



PHEOC BULLETIN #40

Tuesday 15 December 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **8 December 2020**, there have been **838** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **42** historical cases. **821** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **589,756** 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

- The Department of Health has developed two information sheets which provide simple guidance to both drivers and passengers of taxis and rideshare vehicles.
 - [Information for taxi and rideshare drivers](#)
 - [Stay COVID-safe on your ride - for taxi and ride-share passengers](#)

More detailed information on infection prevention and control for public and private transport is available [here](#).

- Over the next few weeks, Covid safety messaging relating to contact registers will be broadcast over Aboriginal radio networks. The messages are spoken in Kriol, Martu, Ngaanyatjarra and plain English. The script is simple –

‘There’s a new corona rule to keep everyone safe. When you go to some places, you need to give your name and a phone number. This is for everyone over 16. Health mob will ring you if someone with corona has been in the same place as you. This is for places like: pub or eating place, sports place, pool, church, art or culture centre, community hall. Remember the phone number for when you go out.’

Copies of the audio recordings can be obtained from PHEOC@health.wa.gov.au.

Community

Mandatory contact registers

To keep all Western Australians safe, some businesses and venues must maintain a contact register of patrons, staff, visitors and contractors for COVID-19 contact tracing, if required. The businesses affected are:

- food and licensed venues (restaurants, cafés, bars, pubs, taverns, nightclubs)
- gyms, indoor sporting centres, wellness centres, health clubs and fitness centres
- indoor play centres
- saunas and bathhouses
- swimming pool, both indoors and outdoors
- places of worship, and funeral parlours

- beauty and personal care services (hairdressers, barbers, nail salons, tattoo parlours, spa and massage parlours)
- galleries and museums
- cinemas, theatres and other entertainment venues (casino, gaming or gambling venues)
- auction houses and real estate inspections
- community facilities, libraries and halls
- zoos and amusement parks
- function centres
- hotels, motels, campgrounds or other accommodation facilities that ordinarily have check-in arrangements
- boarding schools or residential colleges (not including residents)
- adult entertainment premises (strip clubs, brothels and sex on premises venues).

Details required are location, date, person's name and telephone number, and arrival time. Email addresses are optional.

The WA Government has developed the SafeWA app which is a free system that uses QR codes to register attendance. It is not mandatory to use SafeWA, but it is encouraged.

Alternative contact register formats are available, including recording details electronically or on paper. Businesses must still maintain a written contact register for people who choose not to use the SafeWA app.

For more information please see the frequently asked questions for:

- [Businesses and venues](#) FAQs and
- [Visitors and Patrons](#) FAQs

More information on the SafeWA app can be found [here](#)

WA's controlled interstate border

Following updated advice from the Chief Health Officer, Premier Mark McGowan has announced that travel from Victoria and New South Wales is classified as 'very low risk' as of Tuesday 8 December.

Western Australia's controlled interstate border has been safely adjusted, with travel from Victoria and New South Wales to be permitted into WA with the following conditions:

- completion of a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
- all Perth Airport arrivals to undergo a health screening and temperature test on arrival;
- travellers to be prepared to take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing available for all airport arrivals);
- all travellers to receive a SMS health check reminder one week into their stay in WA; and
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked.

Other jurisdictions currently in the 'very low risk' category include the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Northern Territory and Tasmania.

The Premier has also announced that from Friday 11 December, South Australia will be reclassified to 'low risk' from its current medium risk classification, subject to no further community outbreaks. This means travellers from SA will be permitted to enter under the 'low risk' classification, however are required to comply with these additional conditions:

- take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health

- clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing available for all airport arrivals);
- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable approved premise; and
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 11.

The Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor and review these travel arrangements to determine if there can be any further adjustments in the future, should there be any significant changes in the public health situation.

WA Roadmap – Phase 5

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

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

The Commonwealth has established a new COVID-19 vaccines hub website: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines-hub>. The hub provides news and up-to-date information for Australians about the development, approval process and plans for COVID-19 vaccines as well as a direct link to the new Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) COVID-19 website.

The Department of Health is currently working on an implementation approach for the roll out of the vaccine in WA across firstly, the priority population groups and then the general population. It has drawn together a range of professionals with extensive experience in established vaccination programs.

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 10 December 2020. Changes include revisions of the summary, the disease, case definition, case management, special risk settings and Appendix A.

Business and Industry

Resources for more information

- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)

health.wa.gov.au

- [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](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages

Updated Fact Sheets

[Domestic arrivals into Perth Airport: COVID-19 testing for symptomatic travellers](#)

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 22 December 2020**.

Last updated 15 December November 2020

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

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