



PHEOC BULLETIN

Tuesday 19 May 2020 09:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **19 May 2020**, there have been **557** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **545** people have recovered.
- To date **67,649** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

Living with COVID

COVID-19 has changed the way we live, work and communicate. Even though life has become a little easier with the easing of restrictions, we should all remain vigilant to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

No time for complacency

Easing the COVID-19 restrictions is now no time for complacency. The Australian Government's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd, gives his opinion. Read his [opinion statement](#) here.

Social Distancing in the workplace

[Social distancing](#), also known as physical distancing is ensuring there is space between yourself and others. This is an effective way of reducing transmission of COVID-19. Although public transport and associated stations and platforms are exempt from social distancing recommendations, transport staff and passengers are still encouraged to maintain social distancing where possible. Steps to reduce the risk of catching an infection while travelling on public transport can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 routine cleaning at your home and workplace

Routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces using appropriate detergent/disinfectant solutions or wipes is effective at minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission. It is recommended that the frequency of cleaning in all areas be increased. Further information on cleaning for non-healthcare settings is available [here](#).

COVIDSafe App



The Australian Government's voluntary COVIDSafe app is an important public health initiative. It speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). For further information and to get the app see [COVIDSafe app](#).

Latest Updates

COVID-19 WA Roadmap

Phase 2 of the WA road map took effect 18 May 2020. This phase encourages Western Australians

to return to work and builds on non-work gatherings of up to 20. Cafés and restaurants can reopen for meal service, and indoor and outdoor fitness classes can resume with 20 participants with conditions. Regional travel restrictions have also been relaxed.

For more information, see [WA's Roadmap](#) and Phase 2 Easing of Restrictions [FAQs](#).

COVID Safety Plans key to reopening WA businesses

Businesses across Western Australia will need to prepare a [COVID Safety Plan](#) before they reopen, to protect staff and customers. The purpose of the COVID Safety Plan is to ensure that businesses actively mitigate the risks of COVID-19 in line with the best available health advice. Refer to the [COVID Safety Guidelines](#) for more information.

Tailored guidelines have been developed for food businesses and sport and recreation venues. Refer to the wa.gov.au website for more information.

All WA students to return to school

All Western Australian students are required to return to school from Week 4 Term 2 (18 May), except those who are recognised as medically vulnerable or who have medically-vulnerable family members. Vulnerable staff members should continue to seek medical advice.

Students at residential facilities can return home on weekends subject to the discretion of the Principal or residential manager. More information is available online at wa.gov.au.

COVID-19 Dashboard

Local COVID-19 information is now at the fingertips of all Western Australians after the launch of a new COVID-19 dashboard. The dashboard enables members of the public to track the State's current COVID-19 curve and stay up-to-date with other local COVID-19 information through a combination of maps, graphs and tables.

It has been developed by the Department of Health and can be accessed from its [website](#).

Directions Updates

Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Directions (No 3)

Effective 18 May 2020, the purpose of these directions is to exempt certain gatherings from being prohibited gatherings, to enable certain specific activities to occur that would otherwise be prohibited activities and to enable certain places to be open for the purpose of enabling people to engage in those specific activities.

Closure and Restriction (Elite athlete training) Modification Directions (No 2)

Effective 18 May 2020, subject to these directions, a relevant person may participate in an authorised swimming activity at a specified swimming venue or an authorised training activity at a specified training venue.

Closure and Restriction (AFL training) Metropolitan Directions

Effective 18 May 2020. In connection with playing or preparing to play AFL football, Fremantle and West Coast Eagles AFL teams may participate in authorised training activity at specified training venues.

Prohibition on Regional Travel Directions (No 2)

Effective 18 May 2020, some travel restrictions have been eased to allow people to travel further within WA.

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](#).

Primary Care

Drive-through influenza vaccine clinic for over 65s

The WA Government has launched a drive-through immunisation clinic in Burswood for people aged 65 years and over to get vaccinated against influenza. The clinic will be open from 9.30am to 2.30pm, Tuesday May 19 to Friday May 22. Visit [Healthy WA](#) for further details.

Hospitals

Increase in elective surgery for Western Australians

On Monday May 18, WA public and private hospitals will increase elective surgery to 50 percent of all normal elective surgical activity. Surgery will resume across all categories, with a focus on urgent cases and people who have experienced long waits. The increase is possible due to a low number of COVID-19 cases in WA and careful use of Personal Protective Equipment. Further detail is available [here](#).

Testing

General population

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ OR history of fever (e.g. sweats, chills), **without a known source** OR an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat). This is especially important for people who live or work in a high-risk setting, are a contact of a confirmed case, are a returned traveller, are currently in hospital or who live in or have visited an area with an increased risk of community transmission. Testing is not indicated where another clinical focus of infection or alternate explanation of the patient's illness is evident.

Testing locations

Testing can be performed at COVID clinics, hospitals, Commonwealth-endorsed GP respiratory clinics, private pathology COVID collection centres approved by the Chief Health Officer, as listed on [Healthy WA](#). Tests can also be performed by domiciliary specimen collectors and GPs in residential care facilities. Regional testing can also occur in health centres and remote health clinics operated by WACHS, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the notification form. Notifying by phone is not necessary. All laboratories report both positive and negative results to the WA Department of Health, as per the [COVID Testing Reporting Directions](#).

Point of Care (POC) serology testing

COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) serology testing (including as assay or device) as an acute illness diagnostic tool for COVID-19, is [prohibited under the WA Public Health Act 2016 \(external site\)](#).

COVID-19 Testing Directions

The purpose of these [directions](#) is to prohibit a person from requesting or conducting testing for COVID-19 except in accordance with these directions, as unauthorised testing wastes resources required to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19.

The [following approvals](#) have been granted by the Chief Health Officer:

- Approval to request COVID-19 testing on patients undergoing aerodigestive procedures
- Approval to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing on people receiving medical treatment from Indian Ocean Territories
- Approval to conduct COVID-19 testing people isolated or quarantined
- Approval to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing before proceeding with organ donation or organ transplantation
- Approval to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing at point of care in remote clinics

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The main endorsed changes in the latest iteration released on 13 May include:

- Inclusion of serology in the confirmed and probable case definitions.
- Inclusion of testing advice for organ donors and recipients
- Updated infection prevention and control precautions for specimen collection.
- Updated guidance on laboratory testing.
- Inclusion of definition for a COVID-19 death (case management section).
- Inclusion of advice for correctional and detention facilities (special risk settings section).
- Updated terminology from 'social distancing' to 'physical distancing'.
- The addition of new appendices.

Resources for more information

- [Series of National Guidelines, SoNG](#) was last updated on 13 May 2020, with revised disease Case definition, Laboratory testing, Case management, Contact management, Special risk settings, Special situations,
- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [HealthyWA](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)

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. The next issue will be on **Tuesday 26 May 2020**.

Last updated 19 May 2020

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

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