

## Public health advice for high-risk settings regarding interstate and international COVID-19 outbreaks (new information in red)

### Key Points

#### Public health updates:

- There is ongoing community transmission of COVID-19 in Sydney, with growing lists of COVID-19 exposure locations in [NSW, QLD and VIC](#) also have listed exposure locations.
- A new Stay-At-Home requirement has been introduced for anyone who has left Metropolitan Sydney on or after 4:00PM Friday 25 June. The Stay-At-Home requirement for anyone who left the Sydney LGAs of Randwick, Canada Bay, Inner West, Bayside, City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra on or after 4:00PM Wednesday 23 June stays in effect.
- The current geographical areas of risk in Australia include:
  - Greater Metropolitan Melbourne
  - Sydney LGAs (from 11 June):
    - Randwick
    - Canada Bay
    - Inner West
    - Bayside
    - City of Sydney
    - Waverley
    - Woollahra

#### Advice on entry to high-risk settings:

- Staff and visitors who have been in a geographical area of risk should not attend a high-risk setting for 14 days after leaving the affected area.
- Anyone who has been in the following regions in the last 14 days should wear a mask while visiting or working in a high-risk setting:
  - Greater Sydney
  - Central Coast
  - Blue Mountains
  - Wollongong
  - Shellharbour
- Staff and visitors who are under a stay-at-home requirement under a Public Health Direction must not attend a high-risk setting unless it is for an [approved essential purpose](#).
- Staff and visitors who have been to a [casual contact exposure location](#) (or equivalent) should not visit or work at a high-risk setting for 14 days after being in this location, even if they have received a negative test result.
- Staff and visitors who are in quarantine must not enter a high-risk setting.



## What is the situation?

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- There is risk of COVID-19 community transmission in Greater Sydney. ACT residents are advised not to travel to Greater Sydney and surrounding regions at this time.
- A new Stay-At-Home requirement has been introduced for anyone who has left Metropolitan Sydney on or after 4:00PM Friday 25 June. The Stay-At-Home requirement for anyone who left the Sydney LGAs of Randwick, Canada Bay, Inner West, Bayside, City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra on or after 4:00PM Wednesday 23 June stays in effect. Further information about the Stay-At-Home requirement, including a full list of the affected LGAs, and the list of essential reasons for leaving home can be found at: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/updates/covid-19-areas-of-concern>.
- Greater Metropolitan Melbourne remains a geographical area of risk.
- The advice in this Chief Health Officer alert will be reviewed regularly.

## Advice on entry to high-risk settings

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- Staff and visitors who has been in a geographical area of risk should not attend a high-risk setting for 14 days after leaving the affected area.
- Staff and visitors who are under a stay-at-home requirement under a Public Health Direction must not attend a high-risk setting unless it is for an [approved essential purpose](#). Further information about the stay-at-home requirement can be found [here](#).
- **Anyone who has been in the [following regions](#) in the last 14 days should wear a mask while visiting or working in a high-risk setting:**
  - **Greater Sydney**
  - **Central Coast**
  - **Blue Mountains**
  - **Wollongong**
  - **Shellharbour**
- Further information about mask-wearing can be found [here](#).
- Staff and visitors who have been to a [casual contact exposure location](#) (or equivalent) should not visit or work at a high-risk setting for 14 days after being in this location, even if they have received a negative test result.
- Staff and visitors who are in quarantine must not enter a high-risk setting.
- If someone is excluded from visiting or working in a high-risk setting, they can only visit or work under the following conditions:
  - If they are in quarantine under a Public Health Direction, they can only attend if they have an approved exemption from ACT Health. They will need to apply for an exemption from ACT Health by emailing [COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au). Exemptions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
  - If they have been in a geographical area of risk, they can only visit for compassionate reasons or attend work if they are deemed essential. This should be considered by the facility, following a risk assessment.
  - If they are subject to a stay-at-home requirement, but have not been in a geographical area or risk and are not required to quarantine, they can visit or work for an [approved](#).

essential purpose. High-risk settings should consider conducting their own risk assessments prior to any individuals subject to a stay-at-home requirement entering the high-risk setting. Any staff or visitors under a stay-at-home requirement who are permitted to attend a high-risk setting must wear a mask.

## What are the current geographical areas of risk?

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Current geographical areas of risk are:

- **All overseas countries (excluding New Zealand)**
- **Sydney LGAs (from 11 June)**
  - Randwick
  - Canada Bay
  - Inner West
  - Bayside
  - City of Sydney
  - Waverley
  - Woollahra
- **Greater Metropolitan Melbourne, including the following LGAs:**

○ Banyule	○ Maroondah
○ Bayside	○ Melbourne
○ Boroondara	○ Melton
○ Brimbank	○ Monash
○ Cardinia	○ Moonee Valley
○ Casey	○ Moreland
○ Darebin	○ Morning Peninsula
○ Frankston	○ Nillumbik
○ Glen Eira	○ Port Phillip
○ Greater Dandenong	○ Stonnington
○ Hobsons Bay	○ Whitehorse
○ Hume	○ Whittlesea
○ Kingston	○ Wyndham
○ Knox	○ Yarra
○ Manningham	○ Yarra Ranges
○ Maribyrnong	

## What are high-risk settings?

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- 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 and detention facilities

- Residential accommodation facilities that support people who require frequent, close personal care and who are vulnerable to severe disease

## Advice for staff providing home-based aged care, disability and other support services

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- Staff who have been in a geographical area of risk should not provide home-based aged care, disability and other support services for 14 days since leaving these areas.
- **Staff who are under a stay-at-home requirement under a Public Health Direction should not provide home-based aged care, disability or other support services unless it is for an approved essential purpose. Further information about the stay-at-home requirement can be found [here](#).**
- Staff who have been to a casual contact exposure location (or equivalent) should not provide home-based aged care, disability and other support services for 14 days since being at this location.
- Staff who are in quarantine must 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, they will need to apply for an exemption from ACT Health by emailing [COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au).
- If they have been in a geographical area of risk, they can only work if they are deemed essential.
- If they are subject to a stay-at-home requirement, but have not been in a geographical area of risk and are not required to quarantine, they can work for an approved essential purpose.
- **If they are under a stay-at-home requirement or have been in a geographical area of risk, 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. Staff who are permitted to continue providing services must wear a mask.**

## Advice for general practitioners and other community health practitioners

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- 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) or are subject to a stay-at-home requirement, 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.

## ACT Public Health Directions mandating quarantine

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- Anyone who enters the ACT and has been in an overseas country in the past 14 days must quarantine until 14 days after arriving in Australia. People who have only been in New Zealand

in the past 14 days are exempt from the quarantine requirement, provided they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and can meet the requirements of the Commonwealth government's Australian Travel Declaration.

- Anyone who is deemed a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case must quarantine until 14 days after their last contact with the case.
  - Some people who have attended a public location at the same time as a confirmed COVID-19 case may be designated as close contacts by health authorities. Refer to the [close contact or casual contact exposure locations](#) on the ACT websites for more information.

### For more information

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- 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 Miranda Harris  
For Dr Kerryn Coleman  
ACT Chief Health Officer  
25 June 2021

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