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**The Hon. Scott Morrison MP**  
Prime Minister

**STATEMENT**

Friday 8 May 2020

**UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS MEASURES**

The National Cabinet met today to further discuss options for easing restrictions over the coming months, helping prepare Australians to go back to work in a COVID-19 safe environment and getting the economy back to a more sustainable level.

The Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy provided an update on the measures underway, the latest data and medical advice in relation to COVID-19.

There have been 6,899 confirmed cases in Australia and sadly 97 people have died. There are now only around 1,000 active cases in Australia, and over the past week, daily infection rates have remained low. Testing remains high, with more than 730,000 tests undertaken in Australia.

We need to continue to have the right controls in place to test more people, trace those who test positive and respond to local outbreaks when they occur. These are precedent conditions to enable Australia to relax baseline restrictions and enable Australians to live and work in a COVID-19 safe economy.

National Cabinet again encouraged Australians to download the COVIDSafe app to ensure that we can protect Australians and reset baseline restrictions. More than 5.3 million Australians have already downloaded the COVIDSafe app. This is an enormous achievement, but more is needed.

National Cabinet will meet again on Friday 15 May 2020.

**Re-opening a COVID-safe Australia and economy**

The National Cabinet met today to finalise the three-step plan to gradually remove baseline restrictions and make Australia COVID-safe.

Australia has so far been highly successful in ‘flattening the curve’. The number of new COVID-19 cases in Australia each day is very low. We can now begin to take careful steps to ease some of the restrictions that have helped us suppress the spread of this virus.

We are confidently and cautiously taking the first step to lifting restrictions. Our success so far means we have slowed the spread of COVID-19 and built the capacity in our health system to manage the impact of the virus. We can now start to progressively ease the restrictions we have in place. The AHPPC has provided strong advice on the conditions that must be met as we establish COVID safe ways of working and living so that we can reopen parts of the economy in the safest possible way while living with COVID-19. This means that many Australians can start getting out to the shops, undertaking some local trips and travel, visiting playgrounds and public parks, and having friends and family around with a bit more freedom.

But the National Cabinet is very clear: continued suppression of COVID-19 is about collective action. Success depends on maintaining our new community norms – physical distancing, good hygiene practices and downloading the COVIDSafe app to keep us all safe while we are out and about.

For businesses, this also means taking the time to prepare and develop a plan to operate in a COVID safe way to protect their customers and workers. With every one of us playing our part, we should all feel safe and confident in leaving the house and starting to do some of the things we've missed in the last few months – like getting back to work, having a quick bite in a restaurant or cafe, attending auctions and open houses, and participating in group exercise.

Each step we take needs to be underpinned by a strong commitment from all of us to:

- stay 1.5 metres away from other people whenever and wherever we can
- maintain good hand washing and cough/sneeze hygiene
- stay home when we're unwell, and getting tested if we have respiratory symptoms or a fever,
- download the COVIDSafe app so we can find the virus quickly, and
- Develop COVID safe plans for workplaces and plans.

Our success depends on us making these behaviours part of our daily lives during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep us COVID safe.

Australian governments are taking a measured approach. Our three-step plan provides a pathway for jurisdictions to move towards COVID safe communities in a way that best suits their individual circumstances. States and territories are able to move between the steps on the pathway at different times, in line with their current public health situation and local conditions. They'll need to maintain steady case numbers and be able to rapidly contain outbreaks, which we're set to do - with our enhanced testing regime, strengthened health surge capacity, and improved ability to quickly identify people who may have been exposed to the virus.

For each of the major areas of restrictions we have set out three key steps between where we are now and where we want to be.

- Step 1 will focus on carefully reopening the economy, and giving Australians opportunities to return to work and social activities, including gatherings of up to 10 people, up to 5 visitors in the family home and some local and regional travel
- Step 2 builds on this with gatherings of up to 20, and more businesses reopening, including gyms, beauty services and entertainment venues like galleries and cinemas.
- Step 3 will see a transition to COVID safe ways of living and working, with gatherings of up to 100 people permitted. Arrangements under step 3 will be the 'new normal' while the virus remains a threat. International travel and mass gatherings over 100 people will remain restricted.

A detailed plan of the steps, as well as a summary, is attached.

Under the three-step plan, states and territories continue to make decisions to their individual circumstances and local conditions.

Jurisdictions may ease restrictions at a different pace. Individuals and business should look to local authorities for the most up to date information, or visit [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au) to be linked to state and territory resources.

Special arrangements will need to be continued in Indigenous biosecurity areas and for vulnerable groups.

