error

The ACT is in lockdown

Only leave your home for essential reasons. Find out more.

Lockdown in the ACT

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Canberrans are being asked to stay at home to assist in our response to positive cases of COVID-19 in the ACT.

The lockdown restrictions came into effect from 5:00pm Thursday 12 August 2021 and are in effect until 5:00pm Thursday 2 September 2021.

These restrictions are to help slow the spread of the virus and allow contact tracers to do their work.

The restrictions will also ensure that we don't put additional pressure on our health services.

The six essential reasons you can leave your home during this lockdown are:

- to buy essential groceries and medicine
- to access essential healthcare including in-home care
- for essential work
- to exercise outdoors for one hour per day in your region

- to get a COVID-19 test
- to get a COVID-19 vaccination.

You can view more details on the reasons you can leave home here.

Essential retail will remain open for the duration of the lockdown. We encourage all Canberrans to buy only what they need, maintain social distancing and be considerate.

Anyone aged 12 years and over must wear a mask at all times upon leaving home. For some people this is not possible. For full details on face masks and exemptions here.

You should stay up to date on the evolving situation on this website.

Stay at home

During the lockdown period we ask all Canberrans to stay at home and leave only for essential reasons detailed below.

This is because some people who have COVID-19 may be infectious before they develop symptoms, and a small number of people with COVID-19 may not show any symptoms at all.

This means that people with COVID-19 may be able to spread the disease to others, without knowing they are unwell.

Stay at home requirements are less strict than quarantine because the risk of exposure to COVID-19 is not as high as for people who are identified as contacts of a confirmed case or from a COVID affected area. It is an important measure to protect the community.

Testing

It is more important than ever that we maximise our COVID-19 testing in the ACT.

Contact tracing is finding exposure locations in the ACT and they will be updated regularly.

If you are identified as a close or casual contact by ACT Health or are experiencing even the mildest of symptoms you should get tested for COVID-19.

Details of COVID-19 testing clinics in the ACT are available on the symptoms and getting tested page.

Please be patient at the clinics as demand for testing increases.

If you do need to go out, you will need to wear a face mask at all times if you are aged 12 years and over.

If you are getting tested, you must go directly to the testing centre and directly back to your residence.

You should use your own private transport to get to the testing centre, if possible. If this is not possible and you need to use public transport, rideshare or taxi, you must wear a mask, avoid direct contact with other people (including other passengers, drivers and transport staff), cough/sneeze into your elbow, and wash your hands before and after you travel.

Business support

Find out more about the <u>economic support for business</u>.

Business and community restrictions

Category	Lockdown Actions
Social Gatherings, Leaving Home and Visitors	Stay at home unless: To undertake essential work or study, if they cannot work or study from home or remotely. Employers must allow an employee to work from home if it is reasonably practicable to do so. To access childcare or school including schools, early childhood education and care and out of school hours care, to the extent that care cannot

Lockdown Actions Category reasonably be obtained in the person's residence (ie. parents or carers who cannot work from home). • To shop for essentials like groceries, medicine, and supplies that are essential for personal needs or for vulnerable people within your region. Individuals should not cross the ACT/NSW border to shop unless food, goods or services are not reasonably available locally. To attend to medical or health care needs including compassionate requirements and looking after the vulnerable. To visit a terminally ill relative. To attend a facility to obtain a COVID-19 test. • To attend a facility to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, where the individual is eligible for a vaccination in the ACT, an appointment has been booked, and the individual is not in isolation or in quarantine. • To exercise outdoors limited to one hour per day, with one other person (excluding any dependent children), or more than two people only if all from the same household. Individuals should remain within their regions (eg, Belconnen, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong) and minimise travel wherever possible. • For essential animal welfare purposes (e.g. to feed pets or livestock that live elsewhere where there is no-one on site to feed them). To access care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, family violence, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition or other essential support services. Continue existing arrangements for access to, and contact between, parents and children (child access). • To attend a facility to donate blood. Attend a funeral or a wedding (in accordance with conditions for funerals and weddings). • To provide assistance, care or support to another person who is not ordinarily a member of the same household. To return to your principal place of residence. • Move to a new place of residence or between different places of residence

(either within the ACT or in another jurisdiction).

Category Lockdown Actions

- Note: If leaving the ACT you must ensure you comply with another jurisdiction's travel requirements prior to entering.
- Fulfill or undertake any legal obligations (eg to attend any court or tribunal of Australia).
- To assist with or participate in an investigation or other action by a law enforcement authority, whether voluntarily or not.
- To comply with or give effect to the exercise of a power or function of a government agency or entity under a law.
- To access another essential service as permitted by the Public Health Direction (eg essential and time critical consular and diplomatic services).
- For law enforcement or emergency purposes.

