

THE ACT'S COVID-19 PATHWAY FORWARD

Our guiding principles

We will support the work being undertaken nationally and locally to achieving a COVID normal life as soon as it is safe.

We will put the health and wellbeing of our community at the forefront of our decision making. While COVID-19 continues to circulate in the community and we are working to increase our vaccination coverage, restrictions will remain in place.

We will look to get as many people back to work as soon as we can.

We are aware of the impacts on mental health of ongoing restrictions and we will support mental health measures and prioritise outdoor activity.

Given our expected high levels of vaccination, we do not anticipate needing proof of vaccination to access public and private sector services.

We will balance the risks posed by COVID-19 to ensure we do not overwhelm our health system.

We will move through the phases of the National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 response. Movement through each phase is triggered when the average vaccination rates across the nation, as well as in the ACT, have reached the required thresholds. In the ACT we acknowledge that effective vaccination occurs two weeks after the threshold is reached.

We will count all people aged 12 years and over when determining whether we've reached the National Plan thresholds. We will also consider the vaccination rates for vulnerable groups, as well as the overall rates.

We will continue to contribute to work of National Cabinet including planning for our:

- Health System
- Public Health Responses - Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine (TTIQ)
- Public Health Social Measures (public health restrictions) including how these relate to the National Plan.

Our current situation

The ACT is currently experiencing concerning levels of community transmission. This means that we need to keep high level public health restrictions in place to minimise the spread of the virus.

Our priority is vaccinating as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, including our vulnerable communities.

TTIQ must be effective and efficient – we need to continue testing, rapid contact tracing and effective isolation and quarantine measures. This will include continuing to support people to isolate and quarantine in alternative accommodation where their home is not appropriate.

Australia currently looks set to reach **70 per cent full vaccination by mid to late October** and **80 per cent by early to mid November**. The ACT anticipates crossing these thresholds earlier.

Our steps forward

When looking to change restrictions we will consider:

- national and local vaccination rates
- our health system capacity, including the impact of COVID-19 in regional NSW
- the levels of community transmission, especially the proportion of cases who were not in quarantine while infectious
- testing rates and turnaround time
- our ability to quickly test, trace, isolate and quarantine
- how well the community and business are complying with restrictions
- data on the effective reproduction ratio and transmission potential

National Plan to Transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response

Phase A (Current Phase) – Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot

(National and ACT vaccination coverage less than 70%)

Continue to strongly suppress the virus for the purpose of minimising community transmission.

Phase B – Vaccination Transition

(National and ACT vaccination coverage moving towards 80%)

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisation and fatalities as a result of COVID-19 with appropriate restrictions.

Phase C – Consolidation

(National and ACT vaccination coverage is greater than 80%)

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisation and fatalities as a result of COVID-19 with appropriate restrictions.

Phase D Final – Post Vaccination

Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases.

Public Health Restrictions

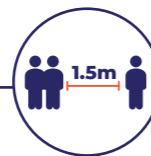
Public health restrictions are put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We expect these restrictions to gradually change as we transition through the phases of the National Plan, but they may also be adjusted in response to increased risk of COVID-19 spread. It is anticipated that the following restrictions will gradually change:

- Stay at home (Lockdown) except for essential purposes.
- Home visitation numbers – the number of people allowed to visit could increase when the situation eases.
- Ongoing working from home requirements, with gradual return.
- Remote learning requirements, with phased return to face-to-face learning when it is safe to do so.
- Gathering sizes – these could increase when safe to do so, noting that outdoors is safer than indoors.
 - Larger events and gatherings may remain restricted for longer.
- Density quotients within businesses, venues and facilities – businesses may be asked to apply density quotients for a period of time, with caps on number of patrons or clients allowed to enter a business.
 - Higher risk businesses and venues may need to remain closed or more tightly restricted for longer.
- Restrictions within high risk settings, including residential aged care facilities, disability accommodation, hospitals and corrections facilities, including temporarily limiting visits and movement.

Ongoing →



Maintain good hand hygiene



Keep your distance



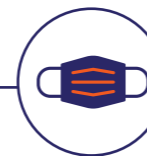
Stay home if unwell and get tested



Check In for contact tracing



Monitor travel advice



Wear a face mask



Covid safe plan



For more information:
[covid19.act.gov.au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au)

