Health Officer, **designated premises** means:
- a. the person's usual place of residence or other premises that is suitable for the person to reside in for a **period of quarantine**; or
 - b. if the person is not normally a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, a hotel or other premises that has been approved in writing by the Chief Health Officer as suitable to reside in for a **period of quarantine**.



12. A **period of quarantine** means a period of 14 days, including any period of time that has already elapsed since the person was last in a **COVID-19 hotspot**.

PENALTIES

Section 120 (4) of the *Public Health Act 1997* provides:

A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a direction under this section.

Maximum Penalty:

In the case of a natural person, \$8,000 (50 penalty units).

.....
Dr Kerry Coleman

Chief Health Officer

18 December 2020



SCHEDULE 1 – COVID-19 HOTSPOTS

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
Location	Dates
Northern Beaches local government area, New South Wales	Any date on or after 11 December 2020

Accessibility

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



Interpreter

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

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

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 132281

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra December 2020

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: English, Karin (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:22 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Cc: Wells, Patrick (Health); Clarke, Naomi (Health)
Subject: RE: CHO alert for clearance
Attachments: COVID-19 Advice on interstate COVID-19 outbreaks_20122020_draft1a.docx;
 Update geographical areas of risk_final.docx

OFFICIAL

Gosh, sorry! Please ignore prior email, I had the wrong document attached.

From: English, Karin (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:18 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: RE: CHO alert for clearance

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

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

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

2-6 Bowes St. Woden | ACT 2606

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 11th 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 11th 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
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 Kerryn 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

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: Clarke, Naomi (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:34 PM
To: Hare, Merryn (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Cc: Reid, David (Health); English, Karin (Health)
Subject: RE: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Merryn

Thanks. The LGAs in the table in your email are correct, as advised by Laura Collier from Kerry Chant's office.

For everyone's information, the NSW Government definition of LGAs that fall within Greater Sydney can be found [here](#). NSW Health is additionally including Central Coast and Wollongong LGAs in the new restrictions that will go into effect from tonight.

Kind regards
 Naomi

From: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:21 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>; English, Karin (Health) <Karin.English@act.gov.au>; Clarke, Naomi (Health) <Naomi.Clarke@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Public Health Direction number 7 - request to PCO to notify

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kerryn,

Just confirming from NSW source who have recently advised Naomi, for the Public Health Direction we propose putting in the schedule that Canberrans need to go into quarantine and notify ACT Health (will confirm if we can put a link in the Direction) if they have been in:

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
Location	Dates
Northern Beaches local government area, New South Wales	Any date on or after 11 December 2020

And the following LGAs which will be subject to increased restrictions in NSW from tonight: But the date? Also any date on or after 11 December? Or on or after 11:59pm 20 December?

Essentially Greater Sydney (as defined by NSW Government) PLUS Central Coast, PLUS Wollongong.

Our CHO alert will reflect these LGAs.

Awaiting confirmation / clarification Kerryn and will forward to Meg / GSO for drafting.

Thanks in anticipation.

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

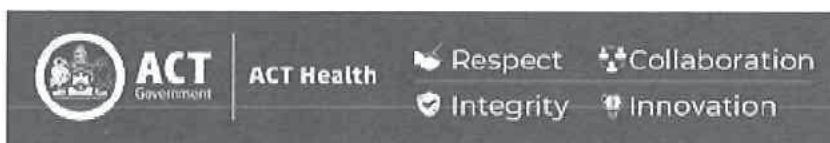
Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

From: Brighton, Meg (Health) <Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:53 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>; Brighton, Meg (Health) <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 | [REDACTED]

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street, Phillip, 2606 Woden Valley | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.health.act.gov.au

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

Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 3:36 PM

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

Cc: 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: 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

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)

Sent: Friday, 18 December 2020 5:37 PM

To: GovernmentBusinessHealth <GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au>

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

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: COVID-19 Media
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 5:06 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Cc: COVID-19 Media; Whitley, Amanda; Pretorius, Dion; Verden, Jo; Stewart-Moore, Karen; HECC Operations
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 20 December 2020

OFFICIAL

From: McConachie, Alex (Health) <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:49 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Whitley, Amanda <Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au>; Pretorius, Dion <Dion.Pretorius@act.gov.au>; Verden, Jo <Jo.Verden@act.gov.au>; Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 20 December 2020

OFFICIAL

Updates in red below re high risk settings following discussion with Karin English

From: McConachie, Alex (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:42 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Whitley, Amanda <Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au>; Pretorius, Dion <Dion.Pretorius@act.gov.au>; Verden, Jo <Jo.Verden@act.gov.au>; Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 20 December 2020

OFFICIAL

Hi Kerryn,

For your approval please – one concern highlighted below I will come to discuss.

