

SA COVID-19 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting 14: 05 June 2020

Actions:

Reference	Action
4.8	Committee to consider and agree an approach to large rooms prior to 19 June.
7.4	Exemption to be granted to Adelaide Oval consistent with approach agreed with SA Health.
7.9	SA Health to advise SANFL of indicative crowd limits at Step 3.

Outcomes

Reference	Action
1.3	Members endorsed the Chair's proposed response to Business SA as circulated out of session.
7.10	The Committee agreed that a consistent approach would be taken between the zoo and all other wildlife parks, with any exemptions to apply consistently to all.

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 All members present.
- 1.2 Dr Chris Lease, AC Noel Bamford and Mr Mike Wait SC attended as a guests.
- 1.3 Members endorsed the Chair's proposed response to Business SA as circulated out of session.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

- 2.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the 25 May, 26 May, 29 May and 2 June meetings.

3. AHPPC update

- 3.1 The Committee discussed the modelling presented through AHPPC noting that the easing of restrictions increases the reproduction rate to above one for South Australia, were COVID to be present or introduced.

- 3.2 CPHO noted that the modelling suggests that due to lower micro and macro distancing, any infection is likely to create more cases.
- 3.3 CPHO noted that AHPPC were undertaking modelling on “seeding”, showing the introduction of infection from places with community transmission into jurisdictions whose lack of community transmission has allowed greater easing of restrictions.
- 3.4 CPHO noted the importance of retaining high symptomatic testing rates, and an intention to nuance messaging to encourage people to stay away from others (rather than the current language of “isolate”) while they await test results, as promoting isolation may be inadvertently acting as a disincentive to seek testing.

4. Step 3

- 4.1 The Committee noted that AHPPC will be undertaking significant discussions on Step 3 with a view to reaching a nationally consistent baseline, particularly on matters which are unlikely to fully resume while COVID remains endemic in the world.
- 4.2 The Committee noted discussions had occurred at AHPPC on the density requirement of 1 per 4 square metres, as requested by National Cabinet, noting that WA had moved to 1 per 2 square metres. The Committee were advised that AHPPC have agreed that maintenance of 1 per 4 sqm is most consistent with current published evidence on droplet spread, which indicates that risk halves with each metre up to 3 metres, but that different epidemiological conditions including additional border restrictions in each jurisdiction may allow them to conclude a lower density is appropriate in the circumstances.
- 4.3 AHPPC also noted that the activity and characteristics of a space are important, and considered a range of risk stratification factors which may influence the 1 per 4 sqm density requirement, extracted below:

Lower risk	Higher Risk	Factors
Outdoor	Indoor	Ventilation, droplet spread, spatial distancing, surface contamination
Seated	Standing/moving	Extent of interactions, opportunity for transmission, surface contamination
Alcohol free	Alcohol	Adherence to physical distance and hygiene
Non-interactive	Interactive	Surface contamination
Talking	Increased exhalation speed and volume (eg exercise, singing, loud vocalisation)	Droplet spread, distance of droplet travel
Familiar interactions	Non-familiar interactions	Identification of contacts
Low numbers	High numbers	Opportunity for transmission (increased interactions), identification of contacts

Low density	Higher density	Spatial distancing, opportunity for transmission (increased interactions), surface contamination
Activity specific mitigations	No mitigations	Management of risk

- 4.4 The Committee noted discussions at AHPPC that while an overall cap disadvantages larger venues, the density requirement disadvantages smaller venues.
- 4.5 The Committee noted their preference for previously discussed Option 1 for Step 3, noting potential further requirement from AHPPC discussions. Indicatively, this would allow for the below at Step 3:
- 250 max indoor gatherings/venue
 - 500 max outdoor gatherings/venue
 - Maintenance of density requirement of 1 person per 4 sqm
 - Quarantine requirements lifted for travellers from jurisdictions with 3 weeks of no community transmission and their own border restrictions. This is likely to include Northern Territory, Western Australia and Tasmania, and may include New Zealand.
 - Move to a pre-approval system for exemptions with an online form which requires justification of critical skills etc
 - Continued restrictions and/or further work on:
 - Indoor nightclubs
 - Major events/conventions
 - Gatherings >500 for foreseeable future
 - Consider cap on weddings tighter than other restrictions
 - Shisha/hookah bars
 - Music festivals
- 4.6 The Committee noted a published commitment to review Step 2 after 2 weeks, which is 14 June, and that any announcement of date and inclusions for Step 3 could occur consistent with that timeframe.
- 4.7 The Committee discussed the need to progress the large rooms issue for the Step 2 “mid step” at 19 June, and requested further discussion on the proposed approach to large rooms at the next meetings.
- 4.8 **Action: Committee to consider and agree an approach to large rooms prior to 19 June.**

