



# PHEOC BULLETIN #81

**Tuesday 28 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 28 September**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **1,096** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - 103 historical cases of COVID-19 notified
  - 1,080 people recovered from COVID-19
  - **1,759,607** 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](#).

- [13 September 2021 - Access to Pfizer vaccination for people greater than 60 years of age](#)

### NSW truck driver

WA Health was notified by New South Wales (NSW) Health that a truck driver tested positive to COVID-19. The truck driver was from NSW and was in WA from 16 to 18 September 2021. All close and casual contacts linked to this case have tested negative to COVID-19.

People who attended a public [exposure site](#) should get [tested](#) immediately and isolate until they receive a negative result, unless otherwise advised by the Department of Health.

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

### Victoria

As of 12.01am 29 September 2021, Victoria will transition from a 'high risk' to 'extreme risk' jurisdiction under the [controlled border](#) arrangement.

Under the 'extreme risk' category travel from or via Victoria to WA will not be permitted unless approved under the strictest of conditions. Under this category, the exemptions for approved travellers are restricted to Commonwealth and State officials, Members of Parliament, Diplomats and specialist or extraordinary circumstances determined by the State Emergency Coordinator or the Chief Health Officer. Unless otherwise advised, approved travellers must:

- undertake mandatory hotel quarantine at a State quarantine facility for 14 days at their own expense
- undergo COVID-19 testing on days 1, 5 and 13
- have returned a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the past 72 hours
- have receipt of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible.

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

## Asymptomatic testing of taxi and ride share drivers

Any taxi or ride share driver without symptoms who transports people from the Perth domestic airport or to/from a COVID testing facility is now eligible to receive free COVID-19 testing as part of the [DETECT Borders](#) surveillance program. The program has been extended to offer peace of mind to drivers and to strengthen Western Australia's existing surveillance measures.

Those eligible under the voluntary Detect Borders program can receive asymptomatic testing at [public COVID Clinics](#) and can continue with any usual activities while waiting for their test results.

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

## RACF worker and HCW access exemptions

Supporting [documents](#) to the *Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions (No 2)* have been released. They include an exemption guideline and the application forms for temporary exemptions. Similar documents have been [released](#) regarding the *Health Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions (No 3)*.

## Local Government Contact Register compliance – reporting changes

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are responsible for conducting compliance checks on all relevant premises, as per the *Contact Register Directions (No.2)*, as part of the current State of Emergency, COVID-19 pandemic. Returns of actions undertaken by EHOs as authorised officers are required to be submitted on a weekly basis. Currently, this is achieved by an email.

A web form has been developed, which will allow EHOs to submit their statistics via a weblink, rather than email. This will:

- streamline reporting for all EHO and LGAs
- ensure all reports received provide standardised information
- improve accuracy of reporting
- reduce administration time.

Access to the web form will be provided directly to authorised EHOs.

## 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

### Continuing COVID safe practices

Businesses and patrons are reminded to be vigilant with [COVID safe practices](#) despite there being no instances of COVID-19 community transmission.

Businesses should refer to trusted sources (see the [Business and industry](#) section below), when reviewing COVID Safety Plans (see the [COVID Safe Guidelines](#)), company website and social media accounts to ensure they include the most up to date advice. Consider utilising the visual [resources](#) and fact sheets (including [translated](#) resources) available to remind staff and patrons how to protect against COVID-19. Strategies include:

- physically distance
- stay home and get tested if unwell
- perform regular hand hygiene
- receive a COVID-19 vaccination

- sign into [SafeWA](#) or a manual contact register upon entering a premises.

Encourage [contact register](#) use by displaying SafeWA QR codes in prominent places and clearly advise where the manual contact register is held. This is a vital step to ensure the Public Health team can promptly trace contacts if COVID-19 is identified in the community.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### Royal Show walk-in vaccination clinic

All eligible Western Australians from 12 years and up can drop in and receive a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination at the Perth Royal Show this week, without needing an appointment. In addition to the walk-in clinic, an information, education and booking hub - the 'Roll up for WA' building – has been set up behind Amherst Farm within the showgrounds. Staff are on hand to talk people through the vaccination process.