Leaving Home:

- A person who leaves their home for a permitted purpose may be accompanied by:
 - o no more than two members of their household; or
 - no more than 1 person who is not a member of their household.
- You can leave your home if you are experiencing domestic and family violence.
 Services to help are open during lockdown.
- A person can be accompanied by more than one person if:
 - the person requires physical assistance to leave their **residence**, or it is reasonably necessary for the safety of the person or the public
 - the other person is a carer or support worker for the person;
 - there is no other reasonable way for the approved reason to be achieved.

Face Coverings:

- Must be carried at all times.
- All individuals aged 12 years and over must wear a face mask at all times upon leaving home, including in workplaces.

Lockdown Actions Category • Only children in years 7 to 12 are required to wear a face mask while at school. • A person is not required to wear a face mask if they have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face mask detrimental to their condition. • A person may remove their face mask in the following situations: • when consuming food, drink or medicine. when communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication. • when at work and the nature of the work means that wearing a face mask creates a risk to health and safety. If asked to remove a face mask to ascertain identity (eg if asked by a police officer). When undertaking vigorous exercise outdoors. • When performing essential work in an outdoor space where no other people are present. • If a person is alone or only with members of the same household in an outdoor space when no other people are present. • When performing essential work in an indoor space, but only when: • in an office where no other people are present; OR when sitting or standing at a workstation, and 1.5 metres away from any other person. As soon as a person is no longer alone or is moving, they must wear a face mask. • If they are in the process of getting married. • If alone in a vehicle or with other members of the same household only. Because of an emergency. Note: A face covering means a mask or other covering that fits securely around the

Note: A face covering means a mask or other covering that fits securely around the face and covers the nose and mouth to provide the wearer with protection against infection. A scarf or bandana is not a face mask.

Category	Lockdown Actions
	Private Gatherings at Home:
	 No more than two people permitted to visit another household, but only for the approved reasons outlined above under stay at home or for compassionate purposes.
	Intimate partner visits are allowed.
	People who live alone can identify one other household that they can visit or receive visits from.
	Public Gatherings:
	Outdoors - Not permitted. Two people for exercise, or more than two people only if all from the same household.
	Organised Gatherings – Not permitted, regardless of whether indoors or outdoors.
	Mass Gatherings and Events – Not permitted. Any event that has been previously planned during the lockdown period will not be permitted to go ahead.
	Work:
	 If you can work from home, you must work from home. Essential Workers and workplaces are defined under the essential providers list.

Category	Lockdown Actions
Education and Childcare	Early childhood education and care (eg childcare, family day care, early learning centres) and out of school hours care (eg vacation care, before and after school care):
	Permitted to remain open for staff, vulnerable children and the children whose parents or carers cannot work from home.
	Schools:
	 Schools open for school-based staff, vulnerable children and the children whose parents or carers cannot work from home.
	For essential activities that must be undertaken under supervision (eg Year 12 critical examinations).
	Higher Education and Training:
	Closed. Remote learning only.
	Apprentices and Trainees:
	 Permitted to undertake essential work in line with lockdown restrictions only. The employer must maintain adequate training and supervision arrangements in the workplace. Formal training should be delivered online or deferred.
Public	Buses and Light Rail:
Transport	Operating.

Category	Lockdown Actions
	Taxis, Hire Car and Ride Share Services
	Operating.
Hospitality and	Cafes, Restaurants and Food Courts
Venues	Closed except for takeaway and delivery.
	A café at a hospital, residential aged care facility, correctional centre, or one that provides food or drink to those experiencing homelessness are permitted to remain open.
	School canteens are permitted to remain open.
	Licensed Venues and Night Clubs
	Closed except for takeaway.
	Nightclubs closed, but can trade as an off licence venue.
Retail	Advice to Business and Patrons:
	The businesses outlined below can remain open.
	Essential Retail/Businesses should provide click and collect arrangements wherever possible.
	Essential Retail/Businesses must take reasonable steps to ensure that patrons entering the business are entering for an essential purpose and are minimising their time in the business.
	Shoppers must buy what they need and then leave – no browsing.
	Density of one person per four square metres applies.
	Essential Retail/Business

