



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #2

Tuesday 23 November 2021 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller - Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday 23 November**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,121** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 111 historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 1,103 people recovered from COVID-19
 - **1,932,069** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

PHEOC and SHICC combine

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) and the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) have merged to streamline the COVID-19 response within the Department of Health. This is reflected in the new name of the Bulletin.

Stakeholders should continue to communicate with their contacts in PHEOC and SHICC through existing methods and contacts. As the merge evolves, more information will be made available to stakeholders.

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

Increased regional wastewater testing

WA Health, in collaboration with Water Corporation and PathWest, commenced a wastewater surveillance program in the East Kimberley in response to the evolving situation in the Northern Territory.

Wastewater samples are being collected in Kununurra and Halls Creek. Targeted wastewater surveillance may provide an early warning that undiagnosed cases of COVID-19 are in the community or that recently recovered persons are in the area.

Refer to the [media release](#) for additional information.

Public health system bed increase

The WA Government announced on 23 November 2021 that four sites have been identified to house modular ward facilities to support the public health system.

Osborne Park Hospital, Rockingham General Hospital, Bunbury Regional Hospital and Bentley Health Service will each have a 30 bed modular ward facility, which will increase the public hospital capacity by 120 beds.

This modular approach has been implemented across the world to expedite construction of clinically safe sites and will support Western Australia's own COVID-19 response.

More information is available in the [media release](#).

Northern Territory transitions to 'low risk'

Based on the latest health advice, the Northern Territory (NT) transitioned from a 'very low risk' jurisdiction to a 'low risk' jurisdiction at 4:00pm, Tuesday 16 November, under WA's controlled border arrangements. [The requirements for entry to WA from a 'low risk' jurisdiction can be found on the WA.gov.au website](#).

Unless otherwise advised by WA Health, anyone who arrived in WA from the NT before 4:00pm on 16 November and who has been to an [NT exposure site](#) at the specified times is required to:

- present for a COVID-19 test on arrival (within 48 hours) and on day 12
- self-quarantine for 14 days from date of exposure.

Anyone from the NT who arrived in WA before 4:00pm on 16 November, and who has not been to a [NT exposure site](#), should get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19. They should also check the [NT exposure site website](#) regularly for updates.

This information is available in the [media statement](#).

Public health advice for Tasmania

WA Health contacted travellers into WA on flights from Hobart to Perth on the evening of Sunday 14 November, following Hobart Airport being listed as an exposure site for COVID-19.

Anyone who has been to an [exposure site](#) in Tasmania should quarantine until they have been advised otherwise by Public Health.

Anyone who has recently arrived from Tasmania and has not visited any of the listed venues should present for COVID-19 testing if they develop symptoms and keep checking the list of exposure sites.

Refer to the [latest media statement for advice](#).

Jurisdiction risk rating

Victoria is considered 'extreme risk'. New South Wales is considered 'high risk'. Australian Capital Territory is considered 'medium risk'. Northern Territory is considered 'low risk'. South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland are considered 'very low risk'. For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled border [webpage](#).

Community

Mandatory vaccination Directions

Based on the latest public health advice, most occupations and workforces will be subject to Directions requiring COVID-19 vaccination to enter certain areas and perform certain roles. Each Direction is accompanied by supporting documents such as the Direction-specific approved form of evidence of COVID-19 vaccination, and exemption guidelines and forms.

As Directions and the supporting documents are finalised they will become available at [WA.gov.au](#) under the Mandatory vaccination collection. Refer to the available resources for guidance.

More information, including access to [Frequently Asked Questions](#), is available [here](#). Refer to them regularly for the most up to date information.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Aboriginal vaccination focus – ‘Keeping Culture Safe and Strong’

A five-week community effort, 'Keeping Culture Safe and Strong' was [announced](#) on the 19 November 2021. The vaccination focus aims to provide more opportunities for Aboriginal people to get vaccinated and protect whole communities and individuals from COVID-19 as Western Australia embarks on its safe transition. The vaccination focus will cover the entire State, from urban to regional to remote communities, to support the Commonwealth Government's rollout of the vaccine. The focus is community-led involving local leaders such as health staff, the local police, councils and shires, and Aboriginal-led organisations. Resources including posters, videos, infographics and social tiles are available on the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia [website](#).

