

 Tasmanian Government	THIS IS AN ALERT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH Please distribute as soon as possible to all doctors and nurses in this practice.		
	Public Health Emergency Operations Centre		
3 October 2021	No. of pages (including this page): 2	Phone: 1800 671 738	Fax: 6173 0821

COVID-19 Update No. 94

This alert updates the 30 September COVID-19 Update.

Tasmanian case

- **Public Health Services is currently responding to a positive case of COVID-19 in a teenage resident who is in quarantine in northern Tasmania.**
- The teenager travelled to Tasmania on flight VA1364 from Melbourne to Launceston on Friday, 1 October 2021.
- The teenager travelled directly from Launceston Airport into quarantine at a family home and underwent routine COVID-19 testing.
- The risk of transmission to the community is low, however, Public Health has identified potential contacts and exposure sites.
- Close contacts have been contacted by Public Health and advised to quarantine for 14 days and follow Public Health advice regarding COVID-19 testing.
- Exposure sites for Friday, 1 October 2021 include:
 - Virgin Australia flight VA 1364 (Melbourne to Launceston)
 - Launceston airport arrival hall (including baggage pickup) between 11.30am and 12.30pm
- Details on the classification of exposure sites in Tasmania are available at www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/families-community/public-exposure-sites-in-tasmania.
- **Anyone who was at one of the exposure sites at the specified dates and times, and who has not yet been contacted by Public Health should quarantine immediately and call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 for advice.**

High risk areas and premises interstate

- Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and New Zealand continue to be declared high risk with border restrictions in place.
- Premises in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia have also recently been declared high risk.
- Anyone in Tasmania who has recently arrived from anywhere interstate must check the list of high-risk premises at www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travelalert. The list is updated regularly.
- Anyone who has been at one of the high-risk premises at the specified dates and times should self-isolate immediately and call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 for advice.

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Testing

- It is critical that you continue to test or refer for testing anyone who presents with symptoms of COVID-19, however mild.
- The online testing registration form for people in the North and South of the state is available at <https://covidtestbooking.health.tas.gov.au/>.

Vaccination

- This current situation is a timely reminder to continue to encourage all eligible patients to get vaccinated.
- Bookings can be made via www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/vaccination-information/covid-19-vaccination/Book-your-vaccine
- It is also a timely reminder that all workers in health care settings and people who provide health and medical services or treatments are required to be sufficiently vaccinated against COVID-19 by 31 October 2021.
- All workers will need to have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or provide evidence of a booking or exemption to their workplace supervisor by 31 October 2021.

What to do

- Screen all patients, staff and visitors for COVID-19 symptoms and check that they have not attended any of the high risk areas or premises in Tasmania or interstate at the specific dates and times listed on www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travelalert before entering the clinic.
- Instruct any patients who have been at a high-risk area or premises at the dates and times listed to isolate immediately and call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 for advice.
- Test all patients with any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 7 days either at your office, by referring them to the GP-led respiratory clinics, or by calling the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.
- For urgent queries about people who have arrived in Tasmania from high-risk areas or premises, contact the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 and ask for the COVID Clinical Nurse Consultant on-call.
- If you have any questions about this alert, please contact the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre at covid.response@health.tas.gov.au

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dr Laura Edwards

**Specialist Medical Advisor
Public Health Emergency Operations Centre**