

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 Step 3.2 (from 9am Friday 9 October 2020). We are fortunate in the ACT to be in a good position, with no active cases, and the situation continues to improve in our neighbouring jurisdictions. Given this position, it is now an appropriate time to further ease some restrictions on gatherings in the ACT.

In moving to Step 3.2, 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. Step 3.2 will include an increase in gatherings. It will see medium-sized hospitality venues with a usable space of between 101 and 200sqm able to have a capacity of 50 people. Some larger, ticketed venues will also be able to support larger gatherings, up to 50 per cent of their seated capacity.

The next public health risk assessment will be in four weeks (6 November), to allow time to assess the impact of these changes and the movement of people that has occurred as a result of school holiday travel. 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	STATUS
CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES	
0 cases notified in the past week	●
0 active cases	●
84 days since the last case notified	●
171 days since the last case with potential community/local transmission	●
TESTING	
Total number of negative test results in the ACT (as of 30 Sept 2020) – 94,635	●
Average number of tests collected per day in the past fortnight – 354. The downward trend in testing numbers needs to be closely watched.	●
QUARANTINE	
Total number of people in quarantine that are known to ACT Health - 383 (as of 30 Sept 2020)	●
COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE OF RESTRICTIONS	
Compliance with public health directions and physical distancing requirements has remained steady.	●
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	
Over the past fortnight there has been one case in NSW with an unknown source of exposure and four locally acquired infections.	●
A downward trend has again been observed in cases in Victoria.	●
LEGEND	● REVIEW ● PROCEED WITH CAUTION ● ON TRACK

National considerations

The ACT is closely monitoring disease surveillance in other jurisdictions. The rate of growth of new COVID-19 infections in southeast Australia (NSW, VIC and QLD) has slowed, and the average number of daily reported cases is decreasing. A downward trend has again been observed in cases in Victoria over the last fortnight but there is continuing community transmission in metropolitan Melbourne.

With Victorian border restrictions remaining in place, we continue to manage the quarantine requirements for a significant number of people who have recently returned to the ACT from Victoria.

The ACT continues to advise Canberrans who have recently been in Victoria and COVID-affected Local Government Areas in NSW not to visit or work in high risk settings, including hospitals, aged care facilities and correctional facilities for 14 days after leaving these areas.

While the situation is improving nationally, there is an ongoing risk of resurgence in cases.

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

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 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 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 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.

As at midnight 16 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