Leavers COVID-19 vaccinations

State Government and WA Police [announced](#) on 15 November 2021 that young people planning to attend official school leavers celebrations in Dunsborough would need to present evidence of having had a COVID-19 vaccination to gain access to the events.

Attendance at Leavers events is voluntary based on the conditions of entry. Leavers can show proof of COVID-19 vaccination by uploading evidence of their vaccination on the Leavers WA Mobile app available through the Leavers WA [website](#). School leavers are required to have at least one COVID-19 vaccination to enable purchase of an official Leavers wristband.

Police anticipate around 10,000 school leavers will attend celebrations in the South West this year. A designated Leavers Entertainment Zone has been set up in Dunsborough to provide schoolies with a range of structured activities and entertainment throughout the week.

COVID-19 Vaccination event support

To ensure Western Australians aged 12 years and over are supported to receive both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, the WA COVID-19 Vaccination Program (WACVP) invites requests for support to be considered by the program. Staff from the WA Health system, government agencies, non-government organisations and associations, and businesses/industry with mandated occupations should complete the online COVID-19 Events and Clinic Request [Form](#) for consideration by the WACVP. The form should be used to request support of a COVID-19 vaccination information event or COVID-19 vaccination pop-up clinic and to notify the WACVP of an externally organised COVID-19 information or vaccination event to be promoted.

All requests will be reviewed to determine if and when support can be provided, depending on the information provided for assessment and available resourcing. At risk groups will be prioritised. Please email Covid.Immunisation.Events@health.wa.gov.au if assistance is required.

New vaccination clinics across WA

Wanneroo: Wanneroo Library, 3 Rocca Way, Wanneroo. Opening times are 10am to 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Ellenbrook: Ellenbrook Central Shopping Centre, Shop G-033 (next to Priceline Pharmacy), 11 Main Street, Ellenbrook. Opening times are 9.30am to 4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 9.30am to 7pm on Thursday; and 11am to 4.30pm on Sunday.

Community vaccination clinics

All State-run community vaccination clinics are now open for people to attend without an appointment. Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times.

There will be numerous regional pop-up clinics available for walk-ins in the coming weeks. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times.

Existing [Community vaccination clinics](#) in WA include Armadale, Mirrabooka, Carramar, Mandurah, Canning Vale, Midland, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, GPs in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the Spikevax (Moderna) and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA - [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health - [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) - workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government - [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Rollup for WA](#) and [Rollup for WA posters](#)
- KAMS - [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign](#)

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 \(Airport Workers - Direct International Arrivals\) Directions](#)

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 36\)](#)

[Exposure Sites \(Outside of Western Australia\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)

[Meat Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[WA Police Force Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Fire and Emergency Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[WA Correctional Facility Entrant \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Air Services and Border Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Resources Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Leavers Event Area \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 7\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 47\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 48\)](#)

[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 12\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Residential Aged Care Facilities FAQs Version 6](#)

[Guidelines for Management and Contact Tracing of COVID-19 with Exposure in the Hospital Setting Version 3](#)

[Clinician Alert #70](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Frequently asked questions](#)

[Quarantine Driver Directions Factsheet \(update to PHEOC references only\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing Fact Sheet \(update to PHEOC references only\)](#)

[Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #33 \(update to PHEOC references only\)](#)

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #30](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions for Maritime Workers Boarding an Exposed Vessel](#)

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** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

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 15 November 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. AHPPC has recently released the following statements:

- [15 November](#) – Statement on COVID-19, schools and early childhood education and care
- [15 November](#) – Statement on the role of face masks to protect individuals and the community from COVID-19
- [5 November](#) – Statement on home care vaccination
- [5 November](#) – Statement on mandatory vaccination disability workers

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [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
- [Contact register](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents

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

- 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 Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **30 November 2021**.

Last updated 23 November 2021

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

© Department of Health 2021