Common Operating Picture

COVIDSAFE

Legend
Maintain. Monitor and Report
Targeted Adjustments Needed
Harder, Wider, Different Response
No Associated Threshold

		National	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Cases	New community cases (not already in quarantine) in the past 7 days compared with the prior week	742 | 494	0 | 0	728 | 440	0 | 0	2 | 1	2 | 12	0 | 0	10 | 41	0 | 0
	New community cases (already in quarantine) in the past 7 days compared with the prior week[1]	412 | 343	0 | 0	342 | 264	0 | 0	0 | 2	7 | 0	0 | 0	63 | 77	0 | 0
	Percent of overseas acquired cases among international air arrivals in the past 7 days compared with the prior week[2]	0.58% | 0.87%	0.00% | 0.00%	0.71% | 0.90%	0.17% | 0.13%	0.77% | 0.75%	2.38% | 3.73%	0.00% | 0.00%	0.21% | 0.87%	0.00% | 0.46%
	Days since the last community case was notified[3]	0	385	0	21	1	1	352	0	26
	Regional and remote cases in the past 7 days compared to the prior week	1 | 5	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 1	0 | 0	0 | 0	1 | 4	0 | 0
	Regional and remote cases (not in quarantine) in the past 7 days compared to the prior week	0 | 2	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 2	0 | 0
	Regional and remote cases (in quarantine) in the past 7 days compared to the prior week	1 | 3	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 1	0 | 0	0 | 0	1 | 2	0 | 0
	R_{eff} – Effective reproductive number – where there are more than 20 local cases in the past 7 days*	Not applicable	<20 cases	1.18 (0.70-1.98)	<20 cases	<20 cases	<20 cases	<20 cases	0.52 (0.28-0.94)	<20 cases
Testing	Tests (sum) in the past 7 days compared to the weekly mean of previous month	1212k | 863k	7.3k | 7.3k	670k | 411k	9.8k | 12k	111k | 101k	137k | 61k	8.0k | 8.0k	243k | 211k	24k | 50k
	% positive in the past 7 days	0.11%	0.00%	0.18%	0.06%	0.03%	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%	0.04%
	Mean tests per 1,000 population per day in the past 7 days	6.8	2.4	11.8	5.7	3.1	11.2	2.2	5.2	1.3
Priority Populations	Number of cases reported in residents in RACFs in the past 7 days compared to the week prior	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0
	Number of cases reported in staff in RACFs past 7 days compared to the week prior	5 | 4	0 | 0	5 | 4	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0
	Number of RACFs in the last 7 days newly declared with an outbreak	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Number of RACFs with an ongoing outbreak in past 7 days compared to the week prior	7 | 4	0 | 0	7 | 4	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0
	New community cases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the past 7 days compared to the week prior[4]	4 | 7	0 | 0	4 | 7	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0
	Number of cases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in rural and remote communities in the past 7 days compared to the week prior	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0	0 | 0
Capacity	Percent of community cases informed of result within 24 hours (1 day) from specimen collection[5]	100%	No cases	100%	No cases	100%	No cases	No cases	100%	No cases
	Percent of close contacts of community cases notified to quarantine within 48hrs (2 days) of case specimen collection[6]	100%	No cases	100%	No cases	Not applicable	No cases	No cases	100%	No cases
	Public health workforce status including own surge capacity (Qualitative measure: within capacity, or receiving support)	Within Capacity	Within capacity	Receiving support	Within Capacity	Within Capacity	Within capacity	Within capacity	Within Capacity	Within capacity
	ICU due to COVID-19	64 (3%)	0 (0%)	60 (7%)	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
	ICU capacity	2100	47	868	24	359	166	39	443	154
Transmission Potential	Modelled state-wide transmission – based on current settings and behaviours*	Not applicable	1.70	0.79	2.09	1.61	0.79	1.73	0.85	1.87
	Modelled state-wide transmission potential of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern – based on current settings and behaviours and accounting for estimated transmissibility of VOC Alpha*	Not applicable	2.40	1.09	2.96	2.28	1.10	2.45	1.18	2.64
	Modelled state-wide transmission potential of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern – based on current settings and behaviours and accounting for estimated transmissibility of VOC Delta*	Not applicable	3.21	1.41	3.98	3.05	1.41	3.28	1.53	3.54

1. Cases diagnosed when in quarantine are a sign of an effective public health response noting that some cases may have been infectious in community prior to entering quarantine.
2. The proportion of overseas acquired cases among international arrivals requires cautious interpretation, especially in jurisdictions with only occasional international air arrivals. There may be a delay of up to 14 days between the date of flight arrival for a passenger and the date the passenger tests positive as a case.
3. Includes cases that were locally acquired within the jurisdiction and cases that acquired their infection interstate but were detected in the reporting jurisdiction.
4. Interpret with caution. High risk cases can occur in both urban or rural/remote settings. Jurisdictions will determine level of risk based on individual risk assessments.
5. Cases informed of result require manual reporting and measure multiple metrics (specimen to laboratory, laboratory turnaround time, public health/laboratory/clinician to case time).
6. Close contacts as defined in the SoNG but not including large venue attendees.

