



National Plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response

National Cabinet agreed to formulate a national plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response from its current pre vaccination settings, focussing on continued suppression of community transmission, to post vaccination settings focussed on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality, and the public health management of other infectious diseases

Phases triggered in a jurisdiction when the average vaccination rates across the nation have reached the threshold and that rate is achieved in a jurisdiction expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (16+), based on the scientific modelling conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force

~70% vaccination
(2 doses)

≥80% vaccination
(2 doses)

A. Current Phase: Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot*

B. Vaccination Transition Phase

C. Vaccination Consolidation Phase

D. Final Post-Vaccination Phase

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

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality as a result of COVID-19 with low level restrictions

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisations and fatalities as a result of COVID-19 with baseline restrictions

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

Measures may include:

- Accelerate vaccination rates
- Close international borders to keep COVID-19 out
- Early, stringent and short lockdowns if outbreaks occur
- Minimise cases in the community through effective test, trace and isolate capabilities
- Implement the national vaccination plan to offer every Australian an opportunity to be vaccinated with the necessary doses of the relevant vaccine as soon as possible;
- Inbound passenger caps temporarily reduced
- Domestic travel restrictions directly proportionate to lockdown requirements
- Commonwealth to facilitate increased commercial flights to increase international repatriations to Darwin for quarantine at the Centre for National Resilience in Howard Springs;
- International Freight Assistance Mechanism extended
- Trial and pilot the introduction of alternative quarantine options, including home quarantine for returning vaccinated travellers;
- Expand commercial trials for limited entry of student and economic visa holders
- Recognise and adopt the existing digital Medicare Vaccination Certificate (automatically generated for every vaccination registered on AIR);
- Establish digital vaccination authentication at international borders;
- Prepare vaccine booster programme; and
- Undertake a further review of the national hotel quarantine network.

Measures may include:

- Maintain high vaccination rates, encouraging uptake through incentives and other measures
- Minimise cases in the community through ongoing low-level restrictions and effective track and trace
- Lockdowns less likely but possible
- International border caps and low-level international arrivals, with safe and proportionate quarantine to minimise the risk of COVID entering
- Ease restrictions on vaccinated residents (TBD)
- Restore inbound passenger caps at previous levels for unvaccinated returning travellers and larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers;
- Allow capped entry of student and economic visa holders subject to quarantine arrangements and availability;
- Introduce new reduced quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents; and
- Prepare/implement vaccine booster programme (depending on timing).

Measures may include:

- Maximise vaccination coverage
- Minimum ongoing baseline restrictions, adjusted to minimise cases without lockdowns
- Highly targeted lockdowns only
- Continue vaccine booster programme;
- Exempt vaccinated residents from all domestic restrictions;
- Abolish caps on returning vaccinated Australians;
- Allow increased capped entry of student, economic, and humanitarian visa holders;
- Lift all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated Australians; and
- Extend travel bubble for unrestricted travel to new candidate countries (Singapore, Pacific)
- Gradual reopening of inward and outward international travel with safe countries and proportionate quarantine and reduced requirements for fully vaccinated inbound travellers.

Measures may include:

- Open international borders
- Quarantine for high-risk inbound travel
- Minimise cases in the community without ongoing restrictions or lockdowns
- Live with COVID-19: management consistent with influenza or other infectious diseases
- Boosters as necessary
- Allow uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine; and
- Allow uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to pre-flight and on arrival testing.

**No jurisdiction required to increase restrictions beyond current settings
The Plan is based on the current situation and is subject to change if required*

The COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Taskforce’s report will be available once finalised at: pmc.gov.au.