



MOSMAN

**COVID-19
OUTDOOR
PUBLIC SPACES
ACTION PLAN
2021-22**

Mosman COUNCIL



Civic Centre, Mosman Square
Mosman NSW 2088
PO Box 211, Spit Junction NSW 2088
9978 4000 fax 9978 4132
council@mosman.nsw.gov.au
mosman.nsw.gov.au

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SITUATION ANALYSIS

Overview

An International Public Health Emergency of International concern was declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 30 January 2020. Later WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic on 11 March 2020.

In response, the Australian Federal, State and Territory governments developed a series of measures to prioritise community health and safety.

NSW Health issued a series of public health orders to adapt to the ever-changing environment.

In line with NSW Health, Mosman Council implemented a range of actions to support the effectiveness of these public health orders, to ensure the Mosman community was kept well-informed and supported through the challenging period.

This Plan details Mosman Council's response specifically to the COVID-19 Delta variant (B.1.617.2) which has an increased transmissibility and higher risks of hospitalisation and mortality than the initial COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus originating in Wuhan in early 2020.

Restrictions affecting public spaces

Current NSW public health orders help inform this Plan which will reflect the ever-changing public health situation and can change based on a range of factors that may see a potential relaxing or tightening of restrictions.

Thresholds have been implemented based on experience developed in Council's Summer Action Plan 2020-21 and in discussions with the NSW Police Force.

Purpose

The aim of the Plan is to provide a framework to support Council in the effective management of our public spaces. The Plan is dynamic and will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the community's health and safety is prioritised.

This plan outlines escalation points for action and could ultimately result in the closure of the Council Public Spaces identified in this plan. Whilst this plan has been prepared by Council, the ultimate decision to close any area and move people on will be at discretion of the NSW Police. Council and its staff do not have the authority or power to move people on.

Objectives

The objectives of the Plan are:

- promote the wellbeing of our community through the enjoyment of our outdoor public spaces
- support NSW health public orders and recommendations
- ensure effective communications with relevant agencies (NSW Police and NSW Health)
- minimise the number of people becoming infected or sick with COVID-19 and support staff/volunteer safety and wellbeing
- establish defined escalation protocols and actions.

Scope

The Plan applies to the management of outdoor public spaces that are at risk of large gatherings, crowds and breaches of physical distancing measures through the high-risk warmer months and weekends. This includes:

- Balmoral Beach, Baths and Reserve
- Edwards Beach and Reserve
- Chinamans Beach and Rosherville Reserve
- Clifton Gardens Beach, Baths and Reserve

There are a range of other public spaces, ovals, walkways, tracks and trails that attract significant community use year round. It is anticipated these areas will be subject to increased usage during this period. The approach to managing other public spaces, walkways, tracks and trails is focused on ensuring they remain open and that pedestrian traffic flow is well supported. This is in the interest of promoting the wellbeing of our community.

There are no crowd capacity limits for other public spaces, walkways, tracks and trails. They will be monitored and managed based on current NSW Health restrictions and recommendations.

PROACTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following actions will be implemented to ensure public health and safety are prioritised throughout the peak periods.

Action	Description	Responsibility
Signage	Design, produce and install COVID-branded signage to support public health orders and recommendations across the LGA	Communications
Communications	See Communications approach Page 12	Communications Compliance
Patrols of Beaches and Public Spaces	Patrol public spaces	Compliance COVID Safety Marshal
	Provide on-site interactions with community promoting physical distancing etc	Compliance COVID Safety Marshal
	Monitor and provide Situation Reports	Compliance COVID Safety Marshal
Cleaning Protocols	Frequent cleansing of public toilets	Building and Works
Events	Review proposed events on Council-managed public spaces	Compliance Manager Compliance Director Environment and Planning Communications/Venue Coordinator





ESCALATION, RESPONSE AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR ASSET CLOSURES

Actions

The current lockdown requirements for the Greater Sydney area which includes Mosman restrict the use of public open spaces. Council actions are guided by the NSW Government restrictions in consultation with NSW Police who are the enforcement authority.

