



PHEOC BULLETIN #49

Thursday 18 February 2021 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **Thursday 18 February**, there have been **910** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **50** historical cases. **898** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **843,114** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Return to pre-lockdown life

The Perth and Peel restrictions ended as planned at 12.01am, Sunday, 14 February.

From this date masks are no longer required to be worn either inside or outside (unless at an airport, travelling on an aircraft, or transporting a person subject to a quarantine direction), there are no travel restrictions in WA, except for remote Aboriginal communities, and mandatory contact registration will continue, as was planned prior to the lockdown.

Western Australia's controlled interstate border, and the capacity restrictions which were in place prior to the snap five-day lockdown, are in place pending ongoing health advice. As was the case before the lockdown, public or private events involving more than 500 patrons that require local government authority approval will need an approved COVID Event Plan as part of that process.

Western Australians should continue to practise physical distancing where possible, always maintain good personal hygiene, and get tested when unwell.

New South Wales travellers

New South Wales moved from 'low risk' to 'very low risk' at 12.01am, on Tuesday, 16 February.

Under the 'very low risk' category, safe travel is permitted into WA subject to the following updated 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;
- 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 also available); and
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked.

Victorian travellers

Given the evolving situation in Victoria, the Chief Health Officer recommended Victoria be reclassified as 'medium risk' from 6pm on Friday, 12 February 2021.

The hard border with Victoria means only exempt travellers are permitted to enter WA. The exemption list is limited to:

- certain senior Government officials;
- certain active military personnel;
- a member of the Commonwealth Parliament;
- a person carrying out functions under a law of the Commonwealth;
- a person responsible for transport freight or logistics; and
- anyone who is given approval by State Emergency Coordinator or an authorised officer.

The final category includes compassionate reasons - including those Western Australians that may have travelled to Victoria recently and need to return to WA.

These people will be assessed by WA Police and will be required to complete 14 days of self-quarantine and be tested for COVID-19 on arrival and on day 11.

Victoria set to move to 'low risk' from Saturday, February 20

Pending no further outbreaks and based on the latest public health advice, Victoria is expected to move to the 'low risk' category from 12.01am Saturday, February 20. See the controlled interstate border [page](#) for up to date information.

Under the 'low risk' category, travel is permitted into WA, subject to the following strict conditions:

- complete a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premise;
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 11;
- all Perth Airport arrivals to undergo a health screening and temperature test on arrival;
- 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); and
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked before proceeding to self-quarantine premise.

State-by-state risk rating

All other jurisdictions except Victoria are considered 'very low risk' and are permitted to enter WA without COVID-19 testing or self-quarantine requirements.

The WA Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor and review border controls to determine if any further adjustments can be made in the future.

For more information, see the WA Government's controlled interstate border [webpage](#).

SafeWA

Under the Contact Register Directions, there is now specific provision that a person who fails to provide their contact information at a relevant place in accordance with the direction must not remain at the relevant place. As there is a mutual responsibility for contact registers between the business or venue and the individual, it is vital that all Western Australians ensure they are registering their contact details where contact registers are mandatory, to assist contact tracing if it is required.

If a business displays a business QR code, they must also display the 'Safe WA' QR code in a way which clearly identifies it as the 'Safe WA' QR code and ensures that the person entering the relevant place can use the 'Safe WA' app instead.

See the WA Government's [website](#) for more information.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Following the recent [announcement](#) by the Director General of the WA Department of Health regarding WA's COVID-19 vaccination program, plans are well underway for the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to the first eligible group (phase 1a) from the week beginning February 22, 2021. More information is available on the following sites [check these regularly for updates]:

- **HealthyWA** - COVID-19 [Vaccine](#) (for consumers) including general FAQs and Phase 1a FAQs for quarantine and border workers
- **WA Health** - COVID-19 [Vaccination Program](#) (for health professionals) including links for COVID-19 vaccination training for health providers and how to [subscribe](#) to the WA COVID-19 Vaccine Update.

The Australian Government COVID-19 vaccines [hub](#) has been significantly updated to include the latest news and information about the development, approval process and rollout plans for the COVID-19 vaccines. Some highlights include the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [provisional approval](#) of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine [16/02/2021] and information about COVID-19 vaccines translated into [multiple languages](#).

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](#).

New Directions:

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 16\)](#)

[Victorian Outbreak Response Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No 13\)](#)

[Contact Register Directions](#)

[Designation of an Essential, Community or Human Service and Supply Under Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions \(No 3\) \(Members of Parliament and Electoral Candidates\)](#)

Amended Directions:

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amended Directions \(No 14\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amended Directions \(No 13\)](#)

[Victorian Outbreak Response \(No 2\) Amendment Directions](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Clinical alert #46 – all clinicians](#)

[Clinician alert #45 – all clinicians](#)

[Clinician alert #44 – all clinicians](#)

[Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in WA #26](#)

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 29 January 2021.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer.

The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters. The latest statement from AHPPC statement is:

- [3 February 2021](#) – Updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools

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-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 23 February 2021**.

Last updated **18 February 2021**

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

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