

## ACT COVID-19 Relaxation and Path Ahead

June 2020

On Friday 1 May 2020 the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister announced changes to COVID-19 restrictions including gatherings, travel, and schools.

The Chief Ministers media release is available [here](#).

As of May 1, the ACT has no active COVID-19 cases. The Chief Minister has praised the community's efforts. A vaccine will ensure these efforts are sustained.

### Changes to ACT Restrictions

In order to sensibly support the economy, from this weekend Canberrans will be allowed to be outside their family home for non-essential shopping purposes.

Retailers who voluntarily closed their doors are invited to re-open and the community is encouraged to support them whilst maintaining physical distancing.

Restrictions on gatherings inside the family home will be relaxed to allow families to visit each other with two adults plus children.

From May 8 the ACT Public Health Directions will be updated so that gatherings, whether they are indoor, or outdoor, should be no greater than ten people.

From May 15, restrictions on cafes and restaurants will be lifted to allow venues to seat up to 10 patrons at one time if they can follow physical distancing.

From 11:59am on 19 June, cafes, restaurants, bars and other licenced venues can seat up to 100 people per enclosed space, and will be able to serve alcohol without a meal to seated patrons. Gyms, health clubs and fitness centres will have greater flexibility to reopen free weight rooms and conduct circuit training under supervision and regular cleaning.

Local theatres, cinemas and concert venues will also be able to reopen and the maximum occupancy at places of worship will increase to 100 people for facilities that can manage the one person per four square metre rule.

When gathering in groups, physical distancing must be maintained at all times. It is essential for all Canberrans to remember the following four requirements:

- Avoid large crowds - gather in groups of no more than 10 people
- Keep 1.5 metres apart
- Continue good hand hygiene
- Stay home if you are sick and get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms



## Travel

Canberrans are warned to only travel outside of the Canberra region to visit family and friends in small groups and to maintain physical distancing. This is due the threat of someone bringing the virus into the Territory from interstate remains high.

## ACT Schools

ACT Schools will return in Term 2 as per the following stages:

Primary and Secondary Safe and Supervised sites will cease operation from end of day Friday 15 May.

May 18 - Full resumption of Preschool/Kindergarten and Day Care. Years 1, 2 & 7 will return. Years 11 & 12 will return with a mixed of online and on campus. Children of teachers may also attend their usual school.

May 25 - Years 3, 4 and 10 will return.

June 2 - Years 5, 6, 8 and 9 will return.

Remote learning will remain available for students with chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems.

## Sport

From midnight on May 15, restrictions on informal sport will be carefully eased. Informal outdoor and non-contact sport will be able to restart and commercial pools allowed to open.

Non-contact social sport can recommence in outdoor spaces with a maximum of 10 people.

The general principles that will apply are:

- Outdoor sports only
- Groups of a maximum of 10 people
- Get in, train and get out
- Practice good hand hygiene before and after training
- Change rooms, canteens and kitchens remain closed
- Stay home if you are unwell
- Don't share drinks or towels
- Sharing of equipment such as balls and weights is allowed
- Sportsgrounds must be booked prior to use
- Follow the one person per 4 square metres rule to ensure sufficient physical distancing

Sporting organisations will be asked to prepare a 'Return to Play in a COVID safe environment' plan to support the resumption of sporting activity in their specific context.

A number of small groups will be able to train within an area, such as a football field or court, as long as they are clearly separated at all times and following the one person per 4 square metres rule.

ACT Government sportsgrounds will be available for bookings from 18 May.

Changes to existing bookings or new bookings will be taken from 14 May.



Restrictions on pools will also be eased from midnight Friday 15 May, with pools allowed to reopen for small groups of up to 10 people per pool and one swimmer per lane.

Indoor sporting venues and fitness gyms will remain closed at this stage.

### **Further information**

More information will be available on the ACT Government COVID-19 response website at [www.covid19.act.gov.au](http://www.covid19.act.gov.au)

The Business Liaison Team phone line is: (02) 6205 0900

Details of the first stage of the ACT Stimulus Package is available [here](#).

Details of the second stage of the ACT Stimulus Package is available [here](#).

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant [Simon Banks](#) on +61 419 638 587.