Thanks

Alex

From: Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** HECC Operations

Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:39 PM

To: McConachie, Alex (Health) <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Whitley, Amanda <Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au>; Verden, Jo <Jo.Verden@act.gov.au>; Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>

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

OFFICIAL

Hello Alex,

Please see edits from HECC Ops. I have just changed the phone number so that it is consistent with the COVID Hotline phone number.

Also, as discussed, can you please seek clarification from Kerry/Merryn regarding the highlighted area below?

I was of the understanding that we were not looking retrospectively from the date that the direction is enforced. Can you please advise once you have clarified as this will affect some of our staffing?

Kind regards,
Dani

From: McConachie, Alex (Health) <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 4:10 PM

To: HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au>; Whitley, Amanda <Amanda.Whitley@act.gov.au>; Verden, Jo <Jo.Verden@act.gov.au>; Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>

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

OFFICIAL

Hi Dani,

New statement for HECC clearance please, as per discussion at 1400 meeting.



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 Commonwealth official in her 40s who returned from overseas and 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 **129,051**.

New directions for anyone arriving in the ACT from Greater Sydney

There have now been 68 confirmed cases linked to the Northern Beaches cluster, as reported by NSW Health this morning. Concerningly, we have seen transmission events take place in Greater Sydney, outside the Northern Beaches LGA.

As a result, from 11.59pm tonight, the ACT will have new quarantine requirements anyone from Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains. The Chief Health Officer will be signing a new Public Health Direction later tonight to make these arrangements legally enforceable.

For the purposes of this new direction, Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains will be defined by the area covered by today's new Public Health Orders in NSW, where community restrictions are being tightened. A more detailed list of locations affected will be available later tonight.

If you are not an ACT resident and you have been in Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains, our message is simple. **Do not travel to the ACT**. If you come to the ACT, you will be forced to quarantine, and anyone staying at the same premises with you will also be required to quarantine.

Anyone who arrives in the ACT from 11.59pm tonight will be required to quarantine. Returning ACT residents will be able to quarantine at home and will be supported by ACT Health.

ACT Health will not be considering exemption requests for non-residents coming from Greater Sydney, except in extreme extenuating circumstances.

To implement this, all arrivals from Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains are required to notify ACT Health by completing an online declaration. We anticipate this form will be available on the ACT COVID-19 website later tonight.

We understand this will be difficult for many people, and we do not take these decisions lightly. While we will not have these restrictions in place one day longer than we need to, we need the community to be prepared that this is likely to continue over the Christmas and New Year period.

Ahead of this new Public Health Direction coming into effect at 11.59pm tonight, we are reminding everyone of the existing Public Health Direction that covers the Northern Beaches.

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.

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) 6207 7244 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

Further advice on high-risk settings for people who have been in Greater Sydney

The Chief Health Officer has identified Greater Sydney, Wollongong and the Central Coast as a geographical areas of risk for high-risk settings.

This means anyone who has been in these areas in the past 14 days (ie. since 6 December 2020) should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days after leaving these areas. High-risk settings include hospitals, residential aged care facilities and correctional facilities.

Important advice for ACT residents who have been in Greater Sydney wishing to travel to other jurisdictions

In addition to the new Public Health Direction for the ACT, other jurisdictions have also introduced new travel restrictions for people who are from, or have been in, Greater Sydney.

If you are in the ACT, have recently come from in Greater Sydney and wish to travel to another jurisdiction, your ability to do so may be restricted by the decisions taken by your destination jurisdiction. You will need to visit the COVID-19 website of your destination jurisdiction for accurate advice on whether you will be able to travel.

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

General information

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

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

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

The ACT Government also has a helpline to assist Canberrans through the challenges of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Helpline is (02) 6207 7244 and is available until midnight tonight and from 7am tomorrow morning.

