

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 further ease restrictions in the ACT (from 9am Friday 13 November 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 remains stable in NSW. Given this position, it is now an appropriate time to further ease some 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 will include an increase in gatherings to 500 people and allow patrons in an outdoor space to eat and drink while standing up rather than having to be seated.

The next public health risk assessment will be in three weeks (27 November), to allow time to assess the impact of these changes and the movement of people as Victoria begins to open up. 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	●
14 days since the last case notified	●
206 days since the last case with potential community/local transmission	●
TESTING	
Total number of negative test results in the ACT (as of 6 Nov 2020) – 109,418	●
Average number of tests collected per day in the past fortnight – 402.	●
QUARANTINE	
Total number of people in quarantine that are known to ACT Health – 317 (as of 6 Nov 2020)	●
COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE OF RESTRICTIONS	
Compliance with public health directions and physical distancing requirements has decreased slightly but is stable.	●
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 one case in NSW with an unknown source of exposure and 15 locally acquired infections.	●
There has been significant improvement in Victoria, with an average on 1.7 cases in Melbourne per day and 0 in regional Victoria over the past fortnight. Of new cases, only two were from an unknown source.	●
LEGEND ● REVIEW ● PROCEED WITH CAUTION ● ON TRACK	

As at midnight 4 November 2020

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, WA and VIC), the majority of cases nationally over the past fortnight were overseas acquired and diagnosed in hotel quarantine. A number of jurisdictions have also reported cases associated with maritime vessels.

With Victorian border restrictions being lifted on 23 November, provided the situation remains stable, the quarantine requirements for people travelling from Victoria to the ACT will no longer be necessary.

The ACT continues to advise Canberrans who plan to travel interstate to check the latest health advice of the locations to where they are travelling, and monitor the health advice in that location for 14 days upon returning to the ACT.

While the situation is improving nationally, there is always a 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 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.

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

