



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #5

Friday 17 December 2021 12:00 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 **Friday 17 December**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,125** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **112** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,113** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,013,127** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

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

- [Controlled border arrangements - New South Wales - 15 December 21](#)
- [Controlled border arrangements - 13 December 2021](#)
- [Controlled border arrangements - Queensland - 11 December 2021](#)
- [Controlled border arrangements - South Australia - 2 December 2021](#)

Public health advice issued for Western Australians

WA Health has released [exposure locations](#) following three truck drivers testing positive to COVID-19 after spending time in WA last week.

Anyone who has visited the listed exposure locations at the specified times and dates must get tested immediately and isolate until they receive a negative result, unless directly advised otherwise by the Department of Health.

Western Australians are encouraged to stay vigilant and get [tested](#) immediately if they develop COVID-19 symptoms, and use SafeWA and mandatory contact registers to check in to businesses and venues.

More information is available in the [media statement](#) and the [announcement](#).

COVID at our border

The increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the Northern Territory (NT), and positive wastewater detections in remote communities in NT and South Australia, is a concern for WA communities living close to the border.

It is important that anyone living near the border gets tested for COVID-19 if they have any symptoms, no matter how mild.

Doctors and healthcare workers should encourage anyone presenting with symptoms to get tested.

Vaccination is still the best way to protect against COVID-19 and should be promoted at every opportunity. Everyone (especially our border communities) should get vaccinated as soon as they can to protect themselves, their family and their whole community. Visit [Roll up for WA](#) for more information.

Safe Transition Plan update

The Western Australian Government has announced a plan to safely ease the State's hard border controls in line with a 90 per cent vaccination rate, from 12:01am on Saturday 5 February 2022.

To safely enable quarantine-free travel into the State, new testing requirements for arrivals will be introduced to assist with the safe transition of COVID-19 in the WA community.

Based on health advice, interim baseline public health and social measures (PHSMs) will be applied at the point of transition.

Additional restrictions may be required in some at risk regional communities where current projections suggest higher levels of vaccination may take longer to achieve.

Further information can be found in the [announcement](#) and [WA's Safe Transition Plan](#) summary.

COVID Clinic testing scope expanded

People who require evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test as an interstate travel requirement are now able to be tested at public COVID Clinics, emergency departments outside of the Perth Metropolitan area and other testing locations approved by the Chief Health Officer (CHO) or State Health Incident Controller. Written evidence of the State or Territory's negative test requirement must be presented at the time of testing. The reason for testing must be noted on the pathology request form.

Further requirements are defined in the [CHO approval](#).

Updated Queensland advice

Queensland transitioned from a 'very low' to a 'low risk' jurisdiction from 12:01am Monday 13 December 2021. Entry requirements from 'low risk' jurisdictions are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

Queensland will transition from a 'low risk' to a 'medium risk' jurisdiction on 12:01am Monday 20 December 2021. Travel from Queensland will not be permitted, unless a person is an approved traveller. Any Western Australian who has recently travelled to Queensland is eligible to return under compassionate grounds and must apply through the G2G Pass system. Entry requirements from a 'medium risk' jurisdictions are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

Anyone who arrived in WA between Wednesday 1 December and 12:01am, Monday 13 December, and has been at the listed [Queensland exposure sites](#) at the specified times between Wednesday 1 December and 12:01am, Monday 13 December, is required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 12.

Recent arrivals into WA from Queensland who have not been to any exposure sites are advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

This information is available in the ['low risk'](#) and ['medium risk'](#) transition announcements.

Updated New South Wales advice

Based on the latest health advice, New South Wales (NSW) will be elevated to an 'extreme risk' jurisdiction from 12.01am Saturday December 18, 2021. After this time, travel from NSW to WA will not be permitted unless approved under the strictest of conditions.

Approved travellers from 'extreme risk' [jurisdictions](#) are restricted to Commonwealth and State officials, Members of Parliament, Diplomats and specialist or extraordinary circumstances determined by the State Emergency Coordinator or the Chief Health Officer.