5. Travel pre approvals process

- 5.1 The Committee noted that the move to tighter border controls including a pre approval process were essential preconditions to allowing larger groups to gather, as transmission risk is greatest from interstate, and will no longer be risk managed through limitations on group sizes, so must be managed through stricter border controls.
- 5.2 The State Coordinator advised that SAPOL would have the online pre-approvals process live by 22 June.

6. Future emergency management arrangements

- 6.1 The Crown Solicitor spoke to the paper and described the options that the Committee and State Coordinator could consider for the future management of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.
- 6.2 The Committee noted that the COVID-19 Response Act and directions all rely on the major emergency declaration, and accordingly it would need to continue until neither were considered required.
- 6.3 The Committee noted that while the emergency management declaration could continue, the State Coordinator may consider it appropriate to delegate decision and direction-making to an Assistant State Coordinator, and that a formal delegation to the Assistant State Coordinator Recovery (CE DPC) would signal a public transition to recovery, rather than an active emergency requiring SAPOL leadership.
- 6.4 SAPOL expressed concern that there was a risk of reduced public support for both the emergency management approach and the organisation if SAPOL leadership continued beyond the social licence for same.
- 6.5 The Committee agreed to defer further consideration of this issue to a later meeting.

7. Any other business

- 7.1 The Chair recused himself to allow the Committee to discuss the request for an exemption to allow spectators for the AFL showdown.
- 7.2 CPHO and Deputy indicated that they had received a proposal from Adelaide Oval on how spectators could be managed, and that an exemption could be granted which allowed 500 spectators in the stands, and a further 240 across dining venues, applying current limits to dining venues of 20 per room, allowing 740 total spectators, and players and support staff as required.
- 7.3 CPHO and Deputy also indicated it would be useful for other major venues and sporting codes to attend and use the exercise to test how crowds can be safely managed to minimise opportunities for interaction and surface contamination.

- 7.4 **Action: Exemption to be granted to Adelaide Oval consistent with approach agreed with SA Health.**
- 7.5 Chair returned to the meeting.
- 7.6 The Committee considered a request by the SANFL to allow 500 spectators by the commencement of their season on 3 July 2020.
- 7.7 The Committee noted that the league required early advice that this number of spectators would be allowed in order to make financial decisions about whether to proceed with the season.
- 7.8 The Committee agreed that consistent with what is planned for Step 3, 500 spectators outdoors would be allowed by July.
- 7.9 **Action: SA Health to advise SANFL of indicative crowd limits at Step 3.**
- 7.10 The Committee noted ongoing discussions with the zoo and other wildlife park operators, and agreed that a consistent approach would be taken between the zoo and all other wildlife parks.
- 7.11 A proposal would be developed by Zoos SA for 250 patrons at once and a plan for how interactions and density will be managed. If approved, a consistent exemption will be granted to all wildlife park operators.
- 7.12 The Committee discussed the June 19 mid-step, and a request from the AHA that this be brought forward to 12 June to allow greater capacity for crowds to view the showdown in licenced venues, and to have consideration of Keno, TAB and Bingo on premises as part of the mid step.
- 7.13 The Committee noted the intention for a protest to be held for Black Lives Matter on Saturday 6 June 2020, with an expected crowd of 3000-4000, which would make it a prohibited gathering.
- 7.14 The State Coordinator noted an intention to grant an exemption for this protest, to avoid perception that police were stifling a right to protest police actions. This places the responsibility with SAPOL leadership and means that officers policing the protest are not put in the position of issuing expiations and through so doing, risking further civil unrest.
- 7.15 The Transition Committee endorsed the State Coordinator's intention to grant an exemption for the protest, meaning it will not be a prohibited gathering.