



Aboriginal Sector Communication Update

Thursday 14 May 2020 14:00 Hours

This regular communication update is to keep health professionals abreast of the state-wide resources that have been developed by the Department of Health for the Aboriginal community and health professionals for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **14 May 2020**, there are **554** confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **538** people have recovered.
- To date **61,267** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

National COVID-19 Aboriginal epidemiological profile

- Total of 55 cases (0.8%) of all Australia positive cases (6,784) notified in the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) were Aboriginal people.
- 11% (six persons) of Aboriginal people with COVID-19 were admitted into hospitals, compared to 13% (850 persons) for all positive cases.
- Among Aboriginal positive cases: 67% (37 persons) were from 'major cities', 22% (12 persons) were from 'inner regional area' and 11% (six persons) were from 'outer regional area'. To date there has been no Aboriginal positive cases and no deaths reported in the remote and very remote areas.
- 47% of Aboriginal positive cases acquired their infection overseas, 46% were infected domestically and only 7% are under investigation.
- The completeness of Aboriginal identification fields in the NNDSS dataset is around 95%, with 5% of cases recorded as 'not stated' or unknown status.
- The median age of Aboriginal positive cases was 34 years compared to 48 years for all Australian positive cases.

Latest Updates

COVIDSafe app



The Australian Government's new voluntary COVIDSafe app is an important public health initiative. It speeds up contacting people exposed to COVID-19. For further information and to get the app see [COVIDSafe app](#).

New WA Coronavirus information helpline 13 COVID (132 6843)

When developing community resources please include the Western Australian Coronavirus information helpline number as stated above.

Flu Vaccination Campaign

It is more important than ever to be vaccinated this year - especially if the influenza season overlaps with more **COVID-19** cases. Further information can be found at [Healthy WA](#).

Beating the Bugs, Colds and Virus video

This video is appropriate for Social Media platforms, Tonic Video, waiting room T.V's or any platform for the public to view this 3 minute video.

A suggestion for clinics to download the video to GP's desktops as a conversation starter with patients about the importance of vaccination.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhUSA7Fhe6M&feature=youtu.be>

Resources in development or review

In development

- Stamping out Stigma in our Community
- Staying strong and health for frontline workers
- Poster – Visit your doctor (in development)

Under review

- Health professionals - Sorry Business and Funeral Guide will be updated to reflect WA restriction changes.

Resources for more information

*Red denotes a new or updated resource

- [WA Department of Health – Aboriginal Sector](#)
 - Aboriginal ethical position statement
 - **Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses**
 - Checklist for remote clinics in Aboriginal communities (WACHS)
 - Guide for Funeral and Sorry Business
 - Health guidance for remote Aboriginal communities of Western Australia
 - How to identify Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients
 - **A Guide for Aboriginal Health Staff – Staying Mentally Strong and Healthy**
 - Keeping communities safe from Coronavirus: remote area travel restrictions (infographic)
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities
 - Restrictions to access the Kimberley and remote Aboriginal communities COVID-19 resource toolkit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals
- [HealthyWA - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for Aboriginal People](#)
 - **TV commercial – Good hygiene with Mary G**
 - **TV commercial – Social distancing with Mary G**
 - **Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses**
 - Information flyer for Aboriginal people – what you need to know
 - **Stamping out Stigma in our community (in development)**
 - **Poster – Visit your doctor (in development)**
 - Poster – Good hygiene

- Poster – Social distancing
- Poster – Symptoms and what to do if unwell
- Poster – Stay strong when you are sick
- Radio – Protect yourself and other with good hygiene

Other resources for more information

- [Aboriginal Health Council of WA \(AHCWA\)](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department – Aboriginal Resources](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)

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.

Last updated **14 May 2020**

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

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