



## PHEOC BULLETIN #38

**Tuesday 1 December 2020 14:00 Hours**

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

### COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **1 December 2020**, there have been **821** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **39** historical cases. **789** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **555,761** 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

#### COVID-19 public information campaign

The key messages of maintaining physical distance wherever possible, practising good hand hygiene, staying home if sick, and getting tested, remain critical to reducing the opportunities of COVID-19 transmission in WA. The Department of Health has launched a new media campaign which aims to inform the WA community that COVID-19 is not over and remind them to practise COVID safe behaviours while enjoying summer activities.

The new material is available for you to download and share to help us reach all Western Australians. More materials are available on request.

Please visit [COVID-19 public information campaign](#).

### Community

#### Frequently asked questions

##### What is a close contact?

- A person who has had face-to-face contact for more than 15 minutes, cumulative over the course of a week, with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 OR
- A person who has shared a closed space for more than 2 hours with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 (while they were considered infectious).

##### What is a community case?

The Chief Health Officer has defined a community case as being a case from either an unknown source or where the infected contacts were not in quarantine.

#### Contact tracing / registers *(Pending Limit the Spread Directions No 9)*

The Western Australian Government has a comprehensive contact tracing system. Since February of this year, WA Health has instituted an electronic system of contact tracing that has included automated SMS messages for cases and contacts. The system allows our experienced team of contact tracers to work efficiently in responding to cases of COVID-19. From the 5 December 2020, this process will be further strengthened with the additional requirement for particular businesses to maintain contact registers to assist with contact tracing.

Full details on contact tracing and contact registers can be found on the website [COVID-19 Coronavirus:SafeWA](#) including information for businesses and individuals and a series of frequently asked questions.

## **Places of worship to operate at greater capacity** ([Limit the Spread Directions No 8](#))

Following the latest WA public health advice, places of worship are now exempt from the 2 square metre rule and can operate at 60 per cent capacity. The 60 per cent capacity always applies only to the area of formal worship itself and not to the entire place of worship (i.e. church, mosque etc.).

Places of worship will be required to maintain a contact register, in electronic or written form. For more information see [HERE](#).

## **COVID-19 - Living with diabetes and other endocrine conditions**

This information sheet has been developed for patients living with diabetes and other endocrine conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The resource aims to provide people with diabetes key information about COVID-19 and its effect on diabetic patients.

- [COVID-19 - Living with diabetes and other endocrine conditions](#)

### **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](#).

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

[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 \(NEW\)](#)

## 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.

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

## COVID-19 vaccination program

The Commonwealth Government has released the [Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#), which outlines the approach, principles and responsibilities for providing COVID-19 vaccines in Australia. WA Health is working in partnership with the Commonwealth Government to develop the *Western Australian COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Plan*.

## 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

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

### 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 8 December 2020**.

**Last updated 1 December November 2020**

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

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