Statement ends

Media contact:

COVID-19 media **M** 0435 258 508 **E** COVID-19media@act.gov.au



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



13 22 81

www.covid19.act.gov.au

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

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

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

health.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: COVID-19 Media
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 5:45 PM
To: COVID-19 Media
Subject: ACT COVID-19 Update - 20 December 2020

OFFICIAL



COVID-19 update



ACT COVID-19 Update – 20 December 2020

New directions for anyone arriving in the ACT from Greater Sydney

There have now been 68 confirmed cases linked to the Northern Beaches cluster, as reported by NSW Health this morning. Concerningly, we have seen transmission events take place in Greater Sydney, outside the Northern Beaches LGA.

As a result, from 11.59pm tonight, the ACT will have new quarantine requirements for anyone from Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains. The Chief Health Officer will be signing a new Public Health Direction later tonight to make these arrangements legally enforceable.

For the purposes of this new direction, Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains will be the same as the area covered by today's new Public Health Orders in NSW, where community restrictions are being tightened. A more detailed list of locations affected will be available later tonight.

If you are not an ACT resident and you have been in Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains, our message is simple. **Do not travel to the ACT.** If you come to the ACT, you will be required to quarantine, and anyone staying at the same premises with you will also be required to quarantine.

Anyone who arrives in the ACT from 11.59pm tonight will be required to quarantine. Returning ACT residents will be able to quarantine at home. This is not about stopping ACT residents from returning home.

ACT Health will not be considering exemption requests for non-residents coming from Greater Sydney, except in extreme extenuating circumstances.

To implement this, all travellers from Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains are required to notify ACT Health in advance by completing an online declaration. We anticipate this form will be available on the ACT COVID-19 website later tonight.

We understand this will be difficult for many people, and we do not take these decisions lightly. While we will not have these restrictions in place any longer than we need to, we need the community to be prepared that this is likely to continue over the Christmas and New Year period.

Ahead of this new Public Health Direction coming into effect at 11.59pm tonight, we are reminding everyone of the existing Public Health Direction that covers the Northern Beaches.

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.

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) 6207 7244 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

Further advice on high-risk settings for people who have been in Greater Sydney

The Chief Health Officer has identified Greater Sydney, Wollongong and the Central Coast as a geographical areas of risk for high-risk settings.

This means anyone who has been in these areas in the past 14 days should not visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days after leaving these areas. High-risk settings include hospitals, residential aged care facilities and correctional facilities.

Important advice for ACT residents who have been in Greater Sydney wishing to travel to other jurisdictions

In addition to the new Public Health Direction for the ACT, other jurisdictions have also introduced new travel restrictions for people who are from, or have been in, Greater Sydney.

If you are in the ACT, have recently come from in Greater Sydney and wish to travel to another jurisdiction, your ability to do so may be restricted by the decisions taken by your destination jurisdiction. You will need to visit the COVID-19 website of your destination jurisdiction for accurate advice on whether you will be able to travel.

Additionally, we will be taking further steps to strengthen our support of the National Response to COVID-19. ACT Policing and Canberra Airport will be checking people's residential addresses to ensure people are not attempting to circumvent the border restrictions of other jurisdictions by travelling via the ACT.

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

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 Commonwealth official in her 40s who returned from overseas and 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 **129,051**.

General information

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

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

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

The ACT Government also has a helpline to assist Canberrans through the challenges of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Helpline is (02) 6207 7244 and is available until midnight tonight and from 7am tomorrow morning.

Statement ends

Media contact:

COVID-19 media

M 0435 258 508

E 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

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: AHPPC Secretariat <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 5:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Updated: COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW-Updated20Dec-1745 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW-Updated20Dec-1745.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 find an updated version of the COVID-19 Border Restrictions by State and Territory for NSW.

This document will be updated daily post AHPPC.

Kind regards



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

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

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 7:36 PM
To: Keene, Toby (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Cc: Brighton, Meg (Health)
Subject: FW: Hotels factsheet - 20 December
Attachments: Hotels factsheet - 20 December.docx

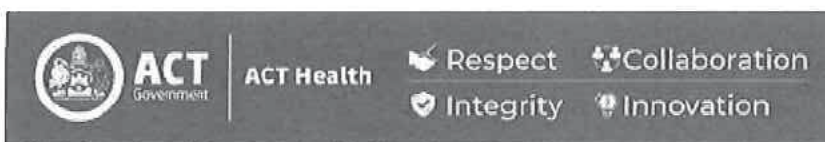
OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Draft from Karen as discussed.

