



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Aboriginal sector communication update #18

Friday 30 April 2021 15:00 Hours

COVID-19 is a continually changing situation, please check the latest information and updates to find the most current public health advice, please go to www.wa.gov.au/COVID-19 and healthy.wa.gov.au/COVID-19

This regular statewide communication update is to keep health professionals abreast of the state-wide public health messages and resources that have been developed by Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) for the Aboriginal community and health professionals for COVID-19.

COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **30 April 2021**, there are **999** confirmed cases, **79** historical cases and **28** active cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **962** people have recovered from COVID-19 in WA. There have been **9** deaths from COVID-19 in WA.
- To date **1,067,992** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](https://redcap.link/68q5xwgs)<https://redcap.link/68q5xwgs>
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

National COVID-19 Aboriginal epidemiological profile

Updates on COVID-19 among Aboriginal Australians, key insights **#16**, data as of **28 March 2021**:

- **0.51% (150 cases)** of all COVID-19 positive (confirmed) cases (**29,192**) notified in the Australian *National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System* (NNDSS) were recorded as Aboriginal people – (**no change** in the total number of the accumulative cases since the last update).
- Of the total **150** Aboriginal COVID-19 positive cases, **75% (113 persons)** acquired their infection locally, while **23% (34 persons)** acquired their infections overseas, and **1% (2 person)** acquired their infections from interstate and **1% (1 person)** had an unknown source of infection or is under investigated.
- Of the total **113** Aboriginal persons who acquired their infections locally, **81% (91 persons)** acquired the infection in a major city, **13% (15 persons)** acquired the infection in an inner regional area, **5% (6 persons)** acquired the infection in an outer regional area, and **1% (1 persons)** acquired the infection in a remote area.
- Of the **34** Aboriginal people who acquired the infection overseas (including few cases from WA), **41% (14 persons)** were linked to cruise ships.
- Between July to December 2020, there were no new overseas-acquired cases notified in the NNDSS, while no new locally-acquired cases recorded in the NNDSS between September and October 2020.
- **11% (16 cases)** of Aboriginal cases required hospital admission, while **89% (134 cases)** required quarantine/isolation. **No deaths** were recorded among Aboriginal positive cases.
- The median age of Aboriginal positive cases is **31** years; compared to **37** years for non-Aboriginal people.

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), as at **16 April 2021** there are around **272** SARS-CoV2 or COVID-19 candidate vaccines (an increase of **8** candidate vaccines from the last update) being developed across the world, with total of **88** candidate vaccines (an increase of **6** candidates from the last update) are already progressed into Phase 1, 2, 3 or 4 of clinical trials. (Please see the attachment for more details).

Latest updates

Perth and Peel restrictions ease further

Perth and Peel region restrictions will be further eased from 12:01am Saturday, 1 May till 12:01am Saturday, 8 May due to no community cases of COVID-19. More information about the further easing of restrictions can be found [here](#).

Weddings and funerals in the Perth and Peel regions: from 12:01am Saturday, 1 May till 12:01am Saturday, 8 May can proceed with up to 200 guests (excluding staff), providing there is at least 2 square metres of space available per person and masks must be worn. You will need to seek an exemption to increase the number of guests beyond 200. Please see [information](#) on exemptions for further advice. Important information on funeral services in the Perth region during the transition period is available [here](#).

Exemptions are only required for weddings and funerals occurring in the Perth and Peel region.

If anyone has visited one of the [locations](#) visited by a confirmed case they must get tested and self-isolate until they get a negative result. If anyone develops symptoms, even if they haven't been to one of these locations, they should get tested and must self-isolate until they receive a negative result. A [list](#) of testing sites and locations is available.

COVID-19 vaccination program

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has reinforced previous [recommendations](#) on the use of COVID-19 vaccines following a review of vaccine safety data and benefits.

The [Roll up for WA](#) COVID-19 vaccination campaign was launched this week by Premier Mark McGowan. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is one of the easiest ways to protect yourself and your community from getting sick from COVID-19. The campaign features real frontline workers and volunteers, including Ronda who is a Nyikina woman from the Kimberley region who shares why she got vaccinated against COVID-19. Read more of Ronda's story [here](#).

The campaign is aimed at getting as many West Australians vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible. From Monday, May 3, all Western Australians aged 50 years and over can book an appointment to receive their COVID-19 vaccine at a state-run metropolitan community vaccination clinic by calling 13COVID (**13 26843**).

