



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #24

Tuesday, 17 May 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the A/Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Sharon Nowrojee

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday, 17 May**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **576,315** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **487,404** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **3,658,279** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status and 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](#).

Close contact testing and isolation guide

If you have been identified as a close contact, you should refer to [HealthyWA](#) for the testing and isolation requirements during the 7-day close contact period.

Close contacts must isolate, however close contacts with **no symptoms** can leave home if they meet certain criteria. If you do not meet these criteria, you cannot leave isolation during the 7-day isolation period.

Close contacts who have or develop symptoms must get tested immediately, isolate and follow the instructions for 'close contacts **with** symptoms' on HealthyWA.

Refer to [HealthyWA](#) for all close contact requirements.

WA Free RAT Program

Close contacts are entitled to 10 free rapid antigen tests (RATs) to help meet [testing requirements](#).

People with **no symptoms** are required to verbally confirm if they are a close contact to access their 10 free RATs at Perth metro and regional locations listed on [WA.gov.au](#), including new drive-through locations in the Perth metro area. People may also collect free RATs for other close contacts in their household, to a maximum of 30 RATs. Close contacts need to wear a mask when collecting the RATs.

Close contacts **with symptoms** must **not** attend the collection locations and must follow the relevant [requirements](#).

Households that have not yet received their free 15 RATs have been emailed and can choose to collect their RATs from any collection point or have them redirected to their address. People must show the email they received when collecting their household RATs.

Refer to the [WA Free RAT Program page](#) on [WA.gov.au](#) for more information.

WA Health resources

In response to the change in public health and social measures (PHSMs) and the current COVID-19 environment, a variety of WA Health resources have been updated. Some remain in review and will be updated in due course.

Everyone is encouraged to refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites regularly to ensure you have the most up-to-date advice.

Hospital discharge guidelines

The *COVID-19 Guidelines for public hospital discharge and inter-hospital transfer of positive or suspect COVID-19 cases* (the guidelines) have been updated. The guidelines are available on the Department of Health [website](#) (within the 'Clinical guidelines' accordion).

Workplace guidance update

COVID-19 guidance for business and industry has been updated in response to the current COVID-19 environment.

The [WA Health TTIQ Plan](#) and supporting industry-specific advice has been updated.

This includes guidance for **the maritime industry**, education settings, meat processing, congregate living, industrial, mining/offshore, and secure facilities.

Refer to the Department of Health [website](#) regularly for the most up-to-date information.

COVID-19 and voting

The Australian Electoral Commission has advised that [early voting options](#) are available to people affected by COVID-19 in the upcoming federal election on Saturday 21 May 2022.

Everyone is encouraged to consider the different ways to vote and plan how they will cast their vote if they are required to isolate on the day of the election.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Temporary COVID-19 booster exemptions

The mandatory vaccination policy has been updated following the recent Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [advice](#) that all people should wait for three months after confirmed COVID-19 infection before they receive their next COVID-19 vaccine dose.

As such, a person who is required to have booster vaccination under the mandatory vaccination policy and has been diagnosed with COVID-19 is exempt from receiving a booster vaccination for a period of four months from the date of their infection.

Approved evidence must be presented for inspection, recording and/or retention of a copy by the employer or the owner of the premises where the person works.

For more information visit the Department of Health [website](#).

In-home COVID-19 vaccination program

Efforts continue to provide COVID-19 vaccination closer to home for people who may not easily be able to get to a clinic, pharmacy or GP location.

Teams of vaccinators can go out to residential areas to offer convenient at-home COVID-19 vaccines to anyone at the household aged 5 years and older if they are eligible for first, second or booster doses.

Medicare cards or photo ID are not required for people to receive the vaccine.

To book an in-home vaccination appointment:

- Complete the [Further Assistance Required](#) online form or;
- Email COVID.Immunisation@health.wa.gov.au or;
- Call 13 COVID (13 268 43) between 8am and 8pm, 7 days a week to ask the operator to complete the [Further Assistance Required](#) form on your behalf.

More metropolitan locations offer enhanced access and sensory clinics

The COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Midland has joined Kwinana and Carramar clinics to support people with disabilities, mental health conditions, those who require a low sensory environment or who may need other additional support to receive their vaccination.

These enhanced access and sensory clinics provide quiet, large and separate consultation rooms, accessible parking directly in front of the clinic, a range of distraction and sensory options, hoists to support people with mobility issues and trained staff to support people with a disability, mental health condition or who require additional support.

The Claremont vaccination clinic is being modified this month to offer enhanced access and sensory capabilities.

Bookings are recommended and further information is available at the Roll up for WA [website](#).

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](#)
- HealthyWA – [Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines information](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (for WA health providers)
- 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
- Australian Government – [Easy Vaccine Access \(EVA\)](#) call back service to book a COVID-19 vaccine

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

- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [Port Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(International Border\) Amendment Directions](#)
- [Transiting Aircraft Passengers Directions \(No 7\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 14\)](#)
- [Designation of approved manner under paragraph 22\(c\) of the COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 13\)](#)

Updated factsheets

- [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities Version 14](#)
- [Guidelines for Cruising in Western Australia – Updated 11 May 2022](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Disembarking or Embarking Vessels with COVID-19 Onboard – Updated 11 May 2022](#)
- [What to do if you are a COVID-19 Close Contact Version 8](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #38* has been published 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** an inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 22 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 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **25 May 2022**.

Last updated **17 May 2022**

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

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