



WA Health COVID-19 Bulletin #2

Wednesday 23 November 2022 17:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by Deputy Chief Health Officer – Incident Management
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **WA:** [Weekly statements](#) and [weekly surveillance report](#)
- **National:** [Current national status](#) and Australia's [vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** WHO [Situation Reports](#) and [dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

WA COVID Care at Home

Western Australia's COVID-19 home monitoring program [WA COVID Care at Home](#) will end on 31 December 2022, with the last intake of patients on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

WA Health established WA COVID Care at Home on 31 January 2022 to provide home monitoring care for COVID-positive patients considered at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 due to medical and social factors and reduce unnecessary hospital presentations.

WA Health strongly encourages people at [greater risk](#) of severe illness from COVID-19 to plan ahead and consult their GP or specialist for advice on their eligibility for COVID-19 prescription treatments (antiviral medications) and development of a care plan to follow if they get COVID-19.

Be COVID-safe

As summer and the holiday period gets underway, the community is recommended to take precautions to minimise the spread of COVID-19 to protect themselves and those at greater risk of [severe illness](#).

For example:

- stay home if unwell and get [tested](#) if COVID-like symptoms develop
- register positive RAT results at [HealthyWA](#)
- stay up to date with [vaccinations](#)
- wear a [mask](#) if physical distancing isn't possible
- consider entertaining in outdoor spaces
- if indoors, open external windows and doors.

Learn more at the 'Staying safe' page of the [HealthyWA](#) website.

Infection prevention guidelines for businesses

To protect against COVID-19, businesses may wish to adapt WA Health's [updated COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities](#) guidelines for their own needs as appropriate.

Visit the Department of Health website for up to date COVID-19 information for [employers](#), [industry](#) and local government, and [health professionals](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine available December

The Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine is expected to be available at participating immunisation providers from 12 December 2022.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [advised](#) that the Pfizer bivalent vaccine can be used for any recommended booster dose for those aged 18 years or older. ATAGI does not prefer bivalent mRNA vaccines over any other vaccines approved for use as boosters.

ATAGI has made no changes to the number of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses recommended. See the [HealthyWA](#) 'COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs' for more information.

To find a participating provider, search for the Pfizer Bivalent vaccine in the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#), from mid-December.

Paediatric Pfizer vaccine for eligible young children

From January 2023, the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be available in Australia for eligible young children.

This vaccine is only [recommended](#) for children aged 6 months to 4 years with severe immunocompromise, disability and those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination is not currently recommended for children aged 6 months to 4 years who are not in the specified risk categories for severe COVID-19. These children have a very low likelihood of severe illness from COVID-19.

Parents/carers are recommended to consult with their doctor or health care provider to confirm if their child is eligible.

This vaccine will be available in addition to the Moderna vaccine. There is no preference for either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in high-risk children aged 6 months to 4 years.

Details on how to book the Paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be released when more information on the program is available.

State-run vaccination clinic update

All metropolitan state-run vaccination clinics are now closed. Pop-up clinics will continue until mid-December for at-risk priority groups.

Vaccines are still available from some regional state-run clinics, and participating GPs and pharmacies. Visit the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) for provider locations and booking details.

Resources

Refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites and the [WA Government](#) website regularly for the most up-to-date COVID-19 information.

Recently updated guidelines and factsheets

- [Universal prevention activities](#)
- [STOP – No entry beyond this point](#) poster
- [STOP – Authorised access only](#) poster

Recently updated webpages

- Department of Health – [COVID-19 information for health professionals](#)
- HealthyWA – [WA COVID Care at Home](#)

Additional resources

- Department of Health – [Media releases](#) and [news](#)
- Department of Health – [Chief Health Officer](#) advice
- Department of Health – [YouTube](#) channel
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) page, including [FAQs](#)
- WA Government – [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses
- Australian Government – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)
- Australian Government – [Recommended COVID-19 doses infographic](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccination clinical considerations](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccine translated information](#)
- Aboriginal Health Council of WA – [COVID-19 Aboriginal vaccination resources](#)
- World Health Organization (WHO) – [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- PathWest pathology results: 13 7284 (13 PATH - Not for GP referred or private pathology tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)

Testing

The Joondalup Hospital COVID Clinic has closed. Refer to [HealthyWA](#) for testing information.

General population [testing criteria](#) is available at the Department of Health website.

The [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #41](#) came into effect from 14 October 2022.

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 14 October 2022.

Legislation

Visit the State of Emergency [Declarations](#) page of the WA Government website for legislation updates.

The Direction revocations relating to the cessation of the State of Emergency are available on the WA Government [website](#).

Last updated 23 November 2022

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