



PHEOC BULLETIN #21

Wednesday 5 August 2020 11:00 hours

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

COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **5 August 2020**, there have been **642** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **28 historical cases**. **626** people have recovered.
- To date **263,076** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current national status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

Changes to reporting

WA is changing the way cases of COVID-19 are reported, bringing WA reporting closer into line with other Australian jurisdictions. As of 1 August 2020, daily reporting will include only confirmed cases diagnosed by nose and throat swabs.

Historical cases (diagnosed through a blood test and indicative of infection in the past) are no longer infectious and present no risk to the community. Historical cases will be removed from the State total, meaning the total case count will reduce. The Department will continue to publish historic cases on its website. See media statement regarding changes to data reporting [HERE](#)

Living with COVID

Hotel and accommodation providers (with guests in isolation)

People who are required to comply with isolation protocols in hotels and other accommodation should be provided with support and care during this time. All guests who are required to isolate are to be managed in the same respectful and supportive manner, and the status of all guests **MUST** remain confidential.

- If hotel and accommodation management require support to review and implement best practice infection prevention measures, please contact the Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) team at pheoc@health.wa.gov.au
- For the full suite of protocols and recommendations, please see [Hotel/accommodation fact sheet](#)

Aged care [FAQs](#)

There are any mandatory restrictions on visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) in WA. These are specified in the [Visitors to aged care facilities directions \(NO 3\)](#)

WA Premier face mask message

At a press conference on Monday 27 July, WA Premier Hon Mark McGowan warned that West Australians would be told to wear face masks if WA experiences a Victoria-style outbreak of COVID-19.

The Premier said experience around the world showed wearing masks where the virus was present was “necessary”. He confirmed that the State Government had a “huge” stockpile of masks, face shields and smocks, but was looking to procure and manufacture more for the public.

Phase 5 date remains on schedule

The tentative date for Phase 5 remains on schedule for Saturday, 15 August. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

Victoria and NSW update

Given the serious situation in Victoria and New South Wales, Western Australia’s border with the east coast has been further tightened. See [Travel to WA](#)

No one will be allowed into Western Australia if they have been in Victoria or New South Wales in the previous 14 days, unless they meet new exemption requirements. Please see the [FAQs](#) for the border rules that apply to Victoria and NSW.

VICTORIA – Victoria declared a State of Disaster as at 6.00pm 2 August. See [Premier's Statement](#) for further details.

As at 4 August 2020, Victoria has reported 12,335 cases of COVID-19, with 398 being reported from the previous day. Of these cases, 2,159 may indicate community transmission. 147 people have now died in Victoria from coronavirus. Victoria currently has 6,706 active cases and 5,283 people have recovered. Media release with further details can be viewed [HERE](#).

WA, along with other states and jurisdictions, continues to support Victoria by providing expert advice and remote contact tracing. Currently, the WA Victorian Assistance Team is contact tracing up to 40 cases a day, conducting detailed new case interviews and providing advice on isolation requirements. In addition, any close contacts that are identified are called and given information on quarantine and welfare support. Each case will often have many close contacts that require follow up.

NSW – As at 4 August 2020, NSW has reported 3,620 cases of COVID-19, with 12 being reported from the previous day. Of these cases, 1,499 may indicate community transmission. NSW has recorded 52 deaths. See further NSW information [HERE](#).

Community

DETECT schools’ program

The school research project forms part of the [DETECT program](#). View the complete list of participating schools [here](#).

To date 6,870 tests have been performed on school staff and students with zero positive cases. 71% of the tests have been conducted in the metro area with the median age being 13 years old. 14% of all tests have been conducted with people aged ≥ 18.

Portable isolation anterooms

The McGowan Government has bolstered Western Australia's emergency preparedness for COVID-19 with 10 portable isolation anterooms. Six of the anterooms will be deployed to keep regional and remote Western Australians safe from the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

A further four portable anterooms will be held in a central location for deployment to WA metropolitan hospitals, if necessary. The Safespear portable anterooms can convert any room into a negative pressure or positive pressure isolation room to keep infected patients in a safe, separate space, as well as protecting vulnerable patients from the threat of infectious diseases. Safespear is a local Western Australian, Aboriginal-owned business which is engaging with local manufacturers to create the anterooms.

The anterooms fit to an existing doorway and form an airlock entrance with the accompanying ventilation systems creating negative or positive pressure to prevent infectious airborne or droplet transmission. The portable anterooms will be deployed to WA Country Health Service locations including: Derby in the Kimberley; Carnarvon and Geraldton in the Midwest health region; Esperance in the Goldfields; Katanning in the Great Southern; and Collie in the South-West. Given the portable nature of this specialised equipment, the anterooms can be transported quickly to other sites if required.

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](#) and the [Directions FAQs](#)

Quarantine (Closing The Border) Amendment Directions (No 3) (see [HERE](#))

Aged Care Facilities – Changes have been made effective 8 July 2020 (see [HERE](#))

Presentation for Testing Directions (3) have been introduced as at 19 July 2020 (see [HERE](#))

Exempt Traveller Approval (Indian Ocean Territories) (see [HERE](#))

Quarantine and Isolation (Undiagnosed) Amendment (see [HERE](#))

Testing

General population testing criteria (see [HERE](#))

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

This is especially important for people with any of the following epidemiological criteria:

- anyone who lives or works in a high-risk setting with direct patient contact (e.g. healthcare, aged care or residential care)
- contacts of a confirmed or probable case
- people returning from outside WA in the last 14 days or who have lived/ travelled through an area with elevated risk of community transmission
- where clinical and public health have determined a hospitalised patient with non-specific signs of infection is at increased risk of COVID

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [Healthy WA](#).

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 31 July 2020. (see [HERE](#))

Business and industry

See latest updates about how the Western Australian Government is supporting business and industry economic recovery through COVID-19 [HERE](#).

Resources for more information

- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [HealthyWA](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)

Who to contact for 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 or complete the [exemption application form](#)
- 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 PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. The next issue will be **Tuesday 11 August 2020**.

Last updated 5 August 2020

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

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