



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #25

Tuesday, 24 May 2022 16:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of Tuesday, **24 May**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **672,008** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **589,797** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **3,755,048** 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](#).

Register your RAT

Everyone who receives a positive rapid antigen test (RAT) result needs to register it on the [HealthyWA portal](#) as soon as possible – preferably on the same day as the test result.

Registering a positive RAT result prompts WA Health to send a SMS with a short survey to determine if you need extra support during isolation. This SMS can be used as evidence of your COVID-19 positive status and cannot be issued retrospectively.

If you return a positive RAT result, no further testing is required, unless instructed by Public Health.

If you require assistance registering your positive RAT result phone 13 COVID (13 268 43). More information, including RAT [FAQs](#), is available at [HealthyWA](#).

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

General practitioners (GPs) and all general practice staff are eligible to receive 10 free rapid antigen tests (RATs), available for collection from COVID vaccination clinics in the Perth metropolitan area and at multiple regional sites. No evidence is required to be shown when collecting the RATs.

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.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Mental Health professionals delivering in-home COVID-19 vaccinations

In-home vaccination services for people who need extra support, including community mental health clients, are delivered by the North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS) across the Perth metropolitan area.

This service operates Monday to Friday. To request an in-home vaccination, contact the NMHS COVID Vaccination Program via NMHSCoVIDVaccination@health.wa.gov.au or phone 0499 723 332. The referral form can be completed at <https://forms.office.com/r/x9kCvdsd0J>.

COVID-19 Vaccination clinics update

With WA's vaccination rates at world leading levels, one of the backbone clinics of the vaccination campaign, the Perth Convention and Exhibition and Centre (PCEC) COVID-19 vaccination clinic, will close on Tuesday, 31 May 2022.

The closure of the PCEC clinic will free up health resources and provide the opportunity to open smaller pop-up clinics in the suburbs. Selected shopping centres will once again facilitate pop-up clinics across the Perth metropolitan area, commencing in early June.

The new shopping centre clinics will be open for four to six weeks, and no bookings are needed. Location details will be published on the Roll up for WA [website](#) as the dates and shopping centre locations are confirmed.

Maxi Vaxi bus heading to the Pilbara in June

Commencing mid-June, the Maxi Vaxi bus will be touring selected locations in the Pilbara region and operating COVID-19 vaccination clinics to communities over two weeks. For information about the towns being visited and the clinic operating hours, please visit the Roll up for WA [website](#).

Fourth enhanced access and sensory clinic operational

The Claremont vaccination clinic modifications are complete, and the facility now offers enhanced access and sensory capability like the clinics at Midland, Kwinana and Carramar. These clinics support people with disabilities, mental health conditions, those who require a low sensory environment or who may need other additional assistance to receive their vaccination.

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

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. **Approved evidence is:**

- an SMS or email that the person has received from the WA Health Department confirming registration of the person's positive rapid antigen test result or confirmation of the person's positive PCR test result
- an SMS or email from another State or Territory health department confirming registration of the person's positive rapid antigen test result or confirmation of the person's positive PCR test result
- a printout from a pathology laboratory of the person's positive PCR test result
- a doctor's letter confirming that the person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and the date of infection.

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

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- Australian Government – [Updates to the COVID-19 vaccination program \(other languages\)](#)
- Australian Government – [It is safe to get the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines at the same time – translated social tiles](#)
- Australian Government – [Get ready for winter – translated poster](#)
- Australian Government – Updated [fact sheet](#) on booster doses and winter doses (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- Australian Government – [Common questions about COVID-19 vaccines \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people\)](#)
- Australian Government – [Information](#) to assist healthcare workers talk about COVID-19 vaccines (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- Australian Government – [Easy Vaccine Access \(EVA\)](#) call back service to book a COVID-19 vaccine
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- HealthyWA – [Influenza and COVID-19](#) vaccines information
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccine [fact sheets and guides](#)
- 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

- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 15\)](#)
- [COVID \(Redundant Instruments\) Revocation Directions](#)

Updated factsheets

- [COVID-19 Response Checklist Vessels – Updated 20 May 2022](#)
- [RAT FAQs Version 8](#)

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** 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.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The AHPPC recently released the following statement:

- [Statement on National Principles for Modified Quarantine – 23 May 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: **1 June 2022**.

Last updated **24 May 2022**

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

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