



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #20

Thursday, 14 April 2022 11:30 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 **Thursday, 14 April**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **273,449** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **225,698** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **3,201,112** 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](#).

- [Updated Close Contact Definitions and Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 13 April 2022

Change in close contact definition

The close contact [definition](#) has been refined in line with the latest health advice. As of 12.01am Thursday, 14 April 2022, a close contact is

- a household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period
- someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where they spent 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in a residential setting (including a home, residential care facility, boarding school, maritime vessel, or other accommodation facility) in any 24-hour period where masks have been removed by both people during the period of contact
- someone who is informed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

The refined close contact definition means schools will no longer need to contact trace classroom or equivalent contacts when school resumes for Term 2. People in isolation who **are not a household close contact or someone who has had a personal interaction with COVID-19 case** (or a COVID-19 case) can leave isolation at 12.01am Thursday, 14 April 2022.

The relevant Directions are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

Easing of PHSMs

Based on the latest health advice, the public health and social measures (PHSMs) will be eased. As of 12.01am Thursday, 14 April 2022 the following PHSMs will be affected:

- Capacity limits to home and private gatherings (indoor or outdoor) will no longer apply
- The 500-patron capacity limit for certain venues (such as hospitality venues, nightclubs, convention or function centres) will be removed
- Contract registration (including SafeWA / ServiceWA) will only be required for people visiting a hospital.

International and domestic travellers will no longer be required to complete a rapid antigen test (RAT) on arrival.

Refer to WA.gov.au for more [information](#) and the [Directions](#).

7-day isolation requirement

The calculation of the 7-day isolation requirements for COVID-19 cases and close contacts has been updated. For both close contacts and cases, the 7-day isolation period means 7 complete days after the day and time you became a close contact or a case. This means 7 x 24 hours.

For example, if you became a close contact or a case at 11.45pm on 14 April 2022, your isolation period will not finish until 11.45 pm on 21 April 2022.

Information for confirmed cases and close contacts is available on [HealthyWA](#).

Registering a patient's positive RAT

The WA Health [Framework for System Alert and Response](#) (SAR) outlines when hospital staff are to administer a rapid antigen test (RAT) or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

All positive RAT results must be:

- registered via the HealthyWA [website](#) or, if unable to access the online register, by phoning 13 COVID (13 26843)
- recorded in the hospital patient administration system.

COVID-19 and travel

COVID-safe travel advice has been [published](#) on the HealthyWA [website](#).

The information available includes planning and preparing for your trip, what to do if you become unwell or a COVID-19 confirmed case or close contact while travelling (including accommodation and transportation advice) and testing information.

Patient information sheets

Patient COVID-19 [information sheets](#) includes guidelines for [breastfeeding](#), [pregnancy](#), women in [labour](#), [diabetes](#) and other endocrine conditions, FAQs for [mental health services](#).

Printable patient [information sheets](#) for the immunocompromised have been developed by South Metropolitan Health Services to provide advice on how to stay safe, including during social gatherings.

People at greater risk of serious illness

Information for people who are at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19 is available on the HealthyWA [website](#).

The risk of serious COVID-19 illness increases if you're pregnant (and meet certain criteria), obese, living with multiple health conditions, have a disability, are 70 years of age or older or are Aboriginal.

Information is available about how to reduce your risk of serious illness, treatment options and what to do if you become a COVID-19 case.

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.

The [Cruise Vessel Directions](#) and [Guidelines for Cruising in Western Australia](#) [resource](#) define the requirements for relevant small cruise vessels operating in WA.

Refer to the Directions at [WA.gov.au](#) and the COVID-19 guidance for the maritime industry at the Department of Health [website](#) for more information.

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

COVID-19 vaccination program

'Taking it to the streets' school holidays vaccination campaign

WA Health has initiated a range of school holiday events focusing on COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 years. Perth Zoo, Kings Park, Whiteman Park and other local attractions will have pop-up clinics during these school holidays.

Vaccine Commander Gary Dreiberger said that by 'taking it to the streets' and going to places where parents and children will be these holidays, he was hoping people would take advantage of the convenient access to vaccinations for their children.

"Our regional community clinics will be providing more opportunities and greater access for children with extended opening times and days, as well as mobile clinics travelling to the districts," he said.

Visit the Roll up for WA [website](#) for details.

EVA – Easy Vaccination Access service established

The Australian Government Department of Health have launched the Easy Vaccination Access ([EVA](#)) service to help people book a COVID-19 vaccination. People need to send a text saying 'Hey EVA' to 0481 611 382 to receive a call back from a trained call agent and arrange a time for their vaccination appointment.

Winter booster at state-run clinics

People eligible for the COVID-19 winter booster dose are currently able to walk into state-run clinics to receive the vaccine or book at participating GPs, pharmacies and Aboriginal Medical Services. In the next few weeks, people will be able to book winter booster appointments in state-run clinics via VaccinateWA.

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

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](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccination [Easy Read](#) resources
- ATAGI [infographic](#) on COVID-19 vaccines and doses recommended for each age and population group

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

- [COVID Transition \(Interstate and International Border\) Amendment Directions No 2](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation Modification\) Directions](#)
- [Contact Register \(Revocation\) Directions](#)
- [Cruise Vessels Directions](#)
- [Flight Crew Vaccination Requirements Directions](#)
- [Designation under Proof of Vaccination Directions for ANZAC day Gunfire Breakfast](#)
- [Designation under paragraph 54 COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(No 2\) for TABTouch Geraldton Gold Cup Day](#)

Updated factsheets

- [Rapid Antigen Tests FAQs – Version 6](#)
- [Guidelines for Cruising in Western Australia](#) (new)
- [Communication Pathway for Vessels with Concern of COVID-19 – Updated 4 April 2022](#)
- [After your COVID-19 Test](#)

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 [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: **27 April 2022**.

Last updated **14 April 2022**

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

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