National Cabinet also committed – as part of the three-step plan – to regular reviews and stocktake assessments of our progress every three weeks. We will be closely monitoring the situation as restrictions are eased. This will enable us to assess the impact of changes, track progress against our agreed precedent conditions, determine the pace of moving through the steps, and make any further decisions. The AHPPC and National Cabinet were very firm on this. We are prepared for an increase in case numbers or possible outbreaks, but relapse should not be an option. A second wave is not something we can afford to go through. The cost to our people, our economy, our social fabric, is too high. We should look to build success in each step, and move forward safely and with confidence.

So long as Australians keep living and working in a COVID safe way, we'll be able to keep case numbers low and continue taking steps on the pathway to relaxing more restrictions.

National Cabinet's goal is to have a sustainable COVID safe Australia in July 2020. We've shown what we can achieve when we work together - we flattened the curve. Now, let's work together to get Australia COVID safe.

**[END]**

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Australian Government

COVIDSAFE

# 3 STEP FRAMEWORK FOR A COVIDSAFE AUSTRALIA

MAINTAIN 1.5M DISTANCING AND GOOD HYGIENE • STAY HOME IF UNWELL • FREQUENTLY CLEAN AND DISINFECT COMMUNAL AREAS • COVIDSAFE PLAN FOR WORKPLACES AND PREMISES

ALL STEPS ARE SUBJECT TO EXPERT HEALTH ADVICE • States and territories can implement changes based on their COVID-19 conditions

GATHERINGS & WORK	EDUCATION & CHILDCARE	RETAIL & SALES	CAFES & RESTAURANTS	ENTERTAINMENT & AMUSEMENT VENUES	SPORT & RECREATION	ACCOMMODATION	WEDDINGS, FUNERALS & RELIGIOUS SERVICES	HAIR & BEAUTY SERVICES	DOMESTIC TRAVEL
<b>STEP 1: The important first small steps - connect with friends and family - allowing groups of people to be together in homes and in the community. Businesses reopen, and more people return to work</b>									
Non-work gatherings of up to 10 Up to 5 visitors at home in addition to normal residents Work from home if it works for you and your employer Workplaces develop a COVIDSafe plan Avoid public transport in peak hour	Child care centres, primary and secondary schools open as per state and territory plans Universities/technical colleges to increase face-to-face where possible and prioritise hands-on, skills based learning	Retail stores open Retail stores and shopping centre managers must develop COVIDSafe plans Auctions/open homes can have gatherings of up to 10, recording contact details	May open and seat up to 10 patrons at one time Need to maintain an average density of 4m <sup>2</sup> per person Food courts are to remain closed to seated patrons	To remain closed: Indoor movie theatres, concert venues, stadiums, galleries, museums, zoos, pubs, registered and licensed clubs, nightclubs, gaming venues, strip clubs and brothels Exception: Restaurants or cafes in these venues may seat up to 10 patrons at one time	No indoor physical activity including gyms Community centres, outdoor gyms, playgrounds and skate parks allow up to 10 people Outdoor sport (up to 10 people) consistent with the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport Pools open with restrictions	Continue current arrangements for caravan parks and camping grounds (closed to tourists in some states and territories) Hostels and hotels are open for accommodation	Weddings may have up to 10 guests in addition to the couple and the celebrant Funerals may have up to 20 mourners indoors and 30 outdoors Religious gatherings may have up to 10 attendees Every gathering must record contact details	Hairdressers and barber shops open and record contact details Beauty therapy and massage therapy venues, saunas and tattoo parlours remain closed	Allow local and regional travel for recreation Refer to state and territory governments for border restrictions and biosecurity conditions
<b>STEP 2: Building on slightly larger gatherings and more businesses reopening. Higher risk activities may have tighter restrictions</b>									
Non-work gatherings of up to 20 States and territories may allow larger numbers in some circumstances Work from home if it works for you and your employer Workplaces develop a COVIDSafe plan Avoid public transport in peak hour	Child care centres, primary and secondary schools open as per state and territory plans Universities/technical colleges to increase face-to-face where possible and prioritise hands-on, skills based learning	Retail stores open Retail stores and shopping centre managers must develop COVIDSafe plans Auctions/open homes can have gatherings of up to 20, recording contact details	Cafes and restaurants can seat up to 20 patrons at one time Need to maintain an average density of 4m <sup>2</sup> per person Food courts are to remain closed to seated patrons	Indoor movie theatres, concert venues, stadiums, galleries, museums, zoos may have up to 20 patrons To remain closed: pubs, registered and licensed clubs, RSL clubs, casinos, nightclubs, strip clubs and brothels Exception: Restaurants or cafes in these venues may seat up to 20 patrons at one time	Up to 20 people allowed to participate in outdoor sports consistent with the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport Up to 20 people allowed to participate in all indoor sports, including gyms Need to maintain an average density of 4m <sup>2</sup> per person Pools open with restrictions	Caravan parks and camping grounds fully open All accommodation areas open and allow gatherings of up to 20 people	Weddings may have up to 20 guests in addition to the couple and the celebrant Funerals may have up to 50 mourners Religious gatherings may have up to 20 attendees Every gathering must record contact details	Hairdressers and barber shops open and record contact details Beauty therapy and massage therapy venues and tattoo parlours can open with up to 20 clients in the premises and record contact details Saunas and bathhouses remain closed	Allow local and regional travel for recreation Consider allowing interstate recreational travel depending on the situation in each state and territory Refer to state and territory governments for biosecurity conditions
<b>STEP 3: A commitment to reopening of business and the community with minimal restrictions, but underpinned by COVIDSafe ways of living</b>									
Non-work gatherings of up to 100 people Larger gatherings to be considered Return to workplace Workplaces develop a COVIDSafe plan Avoid public transport in peak hour	Child care centres, primary and secondary schools open as per state and territory plans Universities/technical colleges to increase face-to-face where possible and prioritise hands-on, skills based learning Consider reopening residential colleges and international student travel	Retail stores open Retail stores and shopping centre managers must develop COVIDSafe plans Auctions/open homes can have gatherings of up to 100, recording contact details	Cafes, restaurants and food courts can seat up to 100 people Need to maintain an average density of 4m <sup>2</sup> per person	Venues open in Step 2 may have up to 100 patrons Consideration will be given to opening bar areas and gaming rooms Exception: Restaurants or cafes in these venues may seat up to 100 patrons at one time To remain closed: strip clubs and brothels	All venues allowed to operate with gatherings of up to 100 people Need to maintain an average density of 4m <sup>2</sup> per person Community sport expansion to be considered consistent with the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport	All accommodation areas open and allow gatherings of up to 100 people	Allow gatherings of up to 100 people Every gathering must record contact details	All establishments allowed to open with up to 100 people Record contact details	Allow interstate travel Refer to state and territory governments for biosecurity conditions