Any closure of Council assets will be guided by several factors including but not limited to the following:

1. Numbers of people at sites
2. Gatherings of people at sites
3. Behaviour of people at sites
4. Guidance of NSW Police.

Action	Description	Responsibility
Monitor	Count as required	COVID Safety Marshal
Communications	Update or create digital content as required	Compliance Communications
Escalation to Management	Contact Manager Compliance	COVID Safety Marshal
Escalation to Police	Contact Police Duty Officer Request Police	Manager Compliance
Crowd Control	Compliance Team to respond to crowd density management in consultation with Police	Compliance
Car Parks and Traffic Management	Prepare to close car parks. Soft road closures	Compliance



Escalation processes

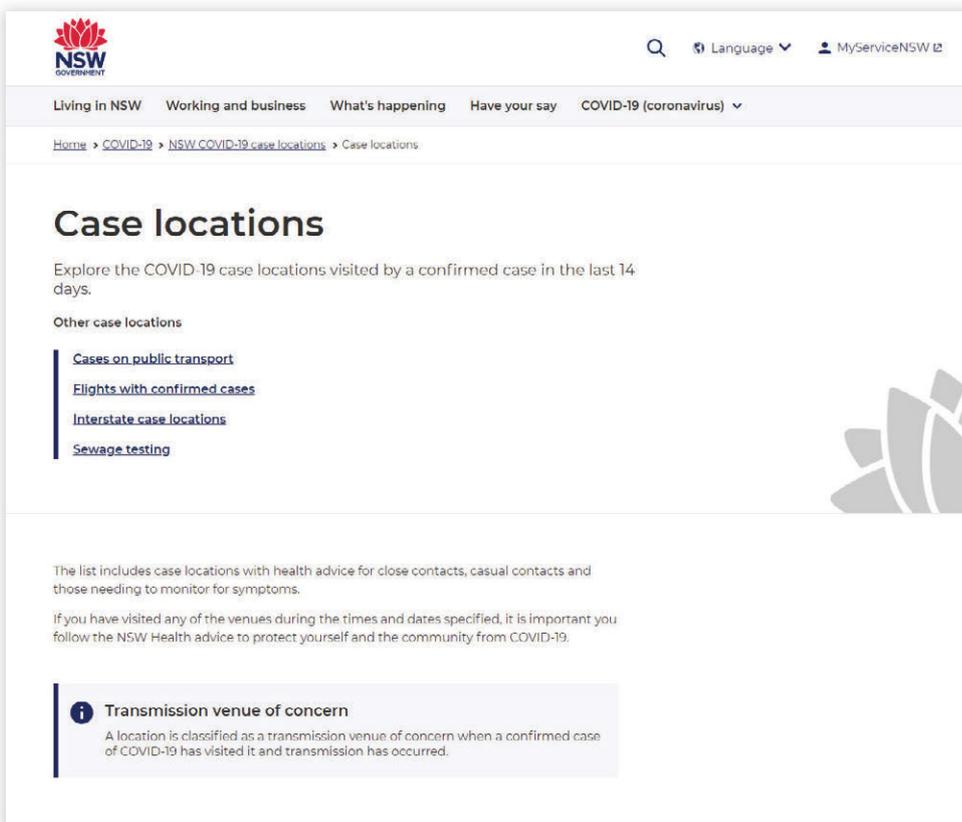
Issue	Step
Staff Safety Issue	Contact Police immediately
Outdoor area nearing capacity	Contact Manager Compliance Manager Compliance/Team Leader Rangers to contact Police
Groups exceeding 5 pax on beaches	COVID Safety Marshal and/or Police to speak to group
Groups exceeding 5 pax in other public spaces	COVID Safety Marshal and/or Police to speak to group
Weather forecast response	If weather is conducive to attract large crowds, staff put on notice
Events	If known event in place and likely to attract large crowds, staff put on notice. Police informed
Queueing and groups on public footpaths and outside retail food businesses	COVID Safety Marshal to speak with retail business owner; if no action Police informed
Significant number of non-recreational activities in public spaces	Contact Police
Capacity of beach nearing Delta threshold	Contact Police

Second wave and community transmission hotspots

Should there be a second wave or Mosman is identified as a community transmission hotspot, this Plan is subject to change.