Category	Lockdown Actions
	 a business whose predominant purpose is a supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger.
	an indoor or outdoor market, but only where its predominant purpose is to sell or supply groceries or fresh food.
	a bottleshop.
	a bank or financial institution.
	a post office.
	a newsagent.
	a pharmacy.
	a petrol station (including a petrol station that sells groceries).
	vehicle and mechanical repair services.
	hardware, building supplies.
	agricultural and rural supplies.
	laundry and dry cleaners.
	a pet store.
	• a locksmith.
	a business that predominantly sells essential office supplies.
	shops that predominately carry out repairs of mobile phones.
	shopping precincts (but only for essential retail purposes).
	Other Retail (General Retail)
	Closed.
	Click and Collect for non-essential retail is not permitted under the Public
	Health Direction currently in force in the ACT.

Category	Lockdown Actions
Places of Worship	Religious gatherings and ceremonies:
-	No in person gatherings permitted.
	Live Streaming or broadcast or a service is permitted, with only the person(s) conducting the service, camera operator(s) and a translator permitted.
Funerals	Funerals (indoor and outdoor):
	No more than 10 people (excludes persons necessary to conduct the funeral).
Weddings	Weddings (indoor and outdoor):
	 No more than 5 attendees (including the two persons being married, celebrant and two witnesses).
Fitness and Sport	Gyms, Health Clubs, Fitness Centres or Wellness Centres:
Sport	• Closed.
	Personal Training/Bootcamps:
	Not permitted, regardless of whether the activity is being undertaken indoors or outdoors.

Category	Lockdown Actions
	Community Sport and Organised Sporting Activities (including Training Activities) and Shared Community Sports Facilities (including sportsgrounds)
	 Not permitted, regardless of whether indoors or outdoors. Training not permitted.
	Swimming Pools
	Closed, except for hydrotherapy pools.
	Venues hosting professional sporting competitions
	 Open, with essential staff attending to ensure the safe running of the event. No spectators.
	Dance Classes
	• Closed.
Outdoor physical	Campgrounds, Caravan Parks and Camp Sites:
recreation and campgrounds	• Closed.
	Outdoor playgrounds:
	• Closed.

Category	Lockdown Actions
	Nature Reserves:
	Closed to the public.
	Essential staff may continue to attend work.
	Further information about ACT parks and reserves
Community Facilities	Community Centre, Facility or Youth Centre
ruennes	Closed, unless hosting essential public support services.
	Libraries
	• Closed.
Play Centres, Arcades or	Indoor or Outdoor Play Centres
Amusement centres	• Closed.
	Indoor or Outdoor Arcades or Amusement Centres
	• Closed.
Cultural	Galleries, Museums, National Cultural Institutions and Historic Sites
Facilities, Attractions and	Closed to the public.
Cultural Activities	Essential staff may continue to attend work.

Category	Lockdown Actions
	Outdoor Attractions (Zoos and Attractions)
	• Closed.
	Essential staff may continue to attend work.
	Choirs, Bands and Orchestras
	Not permitted.
Performance Venues,	Theatres
Conference	Closed. Any event that has been previously organised will not be permitted to
Venues and	go ahead.
Cinemas	
	Concert Venues, Auditoriums and Performance Halls
	Closed. Any event that has been previously organised will not be permitted to go ahead.
	Dance, Music and Concert Halls
	• Closed.
	Cinemas and Movie Theatres (including open air drive in cinemas
	• Closed.

Lockdown Actions
Conference and Convention Venues
Closed. Any event that has been previously organised will not be permitted to go ahead.
Hairdressing and Barbers
• Closed.
Beauty Therapy, Day Spas, Nail Salons, Waxing Salons, Tanning Salons, Steam Rooms and Spas, Massage Parlours
• Closed.
 Remedial massage services, undertaken by qualified therapists and where the therapy is part of the care plan, are regarded as Allied Health Services which can remain open.
Tattoo Parlours and Body Modification Studios
• Closed.
Strip Clubs, Brothels, Escort Agencies
• Closed.

