

# *Australian prime minister rules out lockdowns despite Omicron surge*

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**Australia must move past “the heavy hand of government” and authorities must stop shutting down people’s lives with COVID-19 lockdowns, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Tuesday**

Canberra, December 22 (RHC)-- Australia must move past “the heavy hand of government” and authorities must stop shutting down people’s lives with COVID-19 lockdowns, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Tuesday, as daily infections in the country shot up to a new pandemic high.

“We have got to get past the heavy hand of government and we have got to treat Australians like adults,” Morrison told reporters, urging authorities to shift from “a culture of mandates” when it comes to masks and social distancing rules.

And the Australian prime minister said: “We’re not going back to lockdowns. We’re going forward to live with this virus with common sense and responsibility.”

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