# COVIDSAFE



## Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia

A three-step pathway for easing restrictions

# Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia

States and territories will move at different times based on local conditions

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## Step 1

What's changing?

Five visitors at home, 10 in business and public places

Work from home if it works for you and your employer

Restaurants, cafes and shopping open

Libraries, community centres playgrounds and boot camps open

Local and regional travel

## Step 2

Gatherings of 20 in your home, business and public places

Work from home if it works for you and your employer

Gyms, beauty, cinemas, galleries and amusement parks open

Caravan or camping grounds

Some interstate travel

## Step 3

Gathering sizes increased to 100

Return to workplace

Nightclubs, food courts, saunas open

All interstate travel

Consider Cross-Tasman, pacific island and international students travel

Our role



Maintain 1.5m physical distancing



Maintain hand hygiene



Practise respiratory hygiene



Stay home when sick



Download the COVIDSafe app



COVIDSafe Plans for Workplaces and Premises

Health response



Population based testing



Enhanced ability to detect contact with confirmed cases



Local health system response

Economic impact

\$3.1b Economic Activity (GVA) per month  
~250,000 jobs

\$3b Economic Activity (GVA) per month  
~275,000 jobs

\$3.3b Economic Activity (GVA) per month  
~325,000 jobs

# Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia

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States and territories will move at different times based on local conditions

National Cabinet will review step progress every three weeks

## Step 1

**COVID safe reopening commences with physical distancing & hygiene**

- Up to 5 visitors to your home
- Gatherings of up to 10 outside of home
- Work from home if it works for you and your employer
- Libraries, community centres playgrounds and boot camps open
- Australians can do more:
  - Shopping
  - Restaurants and cafés
  - Home sales & auctions
  - Local playgrounds
  - Outdoors boot camps
  - Local and regional travel

## Step 2

**Most business reopen with physical distancing & hygiene**

- Gatherings of up to 20 outside of home
- Work from home if it works for you and your employer
- Australians can do even more in gatherings of up to 20:
  - Gyms
  - Beauty therapists
  - Cinemas, theatres or amusement parks
  - Galleries and museums
  - Some interstate travel
- States and territories may allow larger numbers in some circumstances

## Step 3

**All Australians return to work with physical distancing & hygiene**

- Gatherings up to 100
- Return to workplace
- Consider cross-Tasman, Pacific Island travel and international student travel
- Australians can do even more in gatherings of up to 100:
  - Food courts
  - Saunas and bathhouses
  - All interstate travel
- States and territories may allow larger numbers in some circumstances

# What Australians can do to make this a success

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## Personal responsibilities



Maintain  
1.5m physical  
distancing



Maintain  
hand  
hygiene



Practise  
respiratory  
hygiene



Stay home  
when sick



Download the  
COVIDSafe app

## Health foundations



Population  
based testing



Enhanced ability to detect  
contact with confirmed cases



Local health  
system response

## Protect vulnerable people



Vulnerable people should continue to stay home where possible

Restricted travel to remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities

Aged Care restrictions balanced with need for family and social contact

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