### Mandatory vaccination of 'at risk' transport, freight and logistics workers

On 24 September 2021 the Premier [announced](#) changes to emergency management directions to enforce mandatory vaccination for transport, freight and logistics workers travelling from or through 'high' or 'extreme' risk jurisdictions to enter Western Australia. From 24 October, these directions will apply to freight truck drivers, pilot/support vehicle drivers, removalists, rail drivers and rail support crew, where these employees are required to travel from or through a 'high' or an 'extreme' risk jurisdiction for work.

### Updated ATAGI statement on additional COVID-19 vaccine doses

On 23 September 2021 the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) released a [statement](#) advising that two doses of any of the vaccines available in Australia provides strong protection against COVID-19.

Advice on the need for third doses to people who have conditions that compromise their immune system is anticipated in the next few weeks.

ATAGI anticipates that additional booster doses for other populations may be required in the future. Additional doses are currently being considered but no recommendation has yet been made for the general population.

### School-based vaccination program announced

On the 17 September 2021 the state government [announced](#) that the COVID-19 vaccination school based program will begin in week 1 of term 4. The rolling school-based vaccination program for students aged 12 and above and school staff will begin at around 20 schools across WA next month. Priority schools will include residential, agricultural and boarding colleges, and education support settings. During the school holidays, walk-in opportunities will be available at clinics in Midland, Kwinana and the city centre, as well as Joondalup and Claremont. School staff are also able to access the dedicated vaccination slots without an appointment after school hours and during the school holidays. Bookings can be made at [VaccinateWA](#) or by calling 13COVID (13 268 43).

### Vaccination of residential aged care facility workers now mandatory

The vaccination of residential aged care workers became mandatory on the 17 September. Currently approximately 98% of residential aged care workers are vaccinated. Further information for residential aged care worker is available in the [frequently asked questions](#).

### Moderna COVID-19 vaccine available at selected pharmacies

On 22 September the Minister for Health [announced](#) that the Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine will be available in participating community pharmacies from this week.

People aged 12 and over will be eligible to receive the Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine. To find a participating pharmacy please visit the Australian Government's [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) or [findapharmacy](#).

## Community clinics

In the coming weeks, regional pop-up clinics will be available for walk-ins in the following locations: Kalgoorlie, Norseman, Albany, Broome, Derby, Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek, Geraldton, Newman and Port Hedland. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times

Existing [Community clinics](#) in WA include Midland, 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 **Spikevax (Moderna)** and AstraZeneca COVID-19 **vaccines** for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

## 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

[Authorisation by the State Emergency Coordinator](#)

[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of COVID-19 Vaccination Under Paragraph 7 of the Access to Quarantine Centres Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Restatement of Approvals and Authorisations Directions](#)

[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 5\)](#)

[Exposed Port Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Authorisation \(No 5\) to Supply or Prescribe a Poison](#)

[Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#) (and supporting documents)

[WA Police Mission Critical Areas \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)

[Authorisation \(No 4\) to Supply or Prescribe a Poison](#)

[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of Covid-19 Vaccination for the Purposes of Paragraph 9 of the Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Transport and Accommodation Services \(Exposed Maritime Worker\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Rig or Platform Crew Member Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Exposed On-Board Worker Directions \(No 2\)](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Clinician Alert #67](#)

[Process to Transition the Status of a Vessel from Exposed to Unexposed in WA \(New\)](#)

[COVID-19 Preparation and Response Guidelines for Industrial Facilities \(New\)](#)

[Voluntary Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing for Workers in Health Care Facilities \(New\)](#)

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #27](#)

[Cleaning principles for staff in State-quarantine facilities](#)

[Quarantine after being tested: High-risk and low-risk tested persons \(New\)](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control Advice for Environmental Cleaning in Non-Healthcare Settings \(Home and Workplace\) Version 7](#)

[Clinician Alert #66](#)

## Testing

### 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.

## 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 5 October 2021**.

**Last updated 28 September 2021**

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

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