Please refer to page 2 for further details and resources

Data presented are as at 29 July 2021
'*' Data presented are as at 26 July 2021

Traffic light classification for cases

Metric	Green	Amber	Red	Rationale
New community cases (not in quarantine) in the past 7 days compared to the week prior (community cases who are not in quarantine at the time of positive test collection)	• <50 cases per day nationally, limited geographic spread • Rate of <0.2/100,000 population per week calculated into number per week for each state	• 50 – 100 cases per day nationally • Rate 0.2 – 0.4/100,000 population per week calculated into number per week for each state	• >100 cases per day nationally • Rate >0.4/100,000 population per week calculated into number per week for each state	Managing a very small number of new COVID-19 infections is possible, however as numbers increase, intervention is required to ensure new cases do not outstrip testing, tracing and health system capacity. Any new community case is concerning
New community cases in quarantine in the past 7 days compared with prior week[1] (community cases who are in quarantine at time of first positive test collection)	• 80-100% of all community cases are in quarantine • If <10 cases, the number of cases are reported and the indicator is green	• 50-79% of all community cases are in quarantine	• Less than 50% of all community cases are in quarantine	A higher percentage of community cases who are already in quarantine at diagnosis is a sign of good public health response.
New overseas acquired cases - notified in the past 7 days. Percent of cases / air travellers per week	• <1%	• 1-2%	• >2%	Seeding of cases is more likely with a higher rate of importation. The rate is lower than community cases because arrivals are in supervised quarantine.
Days since last community case notified (where the case was not in quarantine at time of positive test collection. Only reported when disease prevalence is low)[2]	• NA	• NA	• NA	Australia is pursuing a strategy of suppression, with the goal of 'no community transmission'.
Regional and remote cases in the past 7 days compared to the week prior (Based on ABS area classification mechanism. Includes very remote, remote, and outer regional postcodes)	• <0.04/100,000 population per week (Represents <10 cases nationally)	• 0.04-0.06/100,000 population per week (Represents <10 cases nationally)	• >0.06/100,000 population per week (Represents >=10 cases nationally)	Threat of outbreak – outbreak is extending and covering a greater geographical area. Health system capacity – regional communities have a large proportion of elderly and vulnerable people and less health care resources.
IF regional and remote cases occur, they will be separated into 'identified in quarantine' or 'not in quarantine' (will be two separate lines)	• N/A	• N/A	• Any case will be red	Threat of outbreak – outbreak is extending and covering a greater geographical area. Health system capacity – regional communities have a large proportion of elderly and vulnerable people and less health care resources.
Reff – Effective reproductive number – where there are more than 20 cases in the past 7 days	<20% probability that Reff is >1	20% - 49% probability that Reff is > 1	50% probability that Reff is >1	In areas with active cases, an Reff greater than one indicates unlikely to control/decrease new case numbers. This means the outbreak is expected to continue to grow.

Reference numbers by state and territory by rate

Application			Australia	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Outer regional and remote cases and overseas acquired		rate|100,000|day	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
		Number|Week	71	1	23	1	14	5	1	19	7
		rate|100,000|day	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
		Number|Week	107	2	34	1	21	7	2	28	11
Community cases (not in quarantine)		rate|100,000|day	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
		Number|Week	356	6	114	3	72	25	7	93	37
		rate|100,000|day	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
		Number|Week	713	12	227	7	143	49	15	186	74
Population			25,464,116	428,100	8,118,000	245,600	5,115,500	1,756,500	535,500	6,629,900	2,630,600

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference numbers by state and territory by rate*

	Australia	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Green	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amber	1-21	NA	1-7	1	1-6	1	1	1	1-2
Red	>21	≥1	>7	>1	>6	>1	>1	>1	>2
Population	798,365	7,513	265,685	74,546	221,276	42,265	28,537	57,767	100,512

