



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #3

Tuesday 30 November 2021 12:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller - Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday 30 November**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - 1,121 confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 111 historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 1,111 people recovered from COVID-19
 - **1,950,855** 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](#).

- [Controlled board arrangements - South Australia - 27 November 2021](#)

South Australia advice

Public health [advice](#) was issued on 26 November 2021 after the South Australian (SA) government released [SA public exposure](#) sites associated with known cases of COVID-19 in the community.

As of 1.15pm 27 November 2021, SA transitioned from a 'very low risk' to a 'low risk' jurisdiction under WA's controlled border arrangement. Requirements for entry to WA from a 'low risk' jurisdiction are at [WA.gov.au](#).

Unless advised otherwise by WA Health, anyone who arrived in WA from SA before 1.15pm November 27 and visited a close or casual site listed on the SA Exposure Locations [website](#) at the relevant time is required to:

- present for a COVID-19 test on arrival (within 48 hours) and on day 12
- self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure.

Anyone from SA who entered WA between 23 and 27 November should get tested if symptoms develop and regularly check the SA Exposure Locations website.

Further information is available in the [media release](#).

Omicron variant of concern

On 26 November 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the SARS-Cov-2 variant B.1.1.529 as a Variant of Concern (VOC), and named it [Omicron](#). Omicron was initially reported from South Africa and has multiple mutations. Global research to determine the impact of the Omicron variant is in progress.

The WA Department of Health has not issued any alternative advice in response to the Omicron VOC.

Further information is available at the [WHO website](#).

Increased regional wastewater testing

WA Health, in collaboration with Water Corporation and PathWest, commenced a wastewater surveillance program in the East Kimberley in response to the evolving situation in the Northern Territory.

Wastewater samples are being collected in Kununurra and Halls Creek. Targeted wastewater surveillance may provide an early warning that undiagnosed cases of COVID-19 are in the community or that recently recovered persons are in the area.

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

Public health system bed increase

The WA Government announced on 23 November 2021 that four sites have been identified to house modular ward facilities to support the public health system.

Osborne Park Hospital, Rockingham General Hospital, Bunbury Regional Hospital and Bentley Health Service will each have a 30 bed modular ward facility, which will increase the public hospital capacity by 120 beds.

This modular approach has been implemented across the world to expedite construction of clinically safe sites and will support Western Australia's own COVID-19 response.

More information is available in the [media release](#).

Jurisdiction risk rating

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

Community

Industry-specific mandatory vaccination FAQs

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about mandatory COVID-19 vaccination are available at the Department of Health [website](#) to address common queries relevant to all people affected by the vaccination requirement. In consultation with stakeholders, industry-specific FAQs are in development to provide more nuanced advice for different sectors. The [disability sector](#) and [abattoir and meat industry](#) FAQs are currently available at the Department of Health website.

All FAQs are under constant review and should be referred to regularly for the most up to date information.

All mandatory vaccination [Directions](#) (and supporting documents) are published on the WA.gov.au website and [FAQs](#) are published on Department of Health website. Recent additions to the Directions include those for the Building and Construction, and Education industries.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Summer Vax Drive

The three-week Summer Vax Drive was [announced](#) on the 24 November 2021 ahead of the safe transition of Western Australia. This is a three-week targeted initiative to help Western Australia reach

its 90 per cent vaccination target. The initiative includes new pop-up vaccination clinics in a select number of Woolworths and Aldi supermarkets across metropolitan and regional stores on December 2-5 and pop-up vaccination clinics at the women's and men's Big Bash League (BBL) cricket matches at Optus Stadium during November and December. The COVID-19 Vaccine Community Funding Program has been established to facilitate the uptake of vaccinations in priority groups, including: Aboriginal communities, those living with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, homeless and people sleeping rough, those suffering mental health problems and those who may be at greater risk of COVID-19.

Carramar Vaccination Clinic caters to special needs

The State Government [announced](#) on the 29 November 2021 that the Carramar Vaccination Clinic has been re-designed as an enhanced access and sensory clinic to support people with a disability. The re-designed vaccination clinic aims to better support those who may require a low sensory environment, or some additional care provided by specially trained staff. The vaccination clinic offers an alternate entrance and quiet rooms with low lighting options, soft furnishings such as beanbags, recliners, and couches, and distraction and sensory options including fidget spinners and stress balls. The vaccination clinic also has a hoist to support people with mobility issues, ACROD Parking directly in front of the clinic, delivery of vaccinations in a vehicle for people who may have difficulty entering the site and therapy dogs present in five metropolitan vaccination clinics at varying times in the lead up to Christmas. Further information is available at [Roll up for WA](#) and assistance is available by either completing the [Further Assistance Required](#) online form or calling 13 COVID (13 26843).

Aboriginal vaccination focus – 'Keeping Culture Safe and Strong'

A five-week community effort, 'Keeping Culture Safe and Strong' was [announced](#) on the 19 November 2021. The vaccination focus aims to provide more opportunities for Aboriginal people to get vaccinated and protect whole communities and individuals from COVID-19 as Western Australia embarks on its safe transition. The vaccination focus covers the entire State, from urban to regional to remote communities, to support the Commonwealth Government's rollout of the vaccine. The focus is community-led involving local leaders such as health staff, the local police, councils and shires, and Aboriginal-led organisations. Resources including posters, videos, infographics and social tiles are available on the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia [website](#).

New vaccination clinics across WA

[Wanneroo](#): Wanneroo Library, 3 Rocca Way, Wanneroo. Opening times are 10am to 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Community vaccination clinics

All State-run community vaccination clinics are now open for people to attend without an appointment. Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times.

There will be numerous regional pop-up clinics available for walk-ins in the coming weeks. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times.

Existing [Community vaccination clinics](#) in WA include Armadale, Mirrabooka, Carramar, Mandurah, Canning Vale, 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:

- 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

[Building and Construction Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Education Worker \(Restriction on Access\) Directions](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 49\)](#)

[Port Worker and Exposed Port Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Community Care Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[Regulated Entry of Higher Risk Vessels into Western Australia Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Regulated Entry of Higher Risk Vessels into Western Australia Directions \(No 2\) Approval under paragraph 7\(D\) for MMA Coral to enter](#)

[Presentation for Testing \(Airport Workers - Direct International Arrivals\) Directions](#)

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 36\)](#)

[Exposure Sites \(Outside of Western Australia\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #31](#)

[Exposed Maritime Crew Members](#)

[IPC - Guidelines for the Management of Passengers, Flight and Freight Crew at Perth Airport Version 3](#)

[Mandatory Vaccination – General FAQs Version 2](#)

[Mandatory Vaccination – Meat Industry Workers FAQs \(New\)](#)

[Mandatory Vaccination – Disability Sector Workers FAQs \(New\)](#)

[Principles for Health Care and Residential Aged Care Facilities: Visits from People in Quarantine](#)

[Residential Aged Care Facilities FAQs Version 6](#)

[Guidelines for Management and Contact Tracing of COVID-19 with Exposure in the Hospital Setting Version 3](#)

[Clinician Alert #70](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Frequently asked questions](#)

[Quarantine Driver Directions Factsheet](#) (update to PHEOC references only)

[Presentation for Testing Fact Sheet](#) (update to PHEOC references only)

[Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #33](#) (update to PHEOC references only)

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #30](#)

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 15 November 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](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents

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 Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **7 December 2021**.

Last updated **30 November 2021**

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

© Department of Health 2021