



PHEOC BULLETIN #78

Tuesday 7 September 2021 17:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday 7 September**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,087** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **102** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,074** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **1,683,665** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Mandatory vaccination of health staff - 1 September 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - Victoria - 31 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - New South Wales - 20 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - New South Wales - 20 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - New Zealand - 18 August 2021](#)

Environmental cleaning of exposure sites

A new guideline has been published regarding cleaning after exposure of COVID-19 at a site (e.g. a business). The document, *Infection prevention and control advice for environmental cleaning of a site following COVID-19 exposure*, summarises the cleaning and disinfecting requirements prior to resuming operations, and outlines principles of environmental cleaning, equipment standards and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements.

Refer to the document on the Department of Health [website](#) for further information.

Local Government contact details request

As a part of the WA Government's preparedness for potential COVID-19 transmission, the Department of Health is compiling a confidential register of specific operational persons in individual local governments and their afterhours contact details. A request for this information has been circulated via generic email addresses. If you have not received the survey request, please contact [PHEOC Communications](#) for further details or alternatively, the information can be provided directly via the [survey](#). PHEOC would like to thank those who have already responded.

South Australia

Public health advice has been issued for recently returned travellers into WA from South Australia.

The South Australian health department has published a list of [exposure sites](#) after truck drivers who tested positive to COVID-19 travelled through the state. Please continue to check the website in case more sites are added.

Anyone who has been at the [exposure sites](#) at the specified times is required to:

- self-quarantine at a suitable premises for 14 days from date of exposure
- be tested within 48 hours and on day 12
- wear a mask when transiting to a self-quarantine premises and presenting for COVID-19 testing.

Anyone who **has not** been at the listed sites during the specified times is advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

A list of [testing clinics](#) is available on the [HealthyWA](#) website.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for additional information.

Victoria

Victoria transitioned to a 'high risk' state from 12.01am, Monday 6 September. Approved travellers entering from Victoria, or travellers who have been in Victoria in the past 14 days, must:

- self-quarantine at a suitable premises for 14 days
- provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the 72 hours prior to departure
- provide proof of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, where eligible
- use the G2G Now app on arrival in WA
- receive a COVID-19 test on day two and day 12.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for additional information.

ACT

The Chief Health Officer recommended additional changes to the Australian Capital Territory's (ACT) 'medium risk' settings under the [controlled border](#) arrangements. From 12.01am, Monday 6 September, approved travellers aged 12 and older are required to undertake a pre-travel COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to departure.

The Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor and review border controls. Refer to the [announcement](#) for additional information.

Truck drivers

Two NSW truck drivers reported as positive cases on Friday, 27 August 2021, have now been cleared. A list of [exposure sites](#) relating to the NSW truck drivers has been published. Please continue to check the site in case more exposure sites are added.

Anyone who visited the exposure sites listed on HealthyWA at the specified times and dates must:

- quarantine immediately for 14 days and get tested within 48 hours and on day 12
- contact 13 COVID (13 26843).

Refer to the [initial](#) and [latest](#) media release for further information.

Guidelines for HCF and RACF visits while in quarantine

A new document titled *Visits to Health Care Facilities and Residential Aged Care Facilities by People in Quarantine – General Principles* has been published to assist facilities manage visits from people under a quarantine direction. The guideline provides advice on infection prevention and control and the use of personal protective equipment, and a template letter of support for use if appropriate.

For further information refer to the [document](#) on the corporate Department of Health website.

Graduate nurses in COVID-19 response roles

The WA government announced the deployment of 170 graduate nurses in COVID-19 roles. This includes 130 graduates in State-run vaccination clinics and 40 in the contact tracing team.

Refer to the [media release](#) for further information.

New Zealand reclassified

In line with all other Australian jurisdictions, travel from New Zealand is now classified by WA as travel from an international location. Approved travellers are required to enter 14 days of hotel quarantine on arrival. This is due to the evolving COVID-19 situation in New Zealand.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for further information.

Jurisdiction risk rating

New South Wales is considered 'extreme risk'. **Victoria is considered 'high risk'**. Australian Capital Territory **is** considered 'medium risk'. Queensland is considered 'low risk'. South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania are considered 'very low risk'. New Zealand is no longer a jurisdiction in WA's controlled border. For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled border [webpage](#).

Community

SafeWA business information

Locations required to maintain contact registers should ensure business information on [SafeWA](#) is accurate to assist contact tracing. SafeWA is the quickest and easiest way to record patrons and identify those who may have come into contact with a known case of COVID-19.

SafeWA information (including the venue name) is often provided to the public while public health continues to review the locations and work with businesses to refine the information provided publicly.

Business and venue information on SafeWA should be as specific as possible to assist contact tracing efforts and allow community members to quickly identify whether they have attended a public exposure site. Locations with multiple venues within a site should use the 'business' and 'venue' function of the SafeWA app to allow differentiation.

