



PHEOC BULLETIN #36

Tuesday 17 November 2020 14:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the PHEOC Deputy Coordinator, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **17 November 2020**, there have been **788** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **38** historical cases. **767** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **521,971** positive and negative COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID – get tested

As we ease restrictions, it is essential that Western Australia maintains our high rates of testing which have been central to our success in limiting the spread of the virus and enabling relaxation of restrictions. It is critical that people continue to come forward for testing and practise COVID-safe behaviours when out and about and when catching up with family and friends.

High rates of testing allow us to detect cases in the community earlier and prevent onward transmission. People should get tested at the first sign of the mildest of symptoms.

Community

Controlled interstate border - update

WA transitioned to a safe and sensible controlled border arrangement on Saturday, 14 November. Interstate travellers are now permitted to enter WA, subject to meeting strict conditions.

On advice from the WA Chief Health Officer, South Australia moved from the 'very low risk' category to a 'medium risk' category on 16 November 2020. This is the highest rating of any other state or territory.

No one will be allowed into WA if they have been in South Australia in the previous 14 days, unless they meet new exemption requirements.

Anyone arriving from South Australia at Perth Airport will now be tested for COVID-19 on arrival (or within 24 hours of arrival at another COVID clinic) and given a Direction to self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premise.

- These arrivals will also be required to be tested for COVID-19 on Day 11
- Anyone arriving via road from South Australia will be given a Direction to self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premise and be required to take a COVID-19 test on Day 2 and on Day 11
- Anyone who arrived from SA on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November 2020, via road or air, will be contacted by WA officials and will be required to be tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours of their arrival and will be directed to self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premises.

Please note the following information documents which have either been revised or are new:

[Domestic Arrivals into Perth Airport: COVID_19 testing for symptomatic travelers \(NEW\)](#)

[Residential Aged Care FAQs \(13 November 2020\)](#)

[Coronavirus FAQs V22 \(13 November 2020\)](#)

The following documents are under review and will be available shortly:

- COVID transport, freight and logistics FAQs
- COVID Self-isolation in WA for returned travellers and close contacts
- Presentation for testing FAQs

Preliminary advice from ATAGI on general principles for the COVID-19 vaccination program

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has released [preliminary advice](#) on general principles to guide the prioritisation of target populations in a COVID-19 vaccination program in Australia. Advice is aimed at supporting planning by the Australian Government in the development of a strategy for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and program delivery.

DoH Forward Planning

The WA Health Department has developed comprehensive outbreak management plans covering a myriad of settings, including aged care facilities, prisons, schools, hospitals, remote communities. Extensive stakeholder engagement has been undertaken in the desk top testing of the plans which include, but are not limited to, testing protocols, measures for isolation, treatment of those affected and lockdown parameters for individual outbreak circumstances in both metropolitan and regional scenarios. These plans are not currently available to the public.

There has also been significant work done in building up our contact tracing capacity, and reviewing lessons learned from other jurisdictions, including NSW and Victoria. The period of a lull in community COVID cases has been well-utilised as a period of intense preparation and preparedness.

New COVID-19 mental health campaign – How’s your head today?

[How’s your head today?](#) is a new national COVID-19 mental health campaign that urges people to prioritise their mental health, raise awareness about how to identify when something is wrong, and encourage people to seek help.

Phase 5 date postponed

The start date for Phase 5 is yet to be determined. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

Victoria and NSW Update

VICTORIA - Latest updates can be viewed [HERE](#).

NSW - Latest updates can be viewed [HERE](#).

Directions updates

COVID-19 [State of Emergency Declarations](#) and [Community Advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA. Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#) and the [Directions FAQs](#).

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** an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [Healthy WA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the notification form.

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest iteration](#) was released on 28 October 2020.

Business and Industry

See latest updates about how the Western Australian Government is supporting business and industry [economic recovery](#) through COVID-19.

A new document has been released to provide guidance for short term accommodation providers who wish to provide accommodation for guests in quarantine or isolation. Please note the guidelines are a standalone, unenforceable document and that there is no legal requirement for a person isolating or quarantining to notify the management of a premise of their status.

[Standard for hotels providing accommodation for guests in quarantine or isolation.](#)

Resources for more information

- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health; HealthyWA](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages and Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)

Who to contact for 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: [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](#)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website or complete the [exemption application form](#)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: [131 444](#) To report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 24 November 2020**.

Last updated 17 November 2020

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

© Department of Health 2020

health.wa.gov.au