Council will liaise with NSW Police and NSW Health to determine appropriate action.

NSW public exposure alerts can be found at:
www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates.



NSW GOVERNMENT

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Home > COVID-19 > NSW COVID-19 case locations > Case locations

Case locations

Explore the COVID-19 case locations visited by a confirmed case in the last 14 days.

Other case locations

- [Cases on public transport](#)
- [Flights with confirmed cases](#)
- [Interstate case locations](#)
- [Sewage testing](#)

The list includes case locations with health advice for close contacts, casual contacts and those needing to monitor for symptoms.

If you have visited any of the venues during the times and dates specified, it is important you follow the NSW Health advice to protect yourself and the community from COVID-19.

i Transmission venue of concern

A location is classified as a transmission venue of concern when a confirmed case of COVID-19 has visited it and transmission has occurred.



Communications approach

Council will provide timely and accurate communications across a range of channels as part of a proactive awareness and information campaign. This will include digital, print and signage material to increase the effective engagement of the community in key messaging. The campaign will also aim to keep the public informed of changes to the status of affected open spaces during the relevant period. Council will use an internal communications plan as required to outline processes for key internal stakeholders.

Communications Channel	Location
Print	
Posters and flyers	Displayed in public noticeboards around public areas
Signage	Corflute boards, pavement decals and other forms of signage displayed around Mosman's public spaces
MosmanNOW Newsletter	Content Spring Edition (Sep 2021)
Digital	
Website	Council's website mosman.nsw.gov.au/covid19
Homepage Pointer Advertisement	Council website homepage
Social Media Posts	Relevant social media channels
eDM	Inclusion in regular MosmanNOW eNewsletter
Email Advertising	Signature ad block on outgoing external staff emails
Advertising/Publicity	
Mosman Daily Advertisement	Listing and display advertising in MosmanNOW column
Mosman Daily Editorial	Inclusion in the regular Mosman Daily 'Council Round-Up' feature

Social Distancing

Slow the spread of COVID-19

Keep 1.5m between yourself and others even in open spaces and parks. Please observe social distancing.

Be part of the solution - act now!



Keep 1.5m between yourself and others.



Avoid crowds and gatherings.

Help stop the spread
and stay healthy
Coronavirus (COVID-19)

For more information visit
mosman.nsw.gov.au/covid19

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APPENDIX A

Beach capacity

There is currently no general 4sqm rule for outdoor public spaces, however as a guide the previous 4sqm rule applied in the 2020 lockdown has been used as reference and a new capacity restriction noted as the ‘Delta Threshold’ has been applied.

This assessment of capacity thresholds attempts to take into consideration physical distancing restrictions, NSW health orders and recommendations and the contagious nature of the Delta variant.

The Delta threshold level is only one consideration when determining to close the beach or public space. They are used as a guideline with advice and final determination with the NSW Police.

Capacities have been estimated as follows:

Spaces	Measured Area (m ²)	Estimated Useable Area (80% of measured area)	Maximum number people based on 4sqm rule	95% Threshold	90% Threshold	75% Threshold	Delta Threshold
Balmoral Beach	11,950	9,560	2,500	2,350	2,250	1,900	1,000
Balmoral Baths	1,000	800	200	190	180	150	100
Edwards Beach	12,500	10,000	2,500	2,350	2,250	1,900	1,000
Chinamans Beach	6,000	4,800	1,200	1,150	1,100	900	450
Clifton Gardens Beach	4,000	3,200	800	750	700	600	300

The above areas have been calculated based on aerial photos. Discretion has been used in the overall area calculations in an attempt to account for structures, access points, tide levels and areas public congregate. These numbers are only one consideration when deciding on closure of an area.



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