



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #19

Tuesday, 5 April 2022 16:00 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, **5 April**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **210,729** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **162,613** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **3,095,583** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Changes to Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 24 March 2022

Exposure sites and contact registers

Exposure sites in Western Australia (WA) will no longer be [published](#). The Department of Health will only notify of major outbreak venues or super-spreader events. The decision to remove exposure sites has been made due to widespread transmission of COVID-19 throughout metropolitan and regional WA and is aligned with other Australian jurisdictions.

[Contact registers](#) (including via ServiceWA, SafeWA or manual registration) are still a requirement in some venues in WA to ensure attendees of events and higher-risk venues can be effectively traced. Contact registration requirements broadly align to those events and venues at which proof of vaccination is required (other than those venues where contact registration is currently not required).

Refer to [WA.gov.au](#) and the [Directions](#) for all contact register requirements.

Child COVID-19 health clinic

Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) have opened a specialised COVID-19 safe child health clinic in East Perth to accommodate children with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who need face-to-face appointments. This will ensure the most at-risk children and/or their parents or guardians who have tested COVID-19 positive will continue to have access to face-to-face appointments, when needed.

Read more in the [announcement](#).

Cruise ships

Starting Sunday, 17 April 2022, small interstate [cruise ships](#) with a maximum of 350 passengers and crew will be permitted in Western Australia (WA). This aligns with the Commonwealth Government's decision to lift the ban on cruise shipping in Australia.

Stringent measures and protocols have been established to appropriately manage the return of cruise ships in WA. All cruise ships operating in WA are required to have a COVID-19 management plan in place, and crew and passengers will be required to meet vaccination requirements.

Larger cruise vessels will be permitted to return to Fremantle and other regional port destinations from 1 October 2022.

Existing COVID-19 guidance for the maritime industry is available at the Department of Health [website](#). Additional information will be made available in due course.

Public health and social measures

Level 1 public health and social measures (PHSMs) **came into effect** as of 12:01am Thursday, 31 March 2022. The revised [PHSMs](#) affect gatherings, density and capacity limits, contact registration requirements, access to hospital, residential aged and disability care facilities, events, community sport and higher education requirements.

Masks **requirements are in place** for people aged 8 years and above (and Year 3 and higher in school). Mask [advice](#) can be found on HealthyWA.

School-specific advice

Restrictions in Western Australian schools will be eased for the start of [Term 2](#). Parents and carers will be permitted to attend school sites in certain situations if requirements are followed.

School camps remain postponed due to the COVID-19 transmission and disruption to learning risks.

Schools' contact tracing and reporting requirements have now changed; schools are only required to identify close contacts of cases within their school. Parents/guardians are required to identify all other close contacts (e.g. community sport, social gatherings).

Information for COVID-19 positive cases, including how to identify close contacts, is available on the 'Looking after yourself' [page](#) of HealthyWA.

Recently recovered ('recent') cases

People who have recovered from COVID-19 do not need to be tested for COVID-19 within the **12 weeks** following the completion of their required isolation, including if they have symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19, are told they are a close contact, or are tested for workplace screening.

A recent case who develops symptoms associated with COVID-19 within 12 weeks should remain at home until symptoms resolve and seek advice from their healthcare provider, if required.

A recent case is not considered a close contact and does not require testing or quarantine.

Further information is available in the [Directions](#) and on the HealthyWA [Close contact](#) and [Quarantine and isolation](#) pages.

Waste management

Waste that is contaminated with blood or body fluids is classified as clinical waste. Most waste generated in healthcare facilities and other workplaces, including all personal protective equipment (such as gowns, gloves, face shields and masks), can be classified as general waste.

Used rapid antigen tests can also be disposed of in general waste.

Face masks should not be altered before they are disposed of into general waste, and ear loops should not be removed. Refer to HealthyWA for face mask [advice](#).

All waste should be bagged and securely sealed before transporting for disposal.

Adhere to the [Code of Practice for Clinical and Related Waste](#) management for classification and disposal of general, clinical and sharps waste. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) provided [information](#) on the management of waste during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actual vs scenario modelled case data

Bi-weekly data updates are available at the Department of Health [website](#). The updates compare WA Health scenario data and actual data, including cumulative cases, COVID-19 ward and ICU admissions, and COVID-19 vaccination status of hospital admissions.

Safe isolation and quarantine

Updated advice about how to isolate and quarantine effectively is available on the HealthyWA website, including how to protect others, care for others, and what to do when living with those at greater risk of serious illness. The advice is also available as a printable factsheet. Refer to the 'What is isolation and quarantine and how do I do so safely?' [accordion](#).

