

CANBERRA'S RECOVERY PLAN

STAGE 3 CHECK POINT REPORT

Easing of COVID-19 restrictions in the ACT is taking place in stages to enable us to carefully monitor the situation in the ACT. As we ease restrictions, remaining flexible and readily able to respond to the changing circumstances of the pandemic is important.

Canberra's Recovery Plan has several check points along the way, so that each stage can be assessed before moving to the next. These health checks are crucial to helping keep us safe moving forward.

Below is a summary of the check point that has been undertaken to assess the move to the next stage. Following this public health risk assessment, the decision has been made to remain at Step 3.1. While we are fortunate in the ACT to be in a good position, with no active cases, we do not exist in a vacuum. The situation can change quickly, both in the ACT and interstate. There is ongoing widespread community transmission in Victoria and a new Sydney CBD outbreak, with the potential for these to impact on the ACT. We are also continuing to manage the quarantine requirements for a significant number of people who have recently returned to the ACT from Victoria.

While there will be another public health risk assessment in two weeks, it is likely that some level of restrictions will be needed in the ACT, at least for some time. It is important we maintain these control measures to ensure we remain in a good position to respond quickly, if necessary.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE MEASURE	STATUS
CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES	
0 cases notified in the past week	●
0 active cases	●
56 days since the last case notified	●
143 days since the last case with potential community/local transmission	●
TESTING	
Total number of negative test results in the ACT (as of 4 Sept 2020) - 81,925	●
Average number of tests collected per day in the past week - 587	●
QUARANTINE	
Total number of people in quarantine that are known to ACT Health - 244.	●
COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE OF RESTRICTIONS	
Business compliance with public health directions and physical distancing requirements continuing.	●
In the August Community YourSay Panel COVID-19 Survey, 90% of respondents said they 'practised physical distancing' and 83% said they 'washed their hands more regularly' either "a great deal" or "quite a bit"	●
HEALTH PREPAREDNESS	
The impact of COVID-19 cases on our tertiary health system has been manageable. There are no active cases in hospital.	●
SUMMARY OF COVID-19 CASES FROM SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS	
NSW has seen an increase in daily numbers in the last week linked to a Sydney CBD outbreak that includes several office buildings, a gym and an Early Learning Centre.	●

National considerations

The ACT is closely monitoring disease surveillance in other jurisdictions. While the rate of growth of new COVID-19 infections in southeast Australia (NSW, VIC and QLD) has slowed, the average number of daily reported remains high.

A downward trend has been observed in cases in Victoria over the last fortnight; however, while the rate of growth has slowed, the number of reported cases remains significant. Cases continue to be driven by community transmission, with numerous active outbreaks across a range of settings and locations, especially within the Greater Melbourne region.

NSW reports a steady number of locally acquired cases, with a slight increase in average daily numbers in the last week, linked to a Sydney CBD outbreak. There continues to be a small proportion of cases that cannot be linked with known local clusters or close contact with known cases.

The ACT advises Canberrans who have recently been in Victoria, Greater Sydney and COVID-affected areas of Queensland not to visit or work in high risk settings, including hospitals, aged care facilities, and correctional facilities for 14 days after leaving these areas.

The situation unfolding is something that we will continue to see as we learn to live with COVID-19 and serves as a reminder of the ongoing risk of resurgence in cases.

This is why we must continue to monitor case movement closely and ease restrictions in a measured way.

Canberrans are being advised not to travel to Victoria, Greater Sydney and affected areas of NSW at this time for anything but essential reasons.

For COVID-19 stats across all jurisdictions, visit the [Australian Government Department of Health website](https://www.health.gov.au). This information is updated daily.

Restrictions may have eased but your responsibility hasn't

While the ACT is in a good position, we need to continue to mitigate the public health risks from COVID-19 by having appropriate control measures in place. This is a requirement for all Canberrans.

While our community research shows high rates of compliance by Canberrans in continuing COVID-safe behaviours, there is still room for improvement.

We must continue to maintain physical distancing and practice good hygiene measures.

Testing remains the strongest form of surveillance for COVID-19 in our community, so anyone with respiratory symptoms, needs to stay at home and get tested at one of the ACT's testing sites.

LEGEND ● REVIEW ● PROCEED WITH CAUTION ● ON TRACK

As at midnight 2 September 2020

RESTRICTIONS MAY HAVE EASED BUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY HASN'T



Stay 1.5m apart



Maintain good hand hygiene



Stay home if you are unwell



Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19

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

