



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #10

Tuesday, 1 February 2022 12:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the **A/Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health, Dr Tania Wallace**

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday, 1 February**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,551** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **151** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,375** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,272,227** 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 Border Transition Arrangements](#) – 19 January 2022

Public health advice

Anyone experiencing COVID-19 [symptoms](#) should get tested immediately and isolate until they receive a negative result, unless directly advised otherwise by the Department of Health. This is particularly pertinent to the Perth, Peel, those in the South West, including the greater Bunbury area, and Wheatbelt regions. Everyone who is symptomatic should get tested, even if you have not visited a listed exposure site.

Anyone who has attended an [exposure site](#) should follow the correlating health advice, unless directly advised otherwise by the Department of Health. The list should be checked frequently, as exposure sites are likely to be updated or added to regularly. There is now community transmission of COVID-19 and people should not rely only on the exposure sites listed on the [HealthyWA website](#) to consider testing, if symptomatic. **People who receive a text message from WA Health advising they have attended an exposure site must follow the instructions, even if the site is not listed on [HealthyWA](#). Anyone with [symptoms](#) should get tested.**

Western Australians are encouraged to stay vigilant and use SafeWA/ServiceWA and mandatory contact registers to check into businesses and venues.

For information on public health measures including mask wearing and proof of vaccination, see the WA.gov.au [website](#). More information is also available in the [media statement](#).

New information on HealthyWA

The WA Department of Health continues to develop information material to ensure the WA public can continue to access critical health advice relevant to the current situation.

The [website](#) now has information on managing COVID-19 at home and in the community, which will continue to be refined as the situation evolves. **The WA COVID Care at Home program and positive rapid antigen test result [online registration](#) portal has recently been [published](#).** You are encouraged to check back regularly for updates.

Business, industry and agencies developing COVID-19 resources should refer to information on [HealthyWA](#), the [Department of Health](#) and [WA.gov.au](#) websites to ensure appropriate advice is sourced.

Public hospital visitor guidelines and SAR

The *COVID-19 Public Hospital Visitor Guidelines* version 7 have been released and provide updated recommendations for public health care services for all patient visitors to public hospitals including:

- hospital access and restrictions
- minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements
- testing and vaccination status.

These Guidelines align with the recently released WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response (SAR), which identifies specific actions and provides clinical guidance to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission and help deliver safe and appropriate care. The current risk rating is interim Amber for the following regions:

- Perth/Peel
- South West.

All other regions of the State remain at alert level Green.

Refer to the visitor guidelines [document](#) and [SAR](#) on the Department of Health website under 'clinical guidelines' accordion.

Face mask requirements

Based on the latest public health advice, **face masks requirements are in place** in Perth, Peel, the South West **Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions**:

- at all public indoor settings
- in all vehicles unless the person is travelling alone or with members of the same household
- at residential aged or disability care facilities, both indoors and outdoors
- at a hospital.

Face mask requirement [exemptions](#) apply. More information is available in the [Wheatbelt and Great Southern](#), [Perth and Peel](#) and [South West](#) region announcements.

New Safe Return to School Plan

The WA Government announced the new Safe Return to School Plan, outlining the public health and social measures to be in place for the start of the public and non-government 2022 school year.

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

Jurisdiction risk rating

Western Australia has now classified all Australian jurisdictions as 'extreme risk'. Travel from all jurisdictions into WA is not permitted unless approved under the strictest of conditions.

Entry requirements from 'extreme risk' jurisdictions are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

The WA Chief Health Officer continues to monitor and review border controls.

Community

RAT consumer quotas

Based on Chief Health Officer advice, new regulations were implemented to enable proper management of the supply of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in WA.

From 26 January 2022, an individual can buy one box of rapid antigen tests or up to three individually wrapped tests for personal use at any one time. The limits are slightly higher per household. Suppliers and retailers must take reasonable steps to ensure they are only selling to people for personal use.

Refer to the [media release](#) and [Directions](#).

Small Business Assistance Grant

Applications for financial support are now open for certain businesses and sole traders in the events and hospitality sectors directly affected by the necessary public health measures in Perth and Peel from 23 December 2021 to 4 January 2022.

