



31 January 2021

**\*COPY OF LETTER SENT TO ALL FAMILIES/CARERS**

Dear families & carers

As you are aware, the State Government has implemented a five-day lockdown in Western Australia as a result of an outbreak of the virus that has been detected. The lockdown commences at 6pm on 31 January and ends at 6pm on Friday 5 January. Whilst the lockdown will impact all our lives we support the decision as it maximizes the likelihood of the outbreak being controlled quickly.

The lockdown is similar to the one last year and places significant restrictions on the ability of people to travel and to attend work. The restrictions being applied are noted below.

Lockdown restrictions

People will be required to stay at home unless they need to:

- work because they can't work from home or remotely;
- shop for essentials like groceries, medicine and necessary supplies;
- medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements and looking after the vulnerable; and
- exercise with only one other person, limited to one hour per day in your neighbourhood and masks must be worn.

Masks are to be worn at all times when outside of your place of residence, this includes at workplaces and on public transport.

Schools will be closed for this week. Term 1, 2021 was due to start from February 1 but that will be postponed by one week.

The following restrictions apply for the lockdown period:

- People should not leave Perth, Peel or the South-West during this period
- People can enter Perth, Peel or the South-West only to access or deliver essential health and emergency services and other essential requirements;
- Non-residents currently in Perth, Peel and the South-West are required to remain until the end of the restriction period however if you must leave for serious reasons; you are to then return home immediately, stay home and tested if symptoms develop;
- Restaurants and cafes to provide takeaway service only;
- Elective surgery and procedures for categories 2 and 3 will be suspended from Tuesday, February 2. Category 1 and urgent category 2 surgery will continue;



- No visitors will be allowed in homes, unless caring for a vulnerable person or an emergency;
- No visitors to hospitals or residential aged care and/or disability facilities, unless there are exceptional circumstances;
- No weddings will be permitted;
- Funerals are limited to 10 people; and
- Travel remains prohibited within remote Aboriginal communities.

The following facilities within the Perth metropolitan, Peel and South-West regions will need to close:

- Schools, universities, TAFES and education facilities;
- Pubs, bars and clubs;
- Gyms and indoor sporting venues;
- Playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor recreational facilities;
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, and casinos;
- Large religious gatherings and places of worship; and
- Libraries and cultural institutions.

While we will continue to operate and will seek to maximise the support and service that we can provide we will have to make some changes for the week of the restrictions. I highlight below the services that we will be offering in the week ahead.

#### Service Offering (1 February to 5 February 2021)

- In-home supports;
  - Personal care, social support
  - Cooking
  - Training –hygiene, social distancing etc.
  - In-home Respite
- Collecting and delivering groceries, picking up medications etc. that are now funded supports as a result of Covid-19;
- Support can be provided by phone or video conference – using WhatsApp, FaceTime, phone etc.; some examples are:
  - Social support, training, customised employment, resume writing and computer skills
- Support Coordination;
- Supported Employment although some impacts will occur due to requirement for social distancing.
  - All supported employees will be suspended on 1 February 2021 to allow a review of the impact of the lockdown on the commercial services we provide



and to determine whether any supported employees do not wish to attend during the lockdown;

- Provision of employment training support by phone or in office (same guidelines as internal crews)
- External work crews continue although limit of 3 people in a vehicle (including driver) will constrain delivery

We are actively seeking ways of continuing to provide support services utilising technology, modifying service delivery to seek to provide as much support as we can. We would welcome any ideas you may have on new forms of support that would be beneficial to you and encourage you to speak to your team leader or local manager.

Our focus is to ensure the health and wellbeing of our staff and the people we support to ensure we can continue to provide the support required. We appreciate your continued cooperation, together we will get through this situation.

If you would like any further information on the lockdown please visit our website which is being updated continually with any new information regarding COVID-19.

<https://intelife.org/news/novotel-corona-virus-covid-19/>

Up to date announcements from the Western Australian Government can be found here:

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>

If you have any concerns please speak to your team leaders or managers.

Yours sincerely

**Steve Edgar**

**Chief Executive Officer**