Category	Lockdown Actions
Gaming and gambling venues	Casinos, Clubs, Gambling Venues and Betting Agencies Closed. Venues with hospitality facilities can offer take away.
Real Estate Services and Auction Houses	House Inspections: In person inspections not permitted. Online inspections are permitted.
	Auctions Closed. Online auctions are permitted.
	Auction Houses • Closed

Category	Lockdown Actions
Accommodation Tours and	 No new 'recreational' bookings to be taken during the defined lockdown period. Bookings may be accepted for: a person avoiding or escaping an emergency a person who is an essential worker a person requiring any other form of emergency accommodation Individuals staying in temporary accommodation in the ACT, including short term or holiday accommodation, may stay at the accommodation until the booking expires and may extend their booking to remain in place, should the accommodation provider remain open. When bookings expire, travellers may leave the accommodation to return to their place of residence, or other accommodation. Whilst staying in the ACT, travellers must comply with all public health directions. Tourism related facilities and activities
transport	• Closed
	Tour transport:
	• Closed
Residential Aged Care	Visitor Restrictions:
Facilities	 No visitors permitted into aged care or other residential facility settings, except for end of life or other compassionate reasons, as approved by the Facility. Essential workers permitted on premises. Non-essential contractors are not permitted to enter.

Category	Lockdown Actions
Hospital Visitors	 Visitor Restrictions: No visitors permitted into health care settings, except for end of life reasons, as a support partner for birth, a parent to accompany a child, or compassionate reasons, as approved by the Facility. Non-essential contractors are restricted from entry. For further information about ACT Health Facilities, please visit the ACT Health website.
Consular and Diplomatic Services	Service Restrictions Only essential and time critical services to be offered.

Lockdown Actions Category Construction During lockdown only essential services, including urgent repair and Sector maintenance services, for example plumbing, electrical and heating repair, information for can occur. industry • All other construction projects, including residential developments, home renovations and non-urgent home maintenance services (such as gardening or painting) are expected to stop during the seven day 'lock-down.' A very limited number of ACT Government projects relating to the ACT Government's COVID-19 response may continue, subject to restrictions. • Construction sites must be made safe and secure during the lock-down. This means activities may need to continue over the next 24 hours. Only works necessary to shut-down and make safe a site should occur in this period. • This may include, for example: • Works to ensure emergency access to property is possible. Concrete stressing works following concrete poured immediately prior to the lock-down. It is acknowledged that minimal site attendance will be required during the lock-down to ensure the closed site remains safe and secure. Guidance for the ACT Construction Sector Please note this applies to industry. Community members can continue to do their own home maintenance projects while adhering to the public health directions.

Essential providers include:

Category	Business / Service Type

Category	Business / Service Type
Retail	Essential Retail
	 a business whose predominant purpose is a supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger.
	 an indoor or outdoor market, but only where its predominant purpose is to sell or supply groceries or fresh food.
	a bottleshop.
	a bank or financial institution.
	a post office.
	a newsagent.
	a pharmacy.
	• a petrol station (including a petrol station that sells groceries).
	vehicle and mechanical repair services.
	hardware, building supplies.
	agricultural and rural supplies.
	laundry and dry cleaners.
	a pet store.
	a locksmith.
	a business that predominantly sells essential office supplies.
	shops that predominately carry out repairs of mobile phones.
	shopping precincts (but only for essential retail purposes).

Category	Business / Service Type
Hospitality	 a restaurant, café, pub, bar, whether licensed or unlicensed, but only to the extent that: it provides takeaway meals or drinks or a meal delivery service; or it provides food or drink to the homeless a café at a hospital, residential aged care facility, correctional centre, or one that provides food or drink to those experiencing homelessness. school canteens.
Services:	 essential government services crisis support for individuals, children and families disability support services (whether in home or out of home) correctional centres, detention places or other places of custody provision of court or tribunal services (but must take reasonable steps to provide services remotely) essential and time critical consular and diplomatic services a veterinary clinic urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person or animal essential child protection activities a childcare or school, including early childhood education and care and out of school hours care a primary or secondary school or college a boarding school removalist services, for essential removals which cannot be reasonably delayed services connected with animal health, husbandry or welfare (including RSPCA) commercial cleaners urgent repair and maintenance services, including for example plumbing, electrical and heating repair media and journalist

Essential Workers include:

Workers:			

A person who is:

- working for an essential provider or business that is permitted to operate
- critical to, and involved in, the ACT's COVID-19 response
- a fly in fly out worker or a drive in drive out worker who is required for industry or business continuity and maintenance where the service is time-critical, who is responsible for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to the ACT
- a transport, freight or logistics driver
- employed as flight crew
- a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly or the person on the staff of such a member
- a member of the Commonwealth Parliament, or the person on the staff of such a member
- anyone required to ensure the functioning of the ACT Legislative Assembly or the Commonwealth Parliament
- Federal, State or Local Government worker determined to be essential by the relevant Head of the Government Agency

Workers:

