



# PHEOC BULLETIN

**Tuesday 12 May 2020 09:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **12 May 2020**, there have been **553** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **537** people have recovered.
- To date **56,226\*** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

## Living with COVID

COVID-19 is changing the way we live, work and communicate. Even though the government is relaxing restrictions we should all remain vigilant during this period of transition to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in WA.

### Addressing social stigma and COVID-19

Stigmatising people can be harmful and can result in people not accessing health care or mental health support that they need. We need to support each other through this difficult period. Stigma and discrimination hurt everyone. Further information is available on the [WA Health website](#).

### 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

On 10 May 2020, the WA Government released a four-phase roadmap to ease COVID-19 restrictions. Phase 2 of the road map will take effect from Monday, 18 May 2020. This phase will encourage 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 been relaxed.

Phase 3 will transition to COVID safe ways of living and working and will focus on continuing to build stronger links within the community and include further resumption of commercial and recreational activities. Phase 3 is expected to be implemented about 4 weeks from the start of Phase 2.

Phase 4 will be determined in due course. Western Australia's interstate border closure will remain in place. It is expected to be the final restriction lifted.

For more information, see [WA's Roadmap](#) and [FAQs](#).

## COVID-19 Research

The WA government has partnered with HBF and the resources sector for COVID-19 research. The plan is to dedicate up to \$6 million from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund to COVID-19 research, including the expansion of the DETECT program, designed to determine the presence of any undetected COVID-19 in key sentinel groups or settings.

## 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](#).

## COVID Safety Plans key to reopening WA businesses

Guidelines are being developed in consultation with key stakeholders. Food businesses, including cafés and restaurants; community and cultural venues; and sport and recreation facilities must prepare a COVID Safety Plan to re-open.

More information will be available online at [wa.gov.au](http://wa.gov.au) later this week.

## Directions Updates

### Isolation (Diagnosed) Directions

Effective 9 May 2020, people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 must isolate until they have recovered and been informed that they are no longer required to isolate.

### Quarantine and isolation (Undiagnosed) Directions

Effective 9 May 2020, people who have been informed they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19, people who have been tested for COVID-19 and are waiting for their results, and people who develop COVID-19 symptoms while in quarantine, must all isolate.

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

### Flu vaccination

For best protection against influenza, people are strongly advised to get the influenza vaccine every year. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is advised to get the influenza vaccine as soon as it is available.

Further information can be found at [Healthy WA](#).

## 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) 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 \(external site\)](#).

## Resources for more information

- Series of National Guidelines, [SoNG](#) was last updated on 5 May 2020, with revised case definition – clinical criteria.
- 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.

*\*PathWest testing results pending*

**Next advice** – The PHEOC Bulletin will now be issued weekly. The next issue will be on **Tuesday 19 May 2020**.