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

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



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

From: Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 7:34 PM
To: Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>; Brighton, Meg (Health) <Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au>; Engele, Sam <Sam.Engele@act.gov.au>; Arthy, Kareena <Kareena.Arthy@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>
Subject: Hotels factsheet - 20 December

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good evening

Please find attached a draft hotel factsheet designed to assist hotels if they have people turn up.

Please let me know any feedback asap and then I will have CHO review and approve.

This can go up on our website as a factsheet and can be distributed to hotels via email which I understand you can do Kareena?

Happy to discuss.

Kind regards

Karen

20 December

COVID-19 Information for Hotels and Accommodation venues

Public Health Direction for the Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains – 11.59pm Sunday 20 December 2020

Due to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation in the Northern Beaches and Greater Sydney area a legally enforceable Public Health Direction has been put in place by the ACT Chief Health Officer from 11.59 Sunday 20 December 2020.

The Public Health Direction states that anyone entering the ACT from Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains areas will be legally required for quarantine for 14 days from the date they entered the ACT.

The Public Health Direction can be found on the COVID-19 website [\[hyperlink\]](#)

Anyone who arrives in the ACT from 11.59pm Sunday 20 December 2020 will be required to quarantine.

Returning ACT residents will be able to quarantine at home.

What do hotels and accommodations providers need to do under this ACT Public Health Direction?

ACT Health is asking hotels and accommodation providers to screen guests upon arrival and ask if they are from the affected areas of Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and Nepean Blue Mountains and if they can provide their ACT Health exemption.

A list of areas covered by the direction is available on the www.covid-19.act.gov.au website.

If they are from those affected areas and **do not** have an exemption from ACT Health, they must be directed to leave and **return home immediately** as they are in breach of the Public Health Direction.

ACT Health will not be considering exemption requests for non-residents coming from Greater Sydney, except in extreme extenuating circumstances.

If those without an exemption refuse to leave, call the COVID-19 Helpline is (02) 6207 7244 for advice.

What if the guest has an exemption and wants to be accommodated?

If the guest/s cannot return home they will need to quarantine for 14 days.

It is at the discretion of the accommodation provider if they are comfortable to accept the quarantining guest/s. If the accommodation provider declines to take any guest, they will have to find an alternate hotel or accommodation provider or leave the ACT.

What happens if they do quarantine in the hotel?

If the guest/s are able to be accommodated, then ACT Health is asking to be notified that the accommodation provider has a guest/s quarantining in their premises.

ACT Health COVID-19 team can be contacted on 02 5124 9213 so that the guest/s can be supported while quarantining.

Commented [SK1]: This factsheet has not yet been reviewed by CHO

Commented [SK2]: May need to be amended when the Direction is finalised

Commented [SK3]: May need to be amended when Direction is finalised

Does the government pay for anyone's quarantine?

No, all expenses incurred by a guest are at the guest's expense.

What if the guest is an ACT resident?

ACT residents returning to the ACT from the [affected areas] after 11.59pm on **Sunday 20 December 2020** are required to quarantine for 14 days and can do so at home.

Some residents may not be able to quarantine effectively from other members of their household and may seek alternative accommodation. It is at the discretion of the hotel or accommodation provider as to whether to take the guest.

ACT Health is asking to be notified that a guest/s quarantining in their premises.

ACT Health COVID-19 team can be contacted on **02 5124 9213** so that the guests can be supported while quarantining.

How are hotels supported to manage quarantining guests safely?

A number of hotels and accommodation providers in the ACT have indicated to ACT Health that they are comfortable to accept quarantining guests and their staff are adequately trained in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and infection control.

If your hotel/accommodation has not previously been assessed by ACT Health, you are discouraged from accepting quarantining guests.

Contact ACT Health COVID-19 team on **02 5124 9213** for more information.

Commented [SK4]: There is a list of hotels who have been assessed by ACT Health but this has not been updated since 10 Nov.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 8:41 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Brighton, Meg (Health); Keene, Toby (Health); Manzoney, Lisa
Subject: Essential worker words for the direction: Transit questions
Attachments: Essential Worker.docx

OFFICIAL

This is from the exemptions team. So I am assuming we can let Murrays drivers know they can keep working.

