



# PHEOC BULLETIN

**Wednesday 3 June 2020 09:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **3 June 2020**, there have been **592** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **557** people have recovered.
- To date **97,912** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

## Living with COVID

### "We actually obliterated the curve."

While the threat has receded for now with no community transmission and the number of new cases slowing to a trickle, Dr Paul Armstrong, WA's Director of Communicable Disease Control and Deputy Chief Health Officer – Public Health, warns this is just the end of the beginning of dealing with COVID-19. Read more on what he now refers to as "COVID time".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-31/wa-coronavirus-paul-armstrong-reflects-on-covid-19-response/12300216>



### COVIDSafe App

The Australian Government's voluntary COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. It speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). Downloading the app is something you can do to protect you, your family and friends. For further information and to get the app see [COVIDSafe app](#).

## Latest Updates

### Phase 3 of COVID-19 Roadmap

The WA Government announced Phase 3 of the roadmap to ease COVID-19 restrictions in WA, commencing Saturday, June 6. Phase 3 will see an increase in the number of people at non-work gatherings and additional businesses will be permitted to reopen. WA will be the first State in the nation to implement a two square metre per person capacity rule for all WA venues, replacing the previous four square metre rule.

For more information refer to [Phase 3 easing of restrictions](#).

### Visitor restrictions eased at WA hospitals

Restrictions on visiting hours at WA hospitals have been partially eased as of Tuesday 2 June and the number of people permitted to visit has increased to two people at one time. Children are also able to return as visitors and maternity patients can now be accompanied by two birthing partners.

## WA hospitals ramping up elective surgery

Due to a low number of COVID-19 cases in WA and appropriate use of personal protective equipment, elective surgery in WA hospitals increased to 75 per cent of normal from Tuesday 2 June, with the full resumption of elective surgery activity expected on Monday 15 June.

The decision to increase elective surgery activity has been made possible due to the success of WA's public health measures and acquisition of significant stocks of personal protective equipment.

## DETECT Snapshot program testing expanded

The WA Department of Health's DETECT Snapshot program invites people from identified groups in the community who show **no symptoms of COVID-19** to be tested to get a better understanding of any COVID-19 that may be in the community.

The eligible groups include Healthcare workers, WA Police staff, meat workers, supermarket and retail staff, hospitality workers, school staff, tourism sector employees and transport workers. The program will run until Wednesday 10 June 10, 2020. Further details can be found on [Healthy WA](#).

## COVID-19 Research Grant Program

Twelve WA research projects have been boosted with nearly \$3 million funding for COVID-19 related research and infrastructure. The funding for the 12 research projects will go towards treatments, studies of at-risk groups, development of less invasive tests, study of mental health impacts and tests that will more accurately inform us about immunity of COVID-19.

One of these projects is a pilot study that will assess the effectiveness of transfusing active COVID-19 cases with plasma from recovered patients (convalescent plasma).

## Directions Updates

### Phase 3 Regional travel restrictions to be lifted as part of WA roadmap

From Friday 29 May some [regional travel restrictions](#) have been removed. Travel will be permitted throughout Western Australia, except for the Kimberley region, pending the Commonwealth's approval to remove restrictions to access biosecurity zones from June 5. Consultation will continue with WA's remote communities to ensure they are provided with ongoing support after June 5. Existing Directions under the State Government's Emergency Management Act that restrict entry into these communities will remain in place pending further consultation.

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](#).

## Testing

### General population testing criteria

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever (**≥37.5°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). This is especially important for anyone who lives or works 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, and 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. GPs can collect swabs 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.

## Testing of asymptomatic patients

Testing asymptomatic patients is permitted in several settings, approval for each of these scenarios can be found [here](#):

- Pre-operative setting for aerodigestive procedures only
- Before proceeding with organ donation or organ transplantation
- For people receiving medical treatment from Indian Ocean Territories
- Targeted government approved screening programs
- Returned travelers prior to release from mandatory quarantine.

Asymptomatic testing should not be performed for return to work purposes or fit for work purposes, unless requested or approved by Public Health.

## Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The main endorsed changes in the latest iteration released on 29 May 2020 include:

- [Revised definition of a probable case \(pg. 10\)](#)
- [Revised advice in enhanced testing \(pg. 11\)](#)
- [Addition of information on identification of potential source contacts \(pg. 14\)](#)
- [Addition of guidance on outbreak investigation and management in high-risk settings \(pg. 24-29\)](#)

## Resources for more information

- [Series of National Guidelines, SoNG was last updated on 29 May 2020](#)
- [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 **Tuesday 9 June 2020**.

**Last updated 3 June 2020**

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

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