



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #34

Tuesday 6 September 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by **Incident Controller, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones**

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** for Western Australia (WA) to date:
 - **1,135,708** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,129,247** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **4,518,162** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status and Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

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

- [Updated isolation, close contact and public health and social measures requirements – 2 September 2022](#)

Continue to be COVID-safe

Public health social measures (PHSMs), COVID-19 testing pathways and testing and isolation requirements are changing, but everyone is still encouraged to remain vigilant as WA continues the transition to 'Living with COVID'.

PHSMs that are recommended to protect from COVID-19 and other illnesses include:

- performing hand hygiene
- practising physical distancing
- wearing a mask in crowded indoor settings, and when visiting those most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 illness
- staying up-to-date with vaccination doses
- staying home when you're unwell
- taking a COVID-19 test if symptoms develop.

Changes to case and close contact requirements

The requirements for COVID-19 cases and close contacts are changing.

From Friday 9 September 2022 the isolation period for COVID-19 cases and close contacts will reduce from 7 to 5 days (5 x 24 hours), provided they have no symptoms on Day 5. People with COVID-19 symptoms at Day 5 should remain at home until their acute symptoms resolve.

Staff, elective patients and visitors will not be permitted to enter key high-risk facilities including hospitals, healthcare services, residential aged care and disability support accommodation facilities

for 7 days from COVID-19 diagnosis, to protect those more vulnerable to severe illness. Mask use is recommended when indoors for 7 days after the time of the positive test.

Additional information will become available when the Directions are published on the WA Government [website](#). Guidance will be provided to clinicians and the [HealthyWA](#) and [Department of Health](#) websites will be updated. Continue to check these resources for the most up-to-date information.

The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment eligibility will change to reflect the new isolation period. Further information is available at the Services Australia [website](#).

COVID-19 testing changes

[COVID-19 testing](#) is transitioning in response to low case numbers, reduced demand for PCR testing and the increased availability of rapid antigen tests (RATs) across Australia.

Public COVID Clinics in metropolitan Perth now operate from 8am – 4pm, 7 days a week. No GP referral is required. These Public COVID Clinics are at Royal Perth Hospital, Joondalup Hospital, Rockingham Hospital and the PathWest Murdoch drive-through. Opening arrangements in regional areas have not changed.

From 1 October 2022, a referral from a GP or other medical practitioner will be required to access PCR testing from private pathology providers. This is in line with existing access pathways to testing for other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza. Public COVID Clinics will continue to offer PCR testing without a referral for people who have COVID-like symptoms and asymptomatic close contacts.

Information about the COVID-19 testing transition is available at the HealthyWA [website](#).

Masks

The requirement to wear a face mask on all domestic aircraft and public transport, as well as rideshare services and taxis, will be removed from Friday 9 September 2022. Masks are strongly encouraged when physical distancing isn't possible, including on public transport and when indoors.

Masks continue to have an important role in high-risk settings, such as healthcare settings, hospitals, and correctional, residential aged care and disability services facilities, to protect those more vulnerable to severe illness.

The Directions are published on the WA Government [website](#) once they're available.

COVID-19 vaccination program

COVID-19 vaccinations now available for some children under 5 years

Vaccinations for eligible children began on Monday 5 September 2022 following the recent Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommendation for paediatric Moderna COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 6 months to under 5 years with the following conditions:

- the severely immunocompromised
- those with a disability
- those with complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19.

A list of relevant medical conditions is available on the Australian Government's [website](#). Children aged 6 months to under 5 years who are not in the above risk categories are not currently recommended for COVID-19 vaccination.

The paediatric Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is available at the Stan Perron Immunisation Centre at Perth Children's Hospital or through several GPs and Aboriginal Medical Services across WA. Details are available through the [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Appointments at Perth Children's Hospital can be booked through [VaccinateWA](#), or by calling 13 COVID (13 268 43).

People who do not live near Perth Children's Hospital or a participating GP clinic can complete the Further Assistance Required [online form](#), email COVID.immunisation@health.wa.gov.au, or ring 13 COVID (13 268 43) and a clinic nurse will be in contact to make alternative arrangements.

Novavax vaccine for adolescents aged 12 to 17 years

The Australian Government has accepted [advice](#) from ATAGI that adolescents aged 12 to 17 years can receive the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for their primary course of COVID-19 vaccination.

Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax can now be used for the primary course of COVID-19 vaccination in this age group.

From 5 September 2022, adolescents aged 12 to 17 years can book in to receive Novavax COVID-19 vaccination. The recommended primary course dosing schedule for Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is 2 doses, 8 weeks apart.

Novavax is not registered by the TGA for use as a booster dose in adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, however ATAGI have advised that Novavax can be used as a booster in this age group if no other COVID-19 vaccine brand is suitable for that person.

Vaccine information and resources

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

- Australian Government – [COVID-19 booster vaccine advice](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccination clinical considerations](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccine translated information](#)
- WA Department of Health – [COVID-19 information](#) for health professionals and GPs
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. [New Directions](#) can be found on the [WA Government website](#).

- [Mental Health Infection Control Directions \(No 4\) \(Revocation\) Directions](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions \(No 13\)](#)
- [Prohibition on the use of Point of Care Serology Test Directions \(No2\) \(Revocation\) Directions](#)

Updated factsheets

- [I have COVID – What should I do? – Update August 2022](#)
- [Universal Prevention Activities Version 1](#)
- [Supporting information for the management of Acute Respiratory Infection \(including COVID-19 and Influenza\) in RACFs Version 2](#)
- [COVID-19 in Pregnancy Version 1.2](#)
- [COVID-19 and Breastfeeding Version 2.1](#)
- [Information for COVID-19 Women in Labour Version 2.2](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Maternity Services Version 5.1](#)
- [Infection prevention and control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities Version 15](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Management of Diabetes and Hyperglycaemia Version 1.2](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Hospital Discharge and Interhospital Transfer Version 6](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

Testing locations

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

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 22 July 2022.

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- Mandatory vaccination [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Proof of vaccination [Directions, information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees
- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

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: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice The Bulletin is issued fortnightly. Next issue: **21 September 2022**.

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

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