In other news, as of the 28 April 2021, more than 2 million people have received their first COVID-19 Vaccine dose in Australia, including more than 28,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organization (NACCHO) leaders Pat Turner and Dr Dawn Casey both [received](#) their COVID-19 vaccination at a local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service earlier this month. Watch Aunty Evelyn get her COVID-19 vaccine [here](#) and [watch](#) Dr Mark Wenitong talk about getting the facts about the vaccine.

Priority COVID-19 health messages for Aboriginal people

Aboriginal health professionals and sector representatives are encouraged to promote and reinforce the following key messages to Aboriginal clients and community. Remember to:

- continue to physical distance where possible

- continue to practise good hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- stay at home if unwell and rest to stay strong
- if unwell with flu-like symptoms, get tested (make sure to self-isolate until you receive your test result)
- make sure your family gets the flu vaccine
- keep attending your regular health checks, especially for chronic illnesses
- download and use the free [SafeWA app](#) for your phone
- look after your mental health and social emotional wellbeing during this time.

Statewide Aboriginal resources

A suite of statewide Aboriginal tailored resources has been developed by the Department of Health WA for the community and health professionals, to promote awareness and provide up-to-date COVID-19 information that is culturally safe.

The aim of providing culturally-appropriate communications is to increase awareness and reduce anxiety and fear in our communities. We encourage Aboriginal health professionals to demonstrate leadership when working with the Aboriginal community by:

- Being “on message”
- Reinforcing and encouraging people to ‘stay vigilant’ and ‘don’t get complacent’
- Using positive strength-based messaging and language
- Ensure consistent, accurate and timely communication is provided, based on the official public health messages and health information issued by the Chief Health Officer from the Department of Health.

Refer to the Department of Health COVID-19 website for up-to-date information

Health services are welcome to tailor and localise Department of Health COVID-19 Aboriginal resources to meet community needs.

Please reference the Department of Health WA and contact PHEOC (pheoc@health.wa.gov.au) for further information.

New resources for the Aboriginal sector

- [New advice](#) on the AstraZeneca vaccine for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about COVID-19 vaccines can be found at the here.
- A [poster](#) that can be printed and displayed in clinics.
- A [video](#) featuring Dr Lucas de Toca summarising recommendations regarding AstraZeneca and the change in the vaccination rollout.
- Social media content including [two new social tiles](#) that ACCHOs can use in promoting the new information to their followers/patients, as well as some suggested captions to use alongside them.

All resources for the Aboriginal sector

[WA Department of Health – Aboriginal Sector](#) provides:

- **Aboriginal sector communication updates**
- **Aboriginal health professionals**
- **External stakeholder resources**
- **Remote and rural planning**

[HealthyWA - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for Aboriginal People](#) provides:

- **Vaccination**
- **Fact sheets**
- **Posters**
- **Video/radio messages**
- **Other resources available**
- **GPs and other support phone lists**

COVID-19 vaccine FAQs

- **National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)**
NACCHO have developed a booklet with information about COVID-19 vaccines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - [Information about COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- **Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS)**
KAMS have developed a list of FAQs to assist the community with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. [Frequently Asked Questions page](#)
- **Department of Health South Australian (SA Health)**
SA Health have developed an FAQ Sheet to assist Aboriginal communities during COVID-19 vaccine rollout. [COVID-19 vaccine FAQs](#)
- **Australian Government Department of Health**
The Federal Health Department has collated common questions and answers about COVID-19 vaccines suitable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [COVID-19 vaccine common questions](#)
- **Western Australian Department of Health (WA Health)**
WA Health has developed a FAQs page to answer questions and concerns of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout for the WA community. [COVID-19 FAQs](#)

Crisis hotlines

- **Brother to Brother 24 hour crisis hotline** (1800 435 799) for Aboriginal men to provide extra support during the pandemic.
- **1800RESPECT** (1800 737 732) for advice concerning sexual, domestic or family violence.
- **Women's Domestic Violence Helpline** (1800 007 339) for support and referral for women experiencing domestic violence (incl referrals to women's refuges)
- **Crisis Care** (1800 199 008) if you require emergency accommodation.
- **National COVID-19 Older Persons Support Line** (1800 171 866)
- **Kids Helpline** (1800 55 1800)
- **Beyond Blue** (1300 224 636)
- **Lifeline** (13 11 14)
- **Suicide Call Back Service** (1300 659 467)

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 **30 April 2021**

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

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