

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 move to Stage 4 of Canberra's Recovery Plan (from 9am Wednesday 2 December 2020). We are fortunate in the ACT to be in a good position, with no active cases, and the situation has significantly improved in Victoria and NSW. While there has been an outbreak in the last fortnight linked to hotel quarantine in South Australia, currently, public health measures appear to be controlling transmission. Given this position, it is now an appropriate time to further ease restrictions on gatherings in the ACT.

In easing restrictions further, we are continuing to strike a balance between risk to public health and moving forward to support a return to business as usual in a COVID Safe way. The key changes include allowing businesses who wish to have more than 25 people across their venue, to apply the one person per two square metres of usable space rule in both indoor and outdoor spaces, provided they use the Check In CBR app to collect patron contact details.

Key changes also include an increase to the capacity of large indoor performance venues and enclosed outdoor venues under certain conditions, a capacity increase for cinemas and movie theatres if they use the Check In CBR app, and an increase to the limit on the number of people that can attend events and gatherings, up to 8,000 people, provided an exemption is granted.

The next public health risk assessment is proposed for early February 2020. 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.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE MEASURE As at 25 November 2020	STATUS
CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES	
0 cases notified in the past week	●
1 active case	●
8 days since the last case notified	●
226 days since the last case with potential community/local transmission	●
TESTING	
Total number of negative test results in the ACT – 118,286	●
Average number of tests collected per day in the past fortnight – 478	●
QUARANTINE	
Total number of people in quarantine that are known to ACT Health – 124	●
COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE OF RESTRICTIONS	
Compliance with public health directions and physical distancing requirements is good.	●
In the October Community YourSay Panel COVID-19 Survey, 85% of respondents said they 'practised physical distancing' and 79% 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	
Over the past fortnight there has been only been one locally acquired case in NSW and there has been significant improvement in Victoria. While there has been an outbreak in the last fortnight linked to hotel quarantine in South Australia, currently, public health measures appear to be controlling transmission.	●

National considerations

The ACT is closely monitoring disease surveillance in other jurisdictions. National numbers of new COVID-19 cases continue to decrease. While cases continue to be detected in other jurisdictions (predominantly NSW and South Australia), most cases nationally over the past fortnight were overseas acquired and diagnosed in hotel quarantine.

Since 23 November, there are no travel restrictions for people travelling from Victoria to the ACT.

Owing to the South Australian outbreak, people currently entering the ACT from South Australia are required to complete an online declaration that they have not been at an identified COVID-19 location and are required to quarantine by South Australia.

The outbreak in South Australia demonstrates that there is always a risk of resurgence in cases and we must remain vigilant.

For COVID-19 stats across all jurisdictions, visit the Australian Government Department of Health website. 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 continuing rates of compliance by Canberrans in practising COVID-safe behaviours, there is room for improvement.

We must continue to maintain physical distancing and practise good hygiene measures. When out and about, we also need to record our details at businesses and venues for contact tracing purposes if needed.

Testing remains a critical tool in managing COVID-19 for early detection and response. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild, should stay at home and get tested at one of the ACT's testing sites.

LEGEND ● REVIEW ● PROCEED WITH CAUTION ● ON TRACK

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