Refer to the 'Looking after yourself in quarantine and isolation' [accordion](#) for advice about food and medication access during isolation and quarantine, what to do in an emergency and how to access medical assistance.

Asymptomatic close contacts can now leave isolation to get a COVID-19 vaccination if they can produce evidence of receiving a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test within four hours before entering the vaccination site. This does **not** apply to symptomatic close contacts and confirmed cases of COVID-19. Refer to the [Directions](#) for all the requirements.

Community

Resources for industry and business

A 'COVID-19 in the workplace: Information for employers and employees' hub is now available on the Department of Health [website](#). Resources include tailored advice for certain sectors and a checklist to identify close contacts in the workplace.

Guidance for abattoirs and meat processing facilities has recently been [published](#). This advice accompanies existing guidance, including the [TTIQ \(Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine\) Plan](#).

Businesses are encouraged to refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites regularly for the most up to date advice.

COVID-19 vaccination program

ATAGI infographic on COVID-19 vaccines and doses

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has created a table which outlines the COVID-19 vaccines and doses that are recommended for each age and population group.

This one page reference can be downloaded from the Australian Government [website](#).

Winter booster dose recommendations

ATAGI recommends an additional winter booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccination for selected population groups who are at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and who have received

their primary vaccination course and first booster dose. This is to increase protection for people in these groups before winter starts.

These groups are:

- Adults aged 65 years and older
- Residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- People aged 16 years and older with who are severely immunocompromised (as defined in the [ATAGI statement](#))
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older.

ATAGI does not currently recommend an additional booster dose for healthy people who are not in one of the above groups.

The additional winter booster dose can be given:

- 4 months or longer after the person has received their first booster dose, *or*
- 4 months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection, if infection occurred since the person's first COVID-19 booster dose.

See the ATAGI [statement](#) about recommendations for a winter booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Summary – vaccines recommended for boosters

No booster vaccine is recommended for people aged 5–15 years.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the only recommended vaccine for use as a booster for people aged 16–17 years.

For individuals aged 18 years and older, Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccines are preferred for use as booster doses, however, Nuvaxovid (Novavax) can be used if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that [individual](#).

The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is no longer recommended by [ATAGI](#) for use as the booster dose for people who received a primary vaccination course of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, although it can still be used for this purpose if these individuals decline receiving an mRNA vaccine as a booster dose.

AstraZeneca is now only recommended when there are medical contraindications to the mRNA vaccines.

Eligible individuals can receive their winter booster dose from GPs, pharmacies and State-run vaccination clinics. Bookings for appointments in State-run clinics via VaccinateWA will open in mid-April however eligible individuals can attend any State-run clinic in the meantime without an appointment.

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)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccine [fact sheets and guides](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and Roll up for WA [stakeholder toolkit](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccination [Easy Read](#) resources

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on the WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [Quarantine Centre Workers \(Secondary Employment\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [Contact Register Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Flight Crew Testing Regime and Vaccination Requirements Directions](#)
- [Designation of Excluded Venue – COVID Vaccination Sites](#)
- [Designation of Excluded Gatherings – Relevant Ascot Gatherings](#)
- [Approval to Designate Exempt Gathering](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Interstate and International Border\) Amendment Directions](#)

Updated factsheets

- [COVID-19 Response Checklist Abattoirs and Meat Processing Facilities](#)
- [Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks on International Commercial Vessels in Western Australia \(Industry Factsheet\) Version 2](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Disembarking or Embarking Vessels with COVID-19 Onboard](#)
- [Release of Cases from Isolation: Information for Clinicians – Updated 1 April 2022](#)
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 Checklist Version 5](#)
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 Version 5](#)
- [What to do if you are a COVID-19 close contact Version 6](#)
- [Managing the risk of COVID-19 using the Hierarchy of Controls](#)
- [PPE - Don & Doff in Healthcare Setting Competency Checklist](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #37* is available on the Department of Health [website](#) under the 'Testing' accordion.

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 [online](#) or by printing the notification form (standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results **must** be registered on the HealthyWA [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 268 43).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 22 March 2022.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The AHPPC recently released the following statement:

- [Statement on Winter Season Preparedness – 31 March 2022](#)

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health and HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- [Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Proof of vaccination](#) [Directions](#), [information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees
- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

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: 13 268 43 (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: **12 April 2022**.

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

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