More information is available in the [media release](#), at the Small Business Development Corporation [website](#). Information on the *Getting the Show Back on the Road* and the *Night Club Closures One Off Grants* programs are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

Proof of vaccination requirements

State-wide proof of vaccination at certain venues and events are now in effect. People will be required to show proof of their COVID-19 vaccination, either in a digital or paper-based form, along with approved identification. See the [Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations](#) page for more information.

The WA Government has released social media tiles and posters to help businesses communicate the proof of [vaccination requirements](#).

Both venues and patrons will have a shared responsibility when it comes to proof of vaccination, with venues required to take reasonable steps to ensure all patrons are double dose vaccinated, or exempt.

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. Critical business worker [FAQs](#) are available.

All mandatory vaccination [Directions](#) (and supporting documents) are published on the WA.gov.au website and the general mandatory COVID-19 vaccination [FAQs](#) which continue to be updated, are on the Department of Health website.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Booster doses available from 3 months

Double dose vaccinated people aged 18 years and over, who received their second dose 3 or more months ago, are recommended to receive a booster vaccine with either the Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccines. The online third dose [calculator](#) is available to determine your eligibility for a booster dose. Visit the Australian Department of Health COVID-19 booster vaccine [advice](#) for further information on boosters.

TGA approves Pfizer boosters for 16 and 17-year-old children

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally [approved](#) the Pfizer COVID-19

vaccine (Comirnaty) for use as a booster in individuals aged 16 and 17 years old. Dosing in this age group is the same as the adult population 18+ years and the booster dose may be administered after the completion of a COVID-19 vaccine primary series (2 doses). The primary series can be of any of the COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in in this age group (currently Pfizer and Spikevax (Moderna). The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is expected to soon provide recommendations for this age group.

Novavax approved by ATAGI

On 24 January 2022, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommended that [Novavax](#) COVID-19 vaccine can be used for the primary course of COVID-19 vaccination in people aged 18 years or older. The recommended schedule for administration is 2 doses, a minimum of 3 weeks apart.

This followed the Therapeutic Goods Administration ([TGA](#)) granting of provisional approval on 20 January 2022 to Biocelect Pty Ltd (on behalf of Novavax Inc) for the COVID-19 vaccine. The Australian Government has ordered 51 million doses and has plans to distribute the vaccine by the end of February.

Community vaccination clinics

Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times. To avoid extended queues, people are encouraged to make a booking at [VaccinateWA](#) or 13COVID, as people with bookings will be prioritised.

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), Spikevax (Moderna) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies 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](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up 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

- [Court and Tribunal Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)
- [Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 21\)](#)
- [COVID Restrictions \(Gatherings and Related Measures\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Amendment Directions \(No 1\)](#)

- [COVID Transition \(Face Covering\) Directions](#)
- [Health Care Workers Directions](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Returning Students Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Directions](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions](#)
- [Australia Day \(Face Mask\) Directions](#)
- [Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Primary Health Care Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 62\)](#)
- [DFES \(Fire Season\) Firefighting Crew Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 20\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 38\)](#)
- [COVID Restrictions \(Gatherings and Related Measures\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

- [COVID-19 Public Hospital Visitor Guidelines Version 7](#)
- [WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response](#)
- [Information for Providers of Non-serviced, Short-term Rental Accommodation, with Guests in Quarantine or Isolation](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Non-State Quarantine Facilities Providing Accommodation for Guests in Quarantine or Isolation Version 5](#)
- [Clinician Alert #79](#)
- [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities – Version 12](#)
- [Clinician Alert #78](#)
- [Infection prevention and control guidelines for flight crew attending mandatory aviation training](#)
- [COVID-19 preparation and response guidelines for early childcare services](#)
- [Information for Quarantine Centre Workers](#)
- [Information for Quarantine Centre Workers - Updated 10 January 2022](#)
- [Outbreak Preparedness and Initial Local Response in Remote Aboriginal Communities Version 3 January 2022](#)
- [Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #33](#)
- [Mandatory Vaccination – Critical Businesses Worker FAQs \(New\)](#)
- [Mandatory Vaccination FAQs Version 5](#)

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 **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

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 14 January 2022.

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:

- [20 January](#) – Statement on rapid antigen testing for current high community prevalence environment

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
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) general and industry-specific [FAQs](#)

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: **8 February 2022**.

Last updated **1 February 2022**

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

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