



# Environmental Health Officer Update

11 May 2020

## General information About COVID-19

### Current situation

- [Daily snapshot](#) and latest updates from DOH WA
- [Public Health Emergency Operations Centre \(PHEOC\) Bulletin](#)– 5 May 2020 from DOH WA

### Useful Information Sources

Local Governments and members of the public are encouraged to access up to date COVID-19 information, as outlined below:

- [HealthyWA website](#) - should be the main page to refer people to as it has information on COVID-19 clinics and current advice.
- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) – contains several fact sheets to answer frequently asked questions from the community and industry, including advice for employers.
- [State Government Coronavirus Page](#) – includes the WA Government Pandemic Plan
- Contact the [National Coronavirus Helpline](#) if you are seeking information on COVID-19 on 1800 020 080.

**Other Links** - [WA Travel Restrictions](#), [Australian Government](#), [WA Health](#), [WALGA](#), [Environmental Health Directorate](#)

## Living with COVID

COVID-19 is changing the way we live, work and communicate. Even though the government is relaxing restrictions we should all remain vigilant during this period of transition to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in WA.

### Addressing social stigma and COVID-19

The COVID-19 disease is causing a great deal of confusion, anxiety and stress in our community. The outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people who have become unwell with COVID-19, as well as their caregivers, family, friends and communities.

Stigmatising people can be harmful and can result in people not accessing health care or mental health support that they need. We need to support each other through this difficult period. Stigma and discrimination hurt everyone. Further information is available on the WA Health website.

<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Infectious%20diseases/PDF/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Social-stigma.pdf>

### Mental Health

A mental health campaign has been launched to help Western Australians manage their wellbeing through the COVID-19 pandemic. To access resources or more information visit think Mental Health.

<https://www.thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au/mental-health-and-covid-19/>

## Medical Clearance of a Case

A person will be deemed to have cleared the COVID-19 infection based on meeting the following criteria:

### Confirmed or probable cases with mild illness that did not require hospitalisation

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms and;
- There has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours

### Confirmed or probable cases with more severe illness requiring hospitalisation

- At least 10 days have passed since hospital discharge and;
- There has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours

### Healthcare workers and aged care workers must meet all the following criteria:

- The person has been afebrile for the previous 48 hours
- Resolution of the acute illness for the previous 24 hours
- Be at least 7 days after the onset of the acute illness

A clearance certificate will be provided to the individual when the Public Health Operations team deems that they have met the criteria for clearance.

**Source:** Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units, 5 May 2020

## Influenza Vaccination

Flu strains in the community change regularly – so vaccines are updated every year. It is important to have the updated shot each year.

**Aged Care Settings:** Please note that from 1 May this year, all visitors to and health care workers of residential aged care facilities are now required to have a current influenza vaccination.

### In the Wheatbelt you can access the influenza vaccine from:

<b>GP Surgery</b>	Ask your GP if you're eligible for a free flu vaccination if you are in a high risk group (see below list for eligible groups).
<b>Check with your local Pharmacy</b>	Some local pharmacies provide flu vaccines on site
<b>Child Health Nurse</b>	For childhood immunisations including influenza For childhood immunisations including influenza: Find the local Child Health Clinics <a href="#">HERE</a>

### More information about the influenza vaccine is available:

- To find a GP or pharmacist who can give you a flu shot, use the [Healthdirect Service Finder - healthdirect.gov.au](https://healthdirect.gov.au) or 1800 022 222
- You can visit the [National Immunisation Program - https://beta.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation](https://beta.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation) or call the NIP hotline on 1800 671 811 between 8am and 5pm AEST.

**The following people are eligible to receive free government funded influenza vaccinations:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)</li><li>• Children aged 6 months to less than 5 years</li><li>• Primary school aged children (pre-primary to year 6)* provided by Primary Health practitioners</li><li>• People 65 years and older</li><li>• Aboriginal people 6 months and older</li></ul>	<p>People aged 6 months and older with medical conditions that put them at risk of severe influenza, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heart disease</li><li>• Kidney disease</li><li>• Chronic respiratory conditions</li><li>• Chronic illnesses that required regular medical attention or hospitalisation in the previous year</li><li>• Chronic neurological conditions</li><li>• Impaired immunity</li><li>• Children aged 6 months to 10 years receiving long-term aspirin therapy</li></ul>
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**Note:** The vaccine is free however you may be charged a consultation fee. Check costs when making an appointment.

**Source:** WACHS Wheatbelt Influenza Vaccine Information

**Queries about the WACHS Wheatbelt COVID-19 response can be directed to:**

WACHS Wheatbelt Communications Cell: [CommunicationsWB@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:CommunicationsWB@health.wa.gov.au)

Or contact Wheatbelt Public Health Unit on 9690 1720