



# PHEOC BULLETIN #37

**Tuesday 24 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 **24 November 2020**, there have been **708** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **38** historical cases. **774** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **539,122** 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

### ALL PEOPLE WHO MEET THE TESTING CRITERIA SHOULD BE TESTED

As we ease restrictions, it is essential that Western Australia maintains our high rates of testing. The [Presentation for Testing Direction \(No 9\)](#) were released on 17 November 2020, the [Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 2\)](#) were released on 13 November 2020, and the [Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Workers\) Directions \(No 2\)](#) were released on 23 November 2020.

For further information on testing, please refer to [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #17](#) dated 20 November 2020.

### PENDING CHANGES TO COVID SAFETY PLAN AND CONTACT REGISTER REQUIREMENTS

Information will be released to local governments shortly on expected amendments to Covid Safety Plan and contact register requirements under a new Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Direction (No. 8). This will include information on contact registers, Covid Safety Plan compliance and the role of authorised officers.

## Community

### Frequently asked question

***Why can't people be tested for COVID-19 prior to entering WA and be allowed into WA without the need to quarantine if the result is negative?***

COVID-19 has an incubation period of 1 to 14 days. This means a person may not show any symptoms for 14 days. If a person is tested during the 14-day incubation period their result may be negative, however they may still be incubating the virus, providing false reassurance they do not have COVID-19.

### Face masks reviewed

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is undertaking a post-market review of all face masks included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). Concerns have been raised about the quality and effectiveness of some face masks, including that they may be included in the ARTG

but do not meet the legislative requirements for medical devices, or may not, or do not, perform as intended.

Full details of the review are available on the [TGA website](#).

### **Minister for Health visits PHEOC Operations**

The Minister for Health provided the ABC with a firsthand look at the State's contact tracing facilities at the Department of Health last week.

The ABC [news article](#) provides a great description of how contact tracing functions in WA.

### **Enhanced regular testing for hotel quarantine staff**

As part of the new weekly mandatory testing program, security personnel and cleaning staff at all State-run quarantine hotels will be tested every 7 days. The new testing program better protects hotel quarantine workers and adds to the protection measures already applied at WA's State-run hotel quarantine system.

The new direction came into operation at 12.01am on Friday, 20 November. The media release is located [here](#).

### **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 \(13 November 2020\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing fact sheet](#)

[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 2\) Frequently asked questions](#)

[Information for Quarantine workers \(NEW\)](#)

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

### **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.

### **Surge employment process for the Department of Health**

As a part of the Department of Health's preparedness for any change in COVID-19 transmission in WA, employment opportunities are advertised on the Department of Health [Jobs in Health](#) website.

### **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 \(Updated\)](#)**

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 1 December 2020**.

**Last updated 24 November 2020**

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

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