Removalists?

I know we want to get the Direction finalised but ...

Hope this helps.

The following is from the current NSW Order:

It is pretty light on re workers but says:

2) For the purposes of subclause (1), a reasonable excuse includes doing an activity specified by Schedule 1. Note. Examples of a reasonable excuse in Schedule 1 include leave for reasons involving— (a) obtaining food or other goods and services, or (b) travelling for the purposes of work or education if it is not possible to do it at home, or

The link is as follows:

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/file/Public%20Health%20%28COVID-19%20Northern%20Beaches%29%20Order%202020.pdf>

Kind regards,

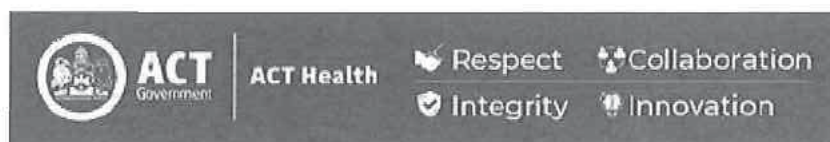
Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

Essential Worker – can temporarily exit quarantine to undertake work

(Construction, engineering, manufacture)

(Government / law enforcement / Defence / military / infrastructure)

Providing other essential services in the ACT (Education / Healthcare / *Agriculture / Telecommunications)

other - Exemption applications can be considered on a case by case basis.

- Consideration could be given to granting an exemption where the work:
 - Is highly specialised
 - Is time critical
 - may have a detrimental impact on the ACT community if not delivered.

Freight drivers coming into the ACT from a hotspot (non-ACT residents)

Dear (autofill)

Thank you for your application dated (autofill) requesting an exemption under the Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 to enter the ACT on (autofill) as part of your work as a transit/freight operator.

The Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 specifically exempts all transits through the Australian Capital Territory by road for business or freight purposes.

Therefore, under the Direction, freight, transport and trucking companies and drivers do not need to apply for an exemption to enter the ACT.

The preference would be that companies who are transiting through the ACT restrict their activity while in the ACT to the delivery or receipt of goods only.

Drivers must observe the following:

- No passengers allowed to travel unless they are freight workers
- Only exit vehicle to access rest stop facilities, refuelling, accommodation, activities directly related to the delivery or loading of freight or to meet requirement regulated activities (eg whs or fatigue management)
- Follow all COVID-19 related instructions from employees at any premises accessed.
- Employ or introduce non contact receipt and collection processes
- Wash or sanitise hands at all appropriate times, but especially at entry to a premises and prior to leaving.
- Maintain appropriate social distancing while in any premises
- During freight journeys, drivers should avoid large venues/restaurants and use roadhouse facilities wherever possible.
- Overnight stays at accommodation should only occur when necessary to fulfil fatigue requirements. Accommodation providers must apply COVID Safe protocols and cleaning procedures to minimise risk. Drivers not permitted to use common areas in accommodation premises and adhere to physical distancing and limit contacts.
- PPE should be used whenever physical distancing is not possible, where directed by state or territory governments, Department of Health, SWA or where mentioned in COVID Safe Workplans.

- If displaying symptoms of illness such as a fever, cough, or sore throat do not enter a premises, advise employer, seek medical assistance, self isolate until medical assistance is received. Do not continue on journey.
- Keep good records of where you have been including dates and times.

If drivers intend to stay for longer than a one-night rest stop they must apply for an exemption.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 8:42 PM
To: Brighton, Meg (Health)
Subject: Fwd: NSW order

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 8:31:39 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Subject: NSW order

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kerry,

It is pretty light on re workers but the current order says:

2) For the purposes of subclause (1), a reasonable excuse includes doing an activity specified by Schedule 1. Note. Examples of a reasonable excuse in Schedule 1 include leave for reasons involving— (a) obtaining food or other goods and services, or (b) travelling for the purposes of work or education if it is not possible to do it at home, or

The link is as follows:

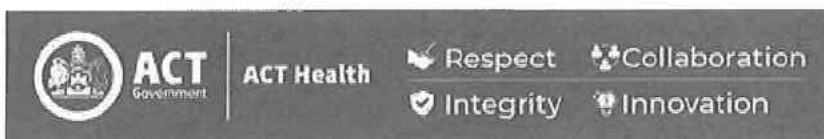
<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/file/Public%20Health%20%28COVID-19%20Northern%20Beaches%29%20Order%202020.pdf>

Is this what you have seen previously?

