

South Australia to end lockdown early after pizza parlour blunder

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South Australia's six-day "circuit-breaker" lockdown will be cut short, officials said Friday, blaming a pizza parlour worker who misled contact tracers about how he contracted the virus.

Premier Steven Marshall indicated a tough lockdown for the state's

almost two million people would end late on Saturday, at least two days earlier than planned.

Marshall said a man had claimed to have contracted the virus after a brief visit to a pizza parlour hotspot, leaving authorities concerned the strain was much more contagious than originally believed.

But further investigation revealed he in fact worked [part-time](#) at the restaurant and had picked it up from a colleague.

"One of the close contacts linked to the Woodville pizza bar deliberately misled our contact-tracing team," said Marshall. "Their story didn't add up. We pursued them. We now know that they lied."

It is unlikely the man will face charges, police said.

"The Emergency Management Act requires people to provide information on request," said police commissioner Grant Stevens. "There is no penalty for failing to truthfully answer those questions."

Red-faced authorities stressed the costly [lockdown](#) had still been necessary—and that customers who had visited the [pizza](#) parlour should still come forward for testing.

On Wednesday, they ordered schools, shops, pubs, factories and even takeaway restaurants to close and stay-at-home orders were issued for residents across the state.

Since then, tens of thousands of tests have shown no new community transmission and that the cluster totals only 25 cases, leading to accusations that authorities overreacted.

People in Adelaide and the rest of the state will be able to leave their

homes immediately to exercise, and most other restrictions will be eased late on Saturday.

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