



## PHEOC BULLETIN #50

**Thursday 25 February 2021 14:00 Hours**

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

### COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **Thursday 25 February**, there have been **913** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **54** historical cases. **901** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **860,784** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

### Living with COVID

#### Return to pre-lockdown life

The Perth and Peel restrictions ended as planned at 12.01am, Sunday, 14 February.

From this date masks are no longer required to be worn either inside or outside (unless at an airport, travelling on an aircraft, or transporting a person subject to a quarantine direction), there are no travel restrictions in WA, except for remote Aboriginal communities, and mandatory contact registration will continue, as was planned prior to the lockdown.

Western Australia's controlled interstate border, and the capacity restrictions which were in place prior to the snap five-day lockdown, are in place pending ongoing health advice. As was the case before the lockdown, public or private events involving more than 500 patrons that require local government authority approval will need an approved COVID Event Plan as part of that process.

Western Australians should continue to practise physical distancing where possible, always maintain good personal hygiene, and get tested when unwell.

#### New South Wales travellers

New South Wales moved from 'low risk' to 'very low risk' at 12.01am, on Tuesday, 16 February.

Under the 'very low risk' category, safe travel is permitted into WA subject to the following updated conditions:

- completion of a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
- all Perth Airport arrivals to undergo a health screening and temperature test;
- travellers to be prepared to take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing also available); and
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked.

## Victorian travellers

Victoria moved from the 'medium risk' to the 'low risk' category at 12.01am Saturday, February 20.

Under the 'low risk' category, travel is permitted into WA, subject to the following strict conditions:

- complete a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premise;
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 11;
- all Perth Airport arrivals to undergo a health screening and temperature test on arrival;
- be prepared to take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing available for all airport arrivals); and
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked before proceeding to self-quarantine premise.

## State-by-state risk rating

All other jurisdictions except Victoria are considered 'very low risk' and are permitted to enter WA without COVID-19 testing or self-quarantine requirements.

They are still, however, required to complete a G2G PASS declaration and undergo a health screening upon arrival into WA.

The WA Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor and review border controls to determine if any further adjustments can be made in the future.

For more information, see the WA Government's controlled interstate border [webpage](#).

## Events

The Public Events team within the Department of Health is undertaking a review of events in WA with recommendations to be provided to the Chief Health Officer for decision/approval to inform the COVID Event Guidelines and Limit the Spread Directions.

## SafeWA

As there is a mutual responsibility for contact registers between the business or venue and the individual, it is vital that all Western Australians ensure they are registering their contact details where contact registers are mandatory, to assist contact tracing if it is required.

See the WA Government's [website](#) for more information.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

Monday, 22 February marked a major milestone for WA Health, with the first doses of the Pfizer vaccine being administered to at-risk frontline workers. A hotel quarantine nurse was the first person in WA to get the vaccine. The Australian Government also commenced their COVID-19 vaccination program, with a focus on vaccinating residents and staff of aged care and disability services nationally and delivering on the plan to offer around 60,000 Pfizer vaccines to priority populations.

The vaccine rollout is based on the Australian Government's national plan, prioritising people whose workplaces put them at greatest risk of exposure to COVID-19, of passing it on, and those deemed most at risk of becoming seriously ill from the disease. It is anticipated that members of the public will have access to vaccination through GPs, respiratory clinics and Aboriginal Health Services from the middle of the year. To see the full list of eligible populations and when they can expect to receive the vaccine, please visit our trusted sources below.

- **HealthyWA** - COVID-19 [Vaccine](#) (for consumers) including general FAQs and Phase 1a FAQs for quarantine and border workers

- **WA Health** - COVID-19 [Vaccination Program](#) (for health professionals) including links for COVID-19 vaccination training for health providers and how to [subscribe](#) to the WA COVID-19 Vaccine Update.

The Australian Government COVID-19 vaccines [hub](#) has been significantly updated to include the latest news and information about the development, approval process and rollout plans for the COVID-19 vaccines. Some highlights include the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [provisional approval](#) of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine [16/02/2021] and information about COVID-19 vaccines translated into [multiple languages](#).

## 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:

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 16\)](#)

[Victorian Outbreak Response \(No 2\) Revocation Directions](#)

Amended Directions:

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amended Directions \(No 15\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amended Directions \(No 14\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amended Directions \(No 13\)](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Clinical alert #46 – all clinicians](#)

[Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in WA #26](#)

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

### 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 29 January 2021.

## 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. The latest statement from AHPPC statement is:

- [3 February 2021](#) – Updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools

## Business and industry

### Resources for more information

- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health; 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

## 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-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

**Next advice** - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 2 March 2021**.

Last updated **25 February 2021**

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

© Department of Health 2021