*2016 Census Data.
Based on rated per 100,000

Traffic light classification for testing

Metric	Green	Amber	Red	Rationale
Tests (sum) in the past 7 days compared to the week prior	No indicators Declines in testing rates (*), especially where there is no community transmission, should be interpreted with caution. Testing recommendations currently advise and prioritise testing of anyone with acute respiratory illness (ARI) symptoms; if community rates of ARI are low this will affect the number of people presenting for testing.			
% positive in the past 7 days	% positive <0.25%.	% positive 0.25% to 0.5%	% positive >0.5%	Assuming testing rates remain high and well distributed, amber or red indicate that the incidence of COVID-19 in the community is increasing and intervention could be required.
Mean tests per 1,000 population per day in the past 7 days	No indicators			

Traffic light classification for cases in priority populations

Metric	Green	Amber	Red	Rationale
Number of cases reported in residents in RACFs in the past 7 days compared to the week prior	Zero	N/A	≥ 1 case in residents	Residents within aged care facilities are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Any number of active resident cases should require concern.
Number of cases reported in staff in RACFs in the past 7 days compared to the week prior	Zero	1 staff member	>1 cases in staff members	Aged care staff are in close contact with many aged care residents. An infectious staff member has the potential to transmit COVID-19 to a large number residents
IF CASES: Number of RACFs in the last 7 days newly declared with an outbreak	Zero	N/A	≥ 1 facility with an outbreak	Cases within aged care facilities are concerning, given residents are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Any number of facilities with an outbreak should require concern.
IF CASES: Number of RACFs with an ongoing outbreak in the past 7 days compared to the week prior	Zero	N/A	≥ 1 facility with an outbreak	Cases within aged care facilities are concerning, given residents are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Any number of facilities with an outbreak should require concern.
New community cases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the past 7 days compared to the week prior[3]	Zero	The number of cases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is not zero. The rate is ≤0.4/100,000 per day indigenous population calculated into number per week for each state	Rate >0.4/100,000 population per day indigenous population calculated into number per week for each state	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are considered a priority population See table for number per week
IF CASES: Number of cases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in rural and remote communities in the past 7 days compared to the week prior	Zero	NA	≥ 1 case	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are considered a priority population. If there are any cases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in rural or remote communities, this requires concern

Traffic light classification for capacity

Metric	Green	Amber	Red	Rationale
Percent of cases informed of result within 24 hours (1 day) from specimen collection[4]	≥90%	80-89%	<80%	Prompt result notification allows early identification of contacts from cases, and ensures that cases are in isolation
Percent of close contacts notified to quarantine within 48hrs (2 days) of case specimen collection[5]	≥90%	80-89%	<80%	Prompt notification of close contacts from the time the case was tested allows early quarantine
Public Health Workforce Status including own surge capacity	Within capacity	N/A	'Receiving support' for contact tracing and/or case management	Qualitative measure for this encompasses public health response
ICU due to COVID-19 (pre-surge) DATA only reported if > 15% of ICU beds are COVID cases	<15% of available ICU beds are COVID patients	15 – 29% of available ICU beds are COVID patients	> 30% ICU beds are COVID patients >30% ICU beds go to surge	An indicator of when surge capacity is going to be needed to support patients with COVID-19 in ICU.
Transmission Potential				A state-wide transmission potential greater than 1 indicates the potential for the virus, if it were present, to establish and maintain community transmission.

1. Cases diagnosed when in quarantine are a sign of effective public health response noting that some cases may have been infectious in community prior to entering quarantine
2. Includes cases that were locally acquired within the jurisdiction and cases that acquired their infection interstate but were detected in the reporting jurisdiction
3. Interpret with caution. High risk cases can occur in both urban or rural/remote settings. Jurisdictions will determine level of risk based on individual risk assessments
4. Cases informed of result require manual reporting and measure multiple metrics (specimen to laboratory, laboratory turnaround time, public health/laboratory/clinician to case time)
5. Close contacts as defined in the SoNG but not including large venue attendees

Data sources and additional resources

The Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) have informed the traffic light thresholds in the operating picture.
Data are sourced from:

- the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS);
- the Critical Health Resource Information System;
- aged care facility report;
- international arrivals;
- modelling; and
- daily reports from state and territory health departments.

Most metrics use a rate or proportion rather than a raw number, to account for variability between state and territory populations.
Due to the dynamic nature of jurisdictional daily reports and thus NNDSS data, data in this report are subject to retrospective revision and may vary from data reported in published NNDSS reports and reports of notification data by states and territories.

Additional resources

Daily updates: https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-current-situation-and-case-numbers
Fortnightly epidemiology report: https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/novel_coronavirus_2019_ncov_weekly_epidemiology_reports_australia_2020.htm