Approved travellers arriving in WA from or via NSW from 12.01 Saturday, December 18 must:

- [provide proof](#) of being double dose vaccinated against COVID-19, if eligible
- have returned a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the past 72 hours before departure
- undertake mandatory hotel quarantine at a state-run facility for 14 days at their expense
- undergo COVID-19 testing on days 1, 5 and 13.

The WA Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor and review border controls.

Further information is available in the [announcement](#).

Updated Tasmania advice

Tasmania will transition from a 'very low risk' to a 'low risk' jurisdiction on 12.01am Monday 20 December 2021. Entry requirements from a 'low risk' jurisdiction can be found at WA.gov.au.

Recent arrivals from Tasmania should familiarise themselves with the latest [exposure sites](#) reported by Tasmania Health. Recent arrivals from Tasmania who have **not** been to any exposure sites are advised to get [tested](#) if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

Further information is available in the [announcement](#).

Updated South Australia advice

South Australia (SA) transitioned from a 'low risk' to a 'medium risk' jurisdiction from 12.01am Friday December 3, 2021. Travel from SA to Western Australia (WA) is no longer permitted without an approval under the controlled border arrangements.

Approved travellers arriving in WA after 12.01am Friday, December 3 must:

- provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the 72 hours prior to departure
- provide proof of double dose vaccination, if eligible
- self-quarantine in a suitable premise for 14 days
- present for an initial COVID-19 test within 48 hours, and on day 12 after arrival in WA (if still in WA), or at any point when symptoms develop.

Unless advised otherwise by WA Health, anyone who arrived in WA from SA between 1.15pm November 27 and 12.01am December 3 must continue to follow their Directions.

Recent travellers from South Australia should continue to familiarise themselves with the latest [exposure sites](#) reported by SA Health.

Further information is available in the [announcement](#).

Expanded wastewater surveillance

WA Health is continuing its COVID-19 wastewater surveillance program in Kununurra and Halls Creek in the East Kimberley and has expanded water sampling to additional communities including **Mulan, Billiuna, Ringer's Soak and Balgo**.

All results have been negative so far.

Refer to the Department of Health's [COVID-19 wastewater testing](#) webpage for additional information, including test results.

Jurisdiction risk rating

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

Community

Industry-specific mandatory vaccination FAQs

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about mandatory COVID-19 vaccination are available at the Department of Health [website](#) to address common queries relevant to all people affected by the vaccination requirement. In consultation with stakeholders, industry-specific FAQs are in development to provide more nuanced advice for different sectors. The **building, maintenance or construction services industry** [FAQs](#) are now available at the Department of Health website.

All FAQs are under constant review and should be referred to regularly for the most up to date information.

All mandatory vaccination [Directions](#) (and supporting documents) are published on the WA.gov.au website and [FAQs](#) are published on Department of Health website.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Boosters recommended from 5 months

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [recommends](#) a COVID-19 booster vaccination for anyone aged 18 and older who completed their primary course of COVID-19 vaccination 5 or more months ago, given the likelihood of ongoing transmission of both Omicron and Delta variants. The receipt of a booster dose is particularly important for people with increased exposure risk (e.g. occupational risk or outbreak areas) or who have risk factors for severe disease. A third (primary) dose of COVID-19 vaccine is also recommended for anyone with immunocompromising conditions, a minimum of two months after their second dose.

Moderna approved as booster dose

ATAGI have [recommended](#) that Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine can be used as a COVID-19 booster vaccine in people aged 18 years and older who have received their second dose 5 or more months ago. This follows the provisional [approval](#) of Moderna as a booster by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The dosage for use as a booster dose is 50µg (0.25mL), i.e. half of the recommended dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine used for the primary course. Severely immunocompromised people who are receiving a third primary dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should receive a 100µg dose. A booster dose is not yet recommended for this cohort.