Any person who performs work that is essential for the continued operation of:

- essential health services
- funerary or mortuary services or related activities
- emergency services, including:
 - the State Emergency Services
 - fire fighting services
 - paramedical services
 - o ambulance services
 - air ambulance and medical retrieval services
 - police services or protective services officers stationed on border duties or otherwise engaged in policing duties
 - military and defence services deployed for activities in the ACT
 - state security or national security
- a wedding or a funeral
- specialist services at telecommunications stores to support telecommunications as a critical service

Any person who provides or works in the following:

- essential infrastructure and essential services required to maintain or protect the safety, health or welfare of the community or a section of the community (whether provided by a public or private undertaking), includes construction, maintenance and repair of such infrastructure.
- organisations that provide urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person or animal (for example, food banks, domestic and family violence services, RSPCA).
- urgent repair and maintenance services, including plumbing, electrical and heating repair.
- roadside assistance services.
- domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery services (including collection, treatment and disposal services).
- journalist and media services.

Workers:

- services related to the administration of justice (but must take reasonable steps to provide services remotely, and must operate in person only for urgent essential services that are not able to be provided electronically)
- In an office building where the work is necessary for the normal operation of an essential business, activity or undertaking.
 - A person is not allowed to work outside of their residence unless providing an urgent an essential service which cannot be undertaken in their residence.
 - Routine, non urgent legal services do not meet the definition of an essential service.
 - Administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home are an essential activity.
- a factory or facility that is not able to be shut down without causing damage or loss to plant and equipment, but only those operations that are necessary to prevent that damage or loss.
- veterinarians and any staff to ensure the safe functioning of a veterinary clinic, including home visits where there is a genuine animal welfare issue.
- public transport, including taxis, rideshare services and other public passenger services.
- air transport, including the operation of airports.
- freight services, including postal and courier services.
- furniture removalists, but only where moves cannot be reasonably delayed.
- essential security services
- a blood bank.
- care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition.
- production and distribution of:
 - food and groceries for sale by a supermarket, butcher, fruit and vegetable store, market or fishmonger (including for sale by operators of such premises at an indoor or outdoor market)
 - liquor for sale at a bottle shop
 - medical and pharmaceutical products.
- primary industries only to the extent necessary to ensure adequate supply of food to, and care of, animals and maintenance of crops.
- a hotel, motel or other accommodation facility to the extent that they provide accommodation services in accordance with approved reasons.

Workers:

- manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary for or related to supporting defence or security industries.
- maintenance of essential research activities.
- forestry industry and timber fabricators.
- road repair works.

Essential Health Providers to undertake necessary healthcare services

Providers:

- telehealth or other virtual care options should be considered wherever possible and where clinically appropriate.
- any health services provided in a hospital or in a community health facility, including immunisation and vaccination services.
- emergency and licensed non-emergency patient transport.
- an appointment at an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Health Service.
- any health services provided by a private or public specialist.
- any health services provided by a general practitioner.
- any health services provided by nursing professionals or midwifes.
- any health services provided at a hospital radiology service (other than routine screening services).
- any dental services provided to patients with urgent needs, or where failure to provide care in a clinically appropriate timeframe will lead to adverse outcomes.
- the following allied health services:
 - allied health services provided by allied health professionals working as essential workers in hospitals or in residential care facilities providing critical clinical care;

Providers:

- allied health services provided by allied health professionals working in private practice or community services;
- students, medical/nursing/midwifery/allied health on placement providing essential care in hospitals or in residential care facilities;
- chinese medicine practitioners;
- myotherapists;
- remedial massage services, undertaken by qualified therapists and where the therapy is part of the care plan, are regarded as allied health services which can remain open.
- the following mental health services:
 - the hospital emergency or inpatient psychiatric services;
 - allied health professionals providing mental health services in hospital;
 - private consultant psychiatry practice;
 - allied health professionals providing mental health services in community settings.
- procedures to complete:
 - any cycle of IVF treatment that a patient has commenced before the commencement of the public health direction; or
 - any procedure required for the preservation of eggs for future IVF where required health treatment will render eggs non-viable.
- termination of pregnancy.
- drug and alcohol services.
- the conduct of human medical research trials.

Professional sport

Providers:			

Providers:

- Professional athletes.
- Individuals who are required to attend a venue to ensure the safe running of a professional-sporting event.
- No spectators permitted into the event venue.

Reporting non compliance

You can report individuals or businesses not following the current restrictions through the reporting form.

Last Updated: August 18 2021