# National Plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response

National Cabinet agreed to formulate a national plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response from its current pre-vaccination settings, focusing on continued suppression of community transmission, to post-vaccination settings focused on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality, and the public health management of other infectious diseases.

### Phases triggered in a jurisdiction when the average vaccination rates across the nation have reached the threshold and that rate is achieved in a jurisdiction expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (16+), based on the scientific modelling conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threshold (%)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥80%</td>
<td>Vaccination Consolidation Phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Vaccination Transition Phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;70%</td>
<td>A. Current Phase: Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A. Current Phase: Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot*

*No jurisdiction required to increase restrictions beyond current settings*

- Continue to strongly suppress the virus for the purpose of minimising community transmission
- Measures may include:
  - Accelerate vaccination rates
  - Close international borders to keep COVID-19 out
  - Early, stringent and short lockdowns if outbreaks occur
  - Minimise cases in the community through effective test, trace and isolate capabilities
  - Implement the national vaccination plan to offer every Australian an opportunity to be vaccinated with the necessary doses of the relevant vaccine as soon as possible
  - Inbound passenger caps temporarily reduced
  - Domestic travel restrictions directly proportionate to lockdown requirements
  - Commonwealth to facilitate increased commercial flights to increase international repatriations to Darwin for quarantine at the Centre for National Resilience in Howard Springs
  - International Freight Assistance Mechanism extended
  - Trial and pilot the introduction of alternative quarantine options, including home quarantine for returning vaccinated travellers
  - Expand commercial trials for limited entry of student and economic visa holders
  - Recognise and adopt the existing digital Medicare Vaccination Certificate (automatically generated for every vaccination registered on AIR)
  - Establish digital vaccination authentication at international borders
  - Prepare vaccine booster programme; and
  - Undertake a further review of the national hotel quarantine network.

### B. Vaccination Transition Phase

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality as a result of COVID-19 with low level restrictions

- Measures may include:
  - Maintain high vaccination rates, encouraging uptake through incentives and other measures
  - Minimise cases in the community through ongoing low-level restrictions and effective track and trace
  - Lockdowns less likely but possible
  - International border caps and low-level international arrivals, with safe and proportionate quarantine to minimise the risk of COVID entering
  - Ease restrictions on vaccinated residents (TBD)
  - Restore inbound passenger caps at previous levels for unvaccinated returning travellers and larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers
  - Allow capped entry of student and economic visa holders subject to quarantine arrangements and availability
  - Introduce new reduced quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents; and
  - Prepare/implement vaccine booster programme (depending on timing).

### C. Vaccination Consolidation Phase

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisations and fatalities as a result of COVID-19 with baseline restrictions

- Measures may include:
  - Maximise vaccination coverage
  - Minimum ongoing baseline restrictions, adjusted to minimise cases without lockdowns
  - Highly targeted lockdowns only
  - Continue vaccine booster programme
  - Exempt vaccinated residents from all domestic restrictions
  - Abolish caps on returning vaccinated Australians
  - Allow increased capped entry of student, economic, and humanitarian visa holders
  - Lift all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated Australians; and
  - Extend travel bubble for unrestricted travel to new candidate countries (Singapore, Pacific)
  - Gradual reopening of inward and outward international travel with safe countries and proportionate quarantine and reduced requirements for fully vaccinated inbound travellers.

### D. Final Post-Vaccination Phase

Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases

- Measures may include:
  - Open international borders
  - Quarantine for high-risk inbound travel
  - Minimise cases in the community without ongoing restrictions or lockdowns
  - Live with COVID-19: management consistent with influenza or other infectious diseases
  - Boosters as necessary
  - Allow uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine; and
  - Allow uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to pre-flight and on arrival testing.

*The Plan is based on the current situation and is subject to change if required*