Pfizer for 5-11 year olds in early January 2022

Following the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) provisional [approval](#) of the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine for use in 5 to 11 year-olds, on 10 December 2021 ATAGI released [recommendations](#) on the vaccine's use in children aged 5 to 11 years. Clinical trials have demonstrated the vaccine to be more than 90 per cent effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed symptomatic COVID-19 from seven days after receiving the second dose. The vaccine was demonstrated to be well tolerated, with most adverse events being mild and transient. The vaccine approved by the TGA is the same safe and effective vaccine used for other age cohorts, however is one-third the dose approved for those aged 12 and over. The Australian Department of Health

[announced](#) that this phase of the COVID-19 vaccination program for 5 to 11 year-olds would be rolled out from 10 January 2022.

Summer Vax Drive

The [Summer Vax Drive](#) was [announced](#) on the 24 November 2021 has been extended until 19 December 2021. This is a targeted initiative to help Western Australia reach its 90 per cent vaccination target ahead of the safe transition of Western Australia and includes pop-up vaccination clinics at the women's and men's Big Bash League (BBL) cricket matches at Optus Stadium during November and December. The COVID-19 Vaccine Community Funding Program has been established to facilitate the uptake of vaccinations in priority groups, including: Aboriginal communities, those living with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, homeless and people sleeping rough, those suffering mental health problems and those who may be at greater risk of COVID-19.

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](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up 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

[Approval for Flight Crew Pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 14\)](#)

[Approval for Transport Freight and Logistics Drivers Pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 14\)](#)

[Approval for Travellers Under a Specified Arrangement Pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 14\)](#)

[Approval Under Paragraph 7\(D\) of the Regulated Entry of Higher Risk Vessels Into Western Australia Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 52\)](#)

[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 14\)](#)

[Santos Bayu-Undan Workers Directions](#)
[Critical Government Regulator \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)
[Chief Health Officer Approval to Request COVID-19 Testing on Persons Who Are Required to Provide Evidence of a Negative COVID-19 Test to Meet the Entry Requirements of Other States or Territories](#)
[Approval for Flight Crew pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 13\)](#)
[Approval for Transport Freight and Logistics Drivers pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 13\)](#)
[Approval for Travellers under a Specified Arrangement pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 13\)](#)
[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 13\)](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 51\)](#)
[Designation of an essential, community or human service and supply under Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions \(No 3\)](#)
[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 8\)](#)
[Kuri Bay Worker Directions](#)
[Critical Businesses Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)
[DFES Air Tanker \(Busselton\) Crew Directions](#)
[Port Worker and Exposed Port Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)
[Remote Aboriginal Community Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)
[Designation by the Chief Health Officer under Regulated Entry of Higher Risk Vessels into Western Australia Directions](#)
[Authorisation to Give Written Approval Under Paragraph 6A of the Controlled Border Western Australia Direction](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 50\)](#)
[Building and Construction Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)
[COVID Safe \(Phase 5\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
[Education Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No. 3\)](#)
[Public and Commercial Transport Workers \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for State Quarantine Facilities Version 11](#)
[Clinician Alert #74](#)
[Clinician Alert #73](#)
[Clinician Alert #72](#)
[Mandatory Vaccination – Building and Construction Industry Workers FAQs \(New\)](#)
[COVID-19 Detected on a Vessel - Advice for Port Workers Version 2](#)
[Airports – Exposed Maritime Crew Members Version 2](#)
[Process of Approval for Small Cruise Ships to Sail in WA Waters Version 3](#)
[Process to Transition the Status of a Vessel from Exposed to Unexposed in WA Version 3](#)
[Exposed On-board Workers Version 2](#)
[Rig or Platform Crew Members Updated 9 December 2021](#)
[Transport of Exposed Maritime Workers Version 2](#)
[Aboriginal Sector Communications Update #32](#)
[Clinician Alert #71](#)
[Quarantine After Being Tested: High-Risk and Low-Risk Tested Persons Version 2](#)
[Mandatory Vaccination – Meat Industry Workers FAQs Version 3](#)

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 9 December 2021. Refer to [Clinician Alert #73](#) for key updates.

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 statement:

- [7 December](#) – Statement on national principles for end-to-end best practice managed quarantine arrangements for international travellers

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
- [Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific FAQs](#)

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: **21 December 2021**.

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

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