



PHEOC BULLETIN #79

Tuesday 14 September 2021 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday 14 September**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,089** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **103** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,077** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **1,710,720** 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](#)

Driver testing requirements

As of 12:00pm 8 September 2021, transport, freight and logistics drivers entering WA from jurisdictions with a 'high' or 'extreme risk' category under WA's controlled border arrangement are subject to [additional testing requirements](#).

Drivers who have been in these jurisdictions in the 14 days prior are required to show proof of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test within the previous 72 hours. If drivers have not received their test result, they are required to undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT) at the WA border at Eucla or Kununurra and wait for a negative result before being granted entry.

If drivers receive a non-negative RAT result, they will be directed to travel immediately to undertake a PCR test and isolate until they receive a result.

For further information refer to the transport, freight and logistics drivers [webpage](#).

RACF worker access exemptions

Supporting [documents](#) have been released ahead of the commencement of the Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions (No 2) at 12:01am 17 September 2021. The suite of documents includes an exemption guideline and the application forms for temporary exemptions.

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.

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 on 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 close on 30 September 2021.

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

COVID-19 vaccination program

12-15 year olds can now receive Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine

Children aged 12-15 can now be booked in to receive the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine. Appointments can be booked by a parent or legal guardian through **GPs, GP respiratory clinics or Aboriginal Medical Services** by contacting a participating provider through the Vaccine Eligibility [Checker](#), or in a **State-run vaccination clinic** by registering them as a dependant under the [VaccinateWA](#) account of a parent or legal guardian. If the parent or legal guardian does not have a VaccinateWA account, appointments can be made by calling 13COVID (13 268 43). Instructions on how to book a dependant online are available in the VaccinateWA [FAQs](#).

Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine for people aged 60 and over

On 14 September 2021 the Minister for Health [announced](#) that all Western Australians aged 60 years and over will be eligible to receive the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine at **state-run vaccination clinics** from the 20 September 2021. People aged 60 or older who have already had a first dose of Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccine are urged to get a second dose of the same vaccine in line with the advice provided by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). Those aged 60 or older who had booked a first Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 dose but not yet received it, can cancel their booking and re-book an appointment for the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-

19 vaccine if they wish. Bookings can be made and changed at [VaccinateWA](#) or by calling 13COVID (13 268 43).

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 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.

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-4.30pm, Sunday 11am-5pm.

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

The **Comirnaty (Pfizer)** COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, GPs in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for eligible populations **and will soon commence administering the Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine**. 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:

[Public Health Act 2016 Instrument of Authorisation to Supply or Administer a Poison \[SARS-COV-2 \(COVID-19\) VACCINE – COVID-19 VACCINATORS – CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICE\] \(No. 4\) 2021](#)

[Public Health Act 2016 Instrument of Authorisation to Supply or Administer a Poison \[SARS-COV-2 \(COVID-19\) VACCINE – COVID-19 VACCINATORS – WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE\] \(No. 5\) 2021](#)

[Approval for Travellers under a Specified Arrangement pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[Approval for Transport Freight and Logistics Drivers pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 4\)](#)

[Use of Rapid Antigen Tests \(Transport, Freight and Logistics Drivers\) Directions](#)

[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of Covid-19 Vaccination Under Paragraph 8 Of The Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions \(No 2\) \(and related exemption documents\)](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Updated fact sheets

[Clinician Alert #65](#)

[Exposed On-board Workers Fact Sheet](#)

[Rig or Platform Crew Members Fact Sheet](#)

[COVID-19 Detected on a Vessel - Advice for Port Workers](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control Advice for WA Police During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Release from Isolation – Information for All Clinicians](#)

[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](#)

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.

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 21 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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