



PHEOC BULLETIN #5

Tuesday 28 April 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of 28 April 2020, there are **550** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Western Australia (WA).
- To date **35,155** people who have been tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

Latest updates

Updated gathering restrictions

Effective Monday 27 April 2020, indoor and outdoor gatherings for up to 10 people are allowed including weddings, outdoor personal training, and open house or display village inspections. Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#).

Visitors to residential aged care facilities

A person must not enter, or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility in WA if a person has not had an up to date vaccination against influenza. There are exemptions for emergency workers and persons from a public authority. Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#).

Point of Care (POC) serology testing

Point of Care (POC) serology testing as an acute illness diagnostic tool for COVID-19, is [prohibited under the Public Health Act 2016 \(external site\)](#).

Elective surgery to resume in Western Australia

Western Australian public and private hospitals will resume a quarter of their usual elective surgery activity from Tuesday 28 April. Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#).

Testing Criteria

Primary care providers are now able to **request COVID-19 testing** in people displaying **mild / moderate** symptoms **who meet the testing criteria**.

Testing should **not be performed for 'clearance'**, fit for work purposes or return to work purposes (except when ordered or approved by Public Health, e.g. COVID cases who are healthcare workers or other limited situations).

The patient must be referred for the specimen to be collected at either a COVID Clinic or a Chief Health Officer (CHO) approved private pathology COVID collection centre, or Commonwealth endorsed GP respiratory clinic. WA Testing criteria must be followed by persons requesting or conducting testing for COVID-19 (see [TESTING](#))

As of 9 April 2020, COVID-19 testing criteria have been expanded:

General population

Any person presenting with a 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) can be considered for testing, where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely.

High-risk settings

Anyone working within a high-risk setting who presents with **EITHER** a fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ **OR** an acute respiratory infection will be tested. This includes healthcare workers, aged care and disability workers, and Western Australian Police Officers.

Testing will also be arranged for anyone from the following high-risk settings where two or more people are experiencing **EITHER** a fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ **OR** an acute respiratory infection:

- aged and residential care
 - rural and remote Aboriginal communities
 - detention centres
 - correctional facilities
 - boarding schools
 - military barracks or equivalent
 - geographically localised areas with increased risk of community transmission
 - cruise ship passengers or returned travellers (international and domestic).
- For further guidance on testing, please see [Clinician Alerts](#)
 - For testing locations see [COVID-19 CLINICS](#)

Summary of key information

- **Series of National Guidelines [SoNGs](#) The SoNG was last updated on 24 April 2020, with a revised COVID-19 suspect case definition, and addition of an enhanced testing recommendation.**
- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- COVID-19 State of Emergency Declarations are now in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All declarations are available on the [Department of Premier and Cabinet website](#).
- COVID-19 Community Advice is available on the [Department of Premier and Cabinet website](#) summarising the COVID-19 related Directions that are in place in WA.
- On 1 April, under the *WA Public Health Act 2016*, the Chief Health Officer issued a Direction to prohibit a person from using a point-of-care (POC) serological (blood) test (including an assay or device) as a diagnostic tool for acute illness with COVID-19. [Point of care serology testing Direction](#)

- Travel between regions in Western Australia was restricted from midnight 31 March 2020. Regional boundaries mirror those of the state's Regional Development Commissions. Further details can be found on the [Department of Premier and Cabinet website](#).

More information

- Advice for Aged Care Facilities [COVID-19 Advice for Aged Care Facilities](#)
- [Prohibited activities and venues](#)
- Aboriginal Communities
 - [COVID-19 Information for Aboriginal Communities](#)
 - [Funerals and Sorry Business](#)
 - [Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities](#)
- [WA COVID-19 Press Conferences](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Rolling Updates](#)
- Various resources for employers, schools and higher education, health, aged care, childcare, transport, travel and hotel sectors are available at the following websites:
 - WA Department of Health
 - HealthyWA
 - Australian Government Health Department
 - COVID-19 MythBusters [\(WHO\)](#)
 - Advice for the public [\(WHO\)](#)

Who to contact for more information

- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](#)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: [131 444](#) - to report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice – The next PHEOC Bulletin will be issued on Friday 1 May 2020.

Last updated 28 April 2020

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

© Department of Health 2020