



# SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #31

**Tuesday 26 July 2022 16:00 Hours**

This bulletin has been authorised by the **Incident Controller**,  
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** for Western Australia (WA) to date:
  - **1,042,997** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **1,010,775** people recovered from COVID-19
  - **4,312,054** 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](#).

### COVID-19 antiviral access

The eligibility criteria to access COVID-19 antiviral treatment have expanded. Eligibility depends on age, existing medical conditions, and other risk factors such as living in residential aged care.

People at greater risk of illness are encouraged to see their GP in advance of getting sick so treatments can be identified should they contract COVID-19. If antiviral treatment is appropriate, clinics are encouraged to accommodate urgent telehealth appointments for these patients upon testing positive.

Information and resources are available on the [COVID-19 treatments](#) page of the HealthyWA website.

### Updated isolation and travel advice

The COVID-19 case and contact isolation advice has been updated. COVID-19 cases and contacts may travel home (or to alternative isolation premises), with overnight stays, by private vehicle, taxi or rideshare service, provided certain requirements are met.

Refer to the [COVID-safe travel in WA](#) page of the HealthyWA website and the [Directions](#) on the WA Government website for information.

### Release from isolation

People diagnosed with COVID-19 are not required to return a negative COVID-19 test before leaving isolation or returning to work. After isolating for 7 complete days, people can leave isolation provided respiratory symptoms have substantially cleared and they have not had a fever for the previous 24 hours.

There is a small risk of reinfection during the first 4 weeks of recovery. People who have recovered from COVID-19 and develop new symptoms within this period should seek advice from their healthcare provider.

Advice for [COVID-19 cases](#) and [recently recovered cases](#) is available on the HealthyWA website.

## Mask recommendations

[Face masks](#) are strongly recommended indoors and in places where physical distancing is not possible. They are also recommended if you are with people who are at risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

Masks are required for people aged 12 years and older in the following settings:

- Hospitals and health care settings including:
  - GPs
  - Aboriginal health services
  - Dental and optical health clinics
  - Allied health services such as physiotherapy, radiology and occupational therapy services
- Aged care facilities, residential care facilities including disability service facilities and mental health residential facilities
- Public and passenger transport, including school buses, taxis and rideshare vehicles
- Correctional facilities
- Aircraft

Always carry a mask when you leave home in case you need it.

## New COVID-19 video series

Watch 'The Brief' – a new educational video series available on WA Health's [YouTube channel](#). This video playlist features medical professionals speaking about current COVID-19 advice and general health information in a short, concise and easy-to-translate format, categorised by topic.

The first video features WA's Chief Health Officer, Dr Andrew Robertson, explaining changes in testing practices and PCR testing locations. More videos will be launching in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on HealthyWA [Facebook](#) for updates.

Please share this resource link with any relevant contacts.

## Final week of the free influenza vaccination program

The free influenza vaccination program is available **until 31 July** for everyone in WA. **Join the one million Western Australians who have already received their influenza vaccine this year and get yours now.**

Influenza (commonly called the 'flu') is a highly contagious virus that affects the respiratory system and is particularly dangerous for young children, older adults and those with underlying health conditions. Influenza vaccination is the best protection against serious illness and is recommended for everyone from 6 months of age.

People can receive their free influenza vaccination at participating pharmacies and GPs. Free influenza vaccinations are also available at State-run COVID-19 vaccination clinics for anyone aged 5 years and older.

The COVID-19 vaccine does not protect against influenza, so you should still have an influenza vaccine if you've had the COVID-19 vaccinations.

More information on influenza vaccination, including where to get one and the importance of receiving the COVID-19 and influenza vaccine, is available at [HealthyWA](#).

## Reinfection update

WA **adopted** new national health advice on COVID-19 reinfection – updating the State’s guidelines to show reinfection can occur from 4 weeks after recovering from the virus.

The new guidance means:

- People who have had COVID-19 should again get tested and isolate if they have symptoms more than 4 weeks after recovering from COVID-19.
- People who develop new acute respiratory symptoms within 4 weeks of recovery should stay at home and seek advice from their healthcare provider.
- People who meet the close contact definition within 4 weeks of release from isolation and who are asymptomatic do not need to follow close contact requirements.

This updated reinfection advice does **not** impact the recommended interval between COVID-19 infection and a COVID-19 vaccination. People who have recovered from COVID-19 must wait 3 months after having a COVID-19 infection before receiving a [COVID-19 vaccination](#).

Additional information is available in the [announcement](#) and [media statement](#).

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### Winter COVID-19 booster eligibility expanded

ATAGI has updated its [recommendations](#) for a winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine to help reduce severe disease from the emerging surge of Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariant infections, and to reduce the burden on Australian hospitals and the healthcare system in coming months.

From Monday 11 July 2022:

- Adults aged 50 to 64 years are recommended to receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adults aged 30 to 49 years can receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- The interval recommended between a recent COVID-19 infection, or last booster dose, and a winter booster dose is 3 months.

This advice is in addition to the previous recommendations for a winter booster, which remain in place for:

- All adults aged 65 years or older
- Residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years or older
- People who are [severely immunocompromised](#) (this will be their fifth dose)
- People aged 16 years or older with a [medical condition](#) that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 illness
- People aged 16 years or older with disability, significant or complex health needs, or multiple comorbidities which increase the risk of a poor outcome.

To reduce wait times, bookings are encouraged and can be made through [VaccinateWA](#). Winter boosters are available at any state-run COVID-19 vaccination clinic or an appointment can be booked through a participating GP or pharmacy using [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

## Vaccination post COVID-19 infection

ATAGI updated their [advice](#) relating to individuals with a past COVID-19 infection. They recommend all people should wait **3 months** post confirmed infection with COVID-19 before they receive their next scheduled COVID-19 vaccination.

Following this 3-month period, the next scheduled COVID-19 dose should be given as soon as possible.

## Vaccine information and resources

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

- Australian Government – [COVID-19 booster vaccine advice](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccination clinical considerations](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccine translated information](#)
- Australian Government – Updated [fact sheet](#) on booster doses and winter doses (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- 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](#)

## 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 COVID-19 Directions are published at the WA Government [website](#).**

### New Directions

- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 17\)](#)

## Updated factsheets

- [Guidelines for Cruising in Western Australia – Updated 15 July 2022](#)
- [COVID-19 Visitor Guideline for WA Public Hospital and Health Services Version 11.2](#)
- [Congregate Living and Large Households: Safe Isolation for Cases and Close Contacts Version 3](#)
- [COVID-19 Advice for the Mental Health Inpatient Setting Version 4](#)

## Testing

### General population [testing criteria](#)

### Testing locations

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

## Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on **22 July 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
- [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 fortnightly. Next issue: **10 August 2022**.

**Last updated** **26 July 2022**

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

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