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

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



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

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 9:09 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health); Brighton, Meg (Health); Keene, Toby (Health); Manzoney, Lisa
Subject: RE: Essential worker words for the direction: Transit questions

OFFICIAL

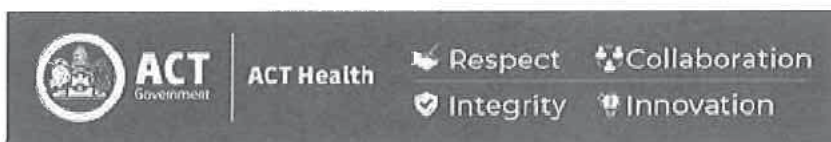
OK But we have told Murrays drivers they can keep working. And a freight driver heading to Kingston at 1am. Hope that is OK.

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 9:02 PM
To: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>; Brighton, Meg (Health) <Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au>; Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>; Manzoney, Lisa <Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Essential worker words for the direction: Transit questions

OFFICIAL

Dear all

I don't think we can deal essential workers tonight.

We need to get the direction finalised to get information to access Canberra and finalise web content.

Let's deal with exemptions case by case tomorrow morning – and work up if we can include something tomorrow

Lisa – can we just finalise and send for signing

Thanks, K

Kerry

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 W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: Hare, Merryn (Health) <Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 8:41 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Brighton, Meg (Health) <Meg.Brighton@act.gov.au>;

Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>; Manzoney, Lisa <Lisa.Manzoney@act.gov.au>

Subject: Essential worker words for the direction: Transit questions

OFFICIAL

This is from the exemptions team. So I am assuming we can let Murrays drivers know they can keep working.

Removalists?

I know we want to get the Direction finalised but ...

Hope this helps.

The following is from the current NSW Order:

It is pretty light on re workers but says:

2) For the purposes of subclause (1), a reasonable excuse includes doing an activity specified by Schedule 1. Note. Examples of a reasonable excuse in Schedule 1 include leave for reasons involving— (a) obtaining food or other goods and services, or (b) travelling for the purposes of work or education if it is not possible to do it at home, or

The link is as follows:

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/file/Public%20Health%20%28COVID-19%20Northern%20Beaches%29%20Order%202020.pdf>

Kind regards,

Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

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



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

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 9:20 PM
To: Clarke, Naomi (Health); Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Subject: FW: Sitrep 334 - 20 December 2020 COVID-19
Attachments: Sitrep 334 20 December 2020 COVID-19 .pdf

OFFICIAL

FYI

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

Sent: Sunday, 20 December 2020 9:17 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Cc:

Subject: Sitrep 334 - 20 December 2020 COVID-19

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.

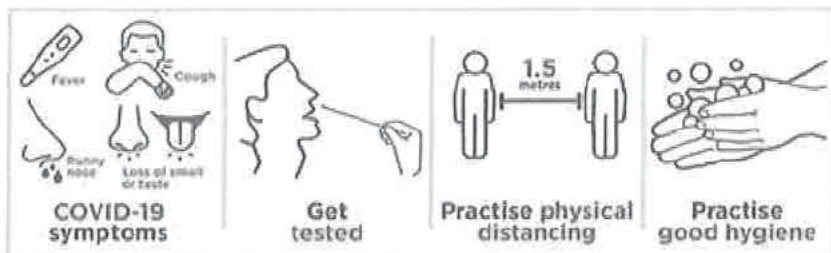
Dear colleagues

Please find attached the Public Health Response Branch Situation Report #334 – 20 December 2020.

Kind regards,

Annabelle Stevens

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



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

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

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

NSW Health Public Health Response Branch COVID-19 Situation Report

Report details

SITREP #	334	Date of issue	20/12/2020 20:00
Last SITREP	19/12/2020 20:00	Next SITREP	21/12/2020 20:00
The Public Health Response Branch (PHRB) remains operational. Australia remains at pandemic phase 'targeted response'.			
Distribution	Minister's office MOH Executive NSW Health Agency Executive NSW Health PHUs	State Emergency Operations Controller State Health Emergency Operations Centre (SHEOC) NSW Police NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet ACT Health	

Surveillance

Key data

As at 8pm 20 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*	23
Tests in the last 24 hours*	38,578
Deaths in the last 24 hours*	0
Total Cases	4,582
Total Tests ¹	3,731,325
Total Deaths	55

*Notified since 8pm 19 December 2020.

