



# PHEOC BULLETIN #83

**Tuesday 12 October 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 12 October**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **1,111** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **106** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **1,086** people recovered from COVID-19
  - **1,808,611** 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 - 8 October 2021](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination for the resources industry - 5 October 2021](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination for school leavers event - 5 October 2021](#)

### WA exposure sites

WA Health was notified on 10 October of a truck driver who returned a positive COVID-19 test in Victoria on 5 October 2021. The driver was in WA between 30 September and 3 October and was potentially infectious during this time. The risk to the public is considered low.

A list of public exposure sites and corresponding health advice is available at [HealthyWA](#).

Refer to the [initial](#) and [latest](#) announcements for additional information.

### New CDNA work restrictions framework

New advice from the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) has been released providing a framework to inform decision making for work permissions and restrictions for health care workers after a COVID-19 exposure in a health care setting in the context of an outbreak and community transmission. Refer to [Clinician Alert #68](#) for additional information.

### Adelaide exposure site

South Australia listed Adelaide Airport as an [exposure location](#) after a traveller from Victoria tested positive to COVID-19. Passengers on Virgin flight VA722 from Adelaide to Perth on 1 October fall into the exposure timeframe at Adelaide Airport. **All contacts of the case on this flight have returned a negative COVID-19 test.**

Refer to the [initial](#) and [latest](#) announcements for additional information.

## Australian diplomat case

An Australian diplomat tested positive to COVID-19 and was, transferred along with his family, to a State Quarantine Facility on Saturday, 2 October 2021.

Contact tracing identified 50 close and casual contacts **including one family member who tested positive to COVID-19. All other contacts continue to test negative for COVID-19.**

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

## Industry restriction on access directions

Various high risk industry groups are subject to directions which restrict the access of certain workers unless they have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Supporting [documents](#) to the [Exposed Port Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#) and [WA Police Mission Critical Areas \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#) have been released on WA.gov.au. These documents include an exemption guideline and the temporary exemptions application forms.

## Vessel Management

The oil and chemical tanker the *Stolt Sakura* berthed at Fremantle Port on 2 October 2021 after the captain notified WA Health that 12 out of 22 crew members returned non-negative rapid antigen tests for COVID-19. WA Health officials tested all crew members on 3 October 2021, 12 of which tested positive to COVID-19 by PCR test.

WA Health is continuing to work with the vessel and key maritime stakeholders regarding its ongoing management.

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

## Jurisdiction risk rating

New South Wales and Victoria are considered 'extreme risk'. Australian Capital Territory is considered 'medium risk'. Queensland is considered 'low risk'. South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania are considered 'very low risk'. For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled border [webpage](#).

# Community

## Taxi and rideshare

Taxi and Rideshare COVID safe documents have been published by the WA Department of Health for [drivers](#) and [passengers](#). The documents use simple language and icons to illustrate what practices should be followed in a taxi or rideshare vehicle to minimise the risk to both drivers and passengers. The resources include what precautions should be followed if the passenger is in quarantine or travelling for COVID-19 testing.

# COVID-19 vaccination program

## Primary and community health workers

**Primary and community health workers must have at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to access their workplace from the 1 November 2021. The deadline to be fully vaccinated will be 1 December 2021. This workforce will include approximately 10,000 staff in private provider facilities including general practitioners, private nurse offices and consulting offices, pharmacies, dental centres, allied health facilities and private pathology centres. Health workers in community settings work closely with vulnerable groups, including the elderly and those with chronic disease or who are immunocompromised and are at increased risk of serious complications from COVID-19 infection.**

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

### **Third dose for severely immunocompromised**

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recently released new [recommendations](#) on the use of a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised. Individuals are encouraged to discuss the need for a third dose with a GP or treating specialist who best understands their health history.

### **Additional vaccination clinics and walk-ins**

A new COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Perth Airport opened on Monday 11 October 2021 to accelerate COVID-19 vaccinations among resource sector workers. The airport vaccination clinic is open weekdays between 10am and 8pm for anyone working in the sector, whether they work for Rio Tinto or another company. Additional pop-up vaccination clinics are to open across Perth in the coming weeks including, Armadale Central Shopping Centre and Mirrabooka Square Shopping Centre, from Monday 18 October 2021. The Claremont and Joondalup vaccination clinics are now open for people to attend without an appointment. Some regional clinics also offer the opportunity to be vaccinated without appointments, however bookings are always recommended.

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

### **FIFO and local resource sector worker vaccination**

Fly-in fly-out (FIFO) and local workers on WA mining and resources sites and people who work in remote operations or run critical infrastructure, including remote train and port control, must be vaccinated with at least the first dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine to attend their workplace from 1 December 2021. These workers will need to be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022. Vaccination has been mandated for these workers to address the risks posed by movement of resources sector workers, including those working in mining and oil and petroleum operations, to and from regional and remote locations in WA.

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

### **Health care workers and support workers**

Health care workers and health support workers in Tier 1 facilities were required to have their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by 1 October 2021 in accordance with the staged approach in the Health Worker (Restriction on Access) [Directions](#). Further information on the Directions for health care and health support workers can be viewed at the [WA Health website](#).

### **Port worker vaccination**

Certain port workers will soon be [required](#) to have received a [COVID-19 vaccine](#) before they can undertake certain roles on vessels that are exposed to COVID-19. These requirements will be introduced in a staged approach to minimise the impact on port activities. As of 12 October 2021, relevant workers are required to have received their first dose to access an exposed vessel and must be fully vaccinated by 12 November 2021.

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

### **Community vaccination clinics**

In the coming weeks, regional pop-up vaccination 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 vaccination 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

[Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions \(No 4\)](#)

[Supporting documents to Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)

[Authorisation to Perform a Function Under Paragraphs 9a and 10b of the Exposed Port Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Authorisation of Authorised PHEOC Officers](#)

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

[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of Covid-19 Vaccination Under Paragraph 7 of the WA Police Mission Critical Areas \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)

[Authorisation of persons for the purposes of paragraph \(d\), row 6, column 3 of the table set out in schedule 1](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 43\)](#)

[Exposure Sites \(Outside of Western Australia\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 9\)](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Clinician Alert #68 \(New\)](#)

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #28 \(New\)](#)

[Fact Sheet for Travellers from a High Risk Jurisdiction \(New\)](#)

[Fact Sheet for Travellers from a Medium Risk Jurisdiction](#)

[Fact Sheet for Travellers from a Low Risk Jurisdiction](#)

[Stay Safe at Work posters](#)

[Process of Approval for Small Cruise Ships to Sail in WA Waters](#)

[Information for Taxi and Rideshare Passengers – Stay COVID safe on your ride \(New\)](#)

[Information for Taxi and Rideshare Drivers – Stay COVID Safe \(New\)](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Healthcare Teams in State Quarantine Facilities Version 8](#)

[Advice for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Non-Healthcare Workers in Community Settings Version 6](#)

## 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 **8 October 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 statements:

- [12 October 2021](#) – **Statement on recommendations for managing COVID-19 health risks**
- [1 October 2021](#) – Statement on visitation in residential aged care facilities
- [1 October 2021](#) – Statement on mandatory vaccination of all workers in health care settings
- [1 October 2021](#) – Statement on the role of ventilation in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19
- [1 October 2021](#) – Statement on COVID-19, schools and reopening Australia

## 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 19 October 2021**.

**Last updated 12 October 2021**

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

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