To ensure any contact register system is used, the register (QR code or hard copy) should be in a high-profile position enabling ease of use whilst also ensuring the privacy of hard copy information is maintained.

A [SafeWA User Guide](#) is available for businesses and individuals. Contact register [best practice](#) information and the [stakeholder toolkit](#) can be found of the WA Government [website](#).

Tourism and Travel Agent Support Fund

Co-funded by the Commonwealth and State governments, the WA Tourism and Travel Agent Support Fund offers one-off payments between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to eligible WA businesses impacted by COVID-19 restrictions in the Eastern States.

Applications are open to accommodation providers, businesses which provide tourism attractions and experiences, tour operators, travel and tour transport services, and travel agents. Applications close on 30 September 2021.

To apply or for further information refer to the Tourism WA [website](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine approved for 12-17 year olds

On 4 September 2021 the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [announced](#) the provisional approval of the Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine for all individuals aged 12 and over following careful consideration of the available data on the vaccine safety and efficacy. The recommended dose and dose interval is the same as that for the adult population - two full doses given 28 days (4 weeks)

apart. The Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine will be available through primary health care providers (pharmacies) in coming weeks.

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of health workers

On the 2 September 2021 the Minister for Health [announced](#) that COVID-19 vaccination would become mandatory for Western Australian health care and health support staff from 1 October 2021. This will be done in a staged approach to ensure impacted health staff who work with the most vulnerable Western Australians get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The new public health [directions](#) make COVID-19 vaccination for WA health care workers and health support staff compulsory within public and private hospitals and public health service facilities. This decision is based on the latest health advice from the Chief Health Officer considering the evolving Delta variant and risks of COVID-19. Transmission of COVID-19 in healthcare settings has the potential to cause serious illness and death in staff, patients and visitors and, based on the public health advice, hospitals need to take reasonable precautions to protect from these risks. Health care and health support staff will be eligible to receive a Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of their age.

Further information can be found on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine approved for all 12-15 year olds

On the 27 August 2021 the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [recommended](#) that all individuals aged 12 years and over are vaccinated against COVID-19. The **Comirnaty (Pfizer)** COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for all individuals aged 12-60 years. ATAGI has developed these recommendations following carefully consideration of the benefits, risks, uncertainties and evidence on COVID-19 vaccinations for this age group. Bookings will be made available for 12-15 year olds **from Monday 13 September 2021**.

COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme

The Australian Government has finalised details of a no fault COVID-19 Vaccine Claim Scheme which will be backdated to February 2021.

The scheme provides compensation for people who have experienced a moderate or significant adverse reaction to a Therapeutic Goods Administration-approved COVID-19 vaccine. The scheme covers the costs of injuries that are above \$5,000 because of a proven adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccination. Independent experts will assess claims and their recommendations will inform the compensation amount.

It is important to remember that serious or life-threatening side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine are very rare.

Register your intent to claim at [COVID-19 claims scheme](#).

New community clinics

Midland Centrepoint Shopping Centre (**between Australia Post and Pharmacy 777**), 307 Great Eastern Highway Midland, short walk from Midland train station. Offering Pfizer 7 days a week. **Monday - Saturday 8.30am-4.15pm, Sunday 11am-5pm.**

Existing [Community clinics](#) in WA include Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, General Practitioners (GPs) in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- Requests for [alternative COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- HealthyWA - [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health - [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) - workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government - [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Rollup for WA](#) and [Rollup for WA posters](#)
- KAMS - [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign](#)

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions:

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 42\)](#)

[Exposure Sites \(Outside of Western Australia\) Directions](#)

[Flight Crew Directions \(No 7\)](#)

[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 7\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 35\)](#)

[Quarantine \(Undiagnosed\) Directions](#)

[Transiting Aircraft Passengers Directions \(No 3\)](#)

[Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[New Zealand Travel Arrangements Omnibus Amendment Directions](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 41\)](#)

[South Australia Quarantine, Isolation and Presentation for Testing Modification Directions](#)

[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 6\)](#)

[Approval for Flight Crew Pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 5\)](#)

[Approval for Travellers Under a Specified Arrangement Pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 5\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Release from Isolation – Information for All Clinicians \(Updated 7 Sept 2021\)](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control Advice for Environmental Cleaning of a Site Following COVID-19 Exposure \(New\)](#)

[Standard for Non-State Quarantine Facilities Providing Accommodation for Guests in Quarantine or Isolation \(Updated\)](#)

Testing

Updated testing fact sheet released

The *Presentation for Testing Fact Sheet* has been published in response to a change of [Directions](#). This document is intended as a summary of the obligations arising from the Directions only.

Refer to the Department of Health [website](#) for further information.

General population [testing criteria](#)

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) OR history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the notification form.

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on **7 September 2021**.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\)](#) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer. The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters. AHPPC has recently released the following statement:

- [2 September 2021 – Statement on National Principles for Managed Quarantine](#)

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact register](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)

Who to contact for more information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 132 6843 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 14 September 2021**.

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This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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