

## **BARTON DEAKIN BRIEF: NSW Roadmap to Recovery**

**26 November 2021**

### **Overview**

The NSW Government's four-stage roadmap to recovery to return to a new COVID-normal has continually surpassed expectations and modelling due to the high vaccination rate in NSW. The first two stages were completed ahead of schedule when 70% and 80% of NSW's population aged 16 years and above were double-vaccinated; the third stage was brought forward from 1 December to 8 November 2021.

The NSW Government announced the fourth stage of the roadmap on Thursday 25 November 2021. The fourth stage of the roadmap will initiate at a 95% double dose vaccination rate of citizens aged 16 years or above (16+) or on 15 December 2021, whichever comes first.

92.2% of the 16+ NSW population has received two doses of a vaccine with 94.5% having receiving one dose. The 7-day average of locally acquired COVID-19 infections is 213.7, remaining below 300 daily cases since late-October.

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines NSW's COVID restrictions at each stage.

### **Stage Four, 95% Coverage (or 15 December 2021)**

The following settings will apply when NSW reaches the 95% double dose vaccination target or 15 December, whichever comes first.

#### **Indoor/outdoor gatherings**

- There are no limits to the number of visitors to a home and no limits to the number of people who can attend outdoor gatherings

#### **Venues – hospitality, retail stores and gyms**

- There will be no density limits on any venues

#### **Entertainment, information and education facilities**

- COVID safety plans will be optional for businesses and will be supported by SafeWork NSW

#### **QR check-ins**

QR check-ins will only be required at high-risk venues, including:

- Hospitals
- Aged and disability care facilities
- Gyms
- Places of worship
- Funerals or memorial services
- Personal services (e.g. hairdressers and beauty salons)
- Limited hospitality settings (including pubs, small bars, registered clubs and nightclubs)
- Indoor music festivals with more than 1,000 people



### **Proof of vaccination**

- Proof of vaccination will no longer be required for most activities, however, businesses can still require proof at their own discretion
- Proof of vaccination will still be required for indoor music festivals with more than 1,000 people

### **Masks**

- Masks will only be required on public transport and planes, at airports, and for indoors front-of-house staff who are not vaccinated
- Masks will be strongly encouraged in settings where you cannot socially distance

## **Earlier stages**

### **Stage One, 70% Coverage (reached on 6 October 2021)**

Stay-at-home orders for adults who received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were lifted. The following guidelines applied to fully vaccinated and medically exempted residents under Stage One:

#### **Indoor/outdoor gatherings**

- Up to 5 visitors in a home where all adults are vaccinated, with up to 20 people outdoors

#### **Venues – hospitality, retail stores and gyms**

- Hospitality venues could reopen subject to 1 person per 4sqm inside and 1 person per 2sqm outside, with standing while drinking permitted outside
- Retail stores and personal services could reopen under 1 person per 4 sqm, with a cap of 5 clients for personal services
- Gyms and indoor facilities could reopen under 1 person per 4sqm, with classes of 20
- Sporting facilities including swimming pools could reopen

#### **Stadiums, theatres and major outdoor recreation facilities**

- Major recreation outdoor facilities could reopen under 1 person per 4sqm (capped at 5,000); 500 people were allowed at ticketed and seated outdoor events
- Indoor entertainment facilities at 1 person per 4sqm or 75% seated capacity

#### **Masks**

- Masks remained mandatory for all indoor public venues, including public transport, hospitality, retail and business premises, on places and at airports
- Only hospitality staff were required to wear a mask when outdoors

#### **Weddings, funerals, places of worship**

- Up to 50 guests could attend weddings and funerals, with eating/drinking only while seated
- Dancing was permitted at weddings

Non-vaccinated under-16-year-olds were able to access all outdoor settings and only indoor venues with members of their household.



## **Stage Two, 80% Coverage (reached on 16 October 2021)**

The following freedoms applied to fully vaccinated and medically exempted residents under Stage Two:

### **Indoor/outdoor gatherings**

- Up to 10 visitors were allowed in a home, not including children aged 12 and under
- Up to 20 people could gather in outdoor settings
- Up to 200 people could attend COVID-Safe events, with 500 at ticketed/seated events
- Community sport were permitted

### **Venues – hospitality, retail stores and gyms**

- All venues operated with 1 person per 4sqm indoors, 1 person per 2sqm outdoors
- Group bookings for hospitality venues were limited to 20 people
- Customer caps for personal services such as hairdressers were removed
- Gym classes were capped at 20 people per class
- Those who were not fully vaccinated could only access non-critical retail through click-and-collect and could only access hospitality settings for takeaway

### **Major outdoor recreation facilities**

- Stadiums, racecourses, theme parks and zoos could operate with 1 person per 4sqm, capped at 5,000 people

### **Entertainment, information and education facilities**

- Entertainment facilities could operate with 1 person per 4sqm, or 75% seated capacity
- Amusement centres and nightclubs remained closed

### **Travel**

- Unrestricted trips between Greater Sydney and Regional NSW were permitted
- Carpooling was permitted, unvaccinated carpooling permitted within their household

### **Masks**

- Masks remained mandatory for all indoor premises and settings, with only hospitality staff required to wear a mask outdoors

### **Weddings, funerals, places of worship**

- 1 person per 4spm (uncapped) for weddings, funerals and places of worship
- Dancing at weddings and eating/drinking while standing was allowed
- Unvaccinated citizens were allowed to attend weddings with a maximum of 5 guests, funerals with a maximum of 10 people and all places of worship.
- Singing was prohibited at places of worship

Schools returned with COVID-safe measures on 25 October, as previously announced.



## Stage Three, 8 November 2021 (brought forward from 1 December)

The following settings applied to fully vaccinated and medically exempted residents. From 8 November 2021, those unvaccinated had to abide by earlier restrictions until NSW reached the 95% double dose target, or 15 December, whichever first.

### Indoor/outdoor gatherings

- No limit to the number of visitors to a home
- Density shifted to one person per 2sqm for indoor and outdoor settings
- No limit on the number of people who could attend outdoor gatherings
- COVID Safe plans were required for outdoor events with more than 1,000 people
- Community sport was permitted for all people

### Venues – hospitality, retail stores and gyms

- Retail stores and all professional services could operate at 1 person per 2sqm
- Hospitality venues could operate with 1 person per 2sqm inside and outside, with no seating required for eating and drinking
- Gyms and recreation facilities could operate (uncapped) with 1 person per 2sqm

### Entertainment, information and education facilities

- Entertainment facilities could operate with 1 person per 2sqm
- Amusement centres and nightclubs could open with 1 person per 4sqm

### Weddings, funerals, places of worship

- 1 person per 2sqm for weddings, funerals and places of worship
- No restrictions for dancing, eating and drinking at weddings
- Singing was permitted at places of worship

### Travel

- No restrictions on domestic travel, including Greater Sydney and Regional NSW
- Carpooling was permitted
- Quarantine settings for vaccinated arrivals were altered, with a possible cap on unvaccinated travellers

### Masks

- Masks were mandatory on public transport, planes and at airports, and for front-of-house hospitality workers. Mask wearing was not required when outdoors

## Additional Information

You can access the Premier's Roadmap to Recovery Media Release [here](#).

You can access the NSW Government's Roadmap to Recovery factsheet [here](#).

**For more information, contact [Anthony Benscher](#) on +61 438 439 431, [Andrew Humpherson](#) on +61 419 241 587, [Nicholas Rigby](#) on +61 468 913 175 or [Julia Kokic](#) on +61 405 955 887**

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