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

Table 2: Daily and cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by likely source of infection in NSW, reported up to 8pm 20 December 2020

Likely source of infection	Cases last 24 hours*	Cases last 7 days**	Cases all
Overseas	8	38	2,536
Interstate	0	0	90
Locally acquired - linked to known case or cluster	13	81	1,518
Locally acquired - no links to known case or cluster	0	1	434
Locally acquired – investigation ongoing	2	4	4
Under initial investigation	0	0	0
Total	23	124	4,582

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

*notified since 8pm on 19 December 2020

**from 14 December up to 8pm 20 December 2020

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>.

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION TO IDENTIFIED RECIPIENTS LISTED - NOT FOR PRESS

H20/5829-671

There are no cases in ICU.

In total there are 80 COVID confirmed patients admitted in NSW Health (incl. ICU, other ward types, hospital in the home, and other out of hospital care). Most (95%) are in non-acute out of hospital care.

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)					
19-Dec	40	0	1	2.5	
Total	8,099	0	168	2.1	
Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 2 (since 30 June 2020)					
18-Dec	321	0	4	1.2	
19-Dec	334	220	0	0.0	
Total	60,035	220	357	0.6	
Asymptomatic – Quarantine Day 10 (since 15 May 2020)					
17-Dec	403	0	0	0.0	0.0%
18-Dec	321	0	0	0.0	0.0%
19-Dec	417	1	0	0.0	0.2%
Total	72,357	1	163	0.2	265 (0.4%)

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

Collection date	Tested	Pending	Positive	%Positive
20-Dec	0	0	0	0
Total	21	0	0	0

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
18 Dec 2020	918	15	1.6
19 Dec 2020	576	9	1.6
Total since 02 Feb 2020	198,006	2,319	1.2

Public health preparedness and response

Clusters and high-risk settings

LOCALLY ACQUIRED CASES

There are 15 new cases reported today who acquired COVID-19 locally. 2 of the 15 remain under investigation.

AVALON CLUSTER

13 of the locally acquired cases reported today are linked to the cluster. There are now 83 cases linked to this cluster. The source of the cluster remains under investigation. The cases attended multiple venues and contact tracing continues.

There are 2 clusters of cases which have occurred outside the Northern Beaches, one at a hairdressing salon in Turramurra, and one in an office in the CBD. Both of these clusters were seeded by cases who had acquired the infection in the Northern Beaches.

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION TO IDENTIFIED RECIPIENTS LISTED - NOT FOR PRESS

H20/5829-671

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 8 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

On 20 December 2020, the Premier announced:

- Residents across greater Sydney should limit unnecessary activity.
- The following restrictions will tonight be introduced from 11:59pm, Sunday 20 December 2020 for the greater Sydney region and the Central Coast, Illawarra-Shoalhaven, and Nepean Blue Mountains:
 - Household gatherings will be limited to 10 visitors (until 11:59pm Wednesday 23 December).
 - The one person per four square metre rule will be re-introduced for all indoor settings including hospitality venues and places of worship.
 - A cap of 300 people will apply for hospitality venues and places of worship.
 - Singing and chanting at indoor venues will not be allowed
 - Dancefloors will not be permitted, except for weddings, when a maximum of 20 from the bridal party will be permitted.
- NSW Health strongly encourages people to wear face masks indoors.

The Public Health (COVID-19 Self Isolation) Order (No 5) 2020 repeals and remakes the Public Health (COVID-19 Self-Isolation) Order (No 4) 2020 (No 4 Order). The No 5 Order requires self-isolation of persons diagnosed with COVID-19 and persons identified as close contacts of cases. Any obligation to self-isolate under the No 4 Order continues in effect.

The No 5 Order is substantially the same as the No 4 Order subject to:

- the NSW Health Self-Isolation guidelines (that persons who are required to self-isolate must comply with) have been updated
- the No 5 Order requires compliance with the guidelines **which may change from time to time**.

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