



Aboriginal Sector Communication Update

Wednesday 29 July 2020 14:00 Hours

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 **29 July** 2020, there are **661** confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **647** people have recovered.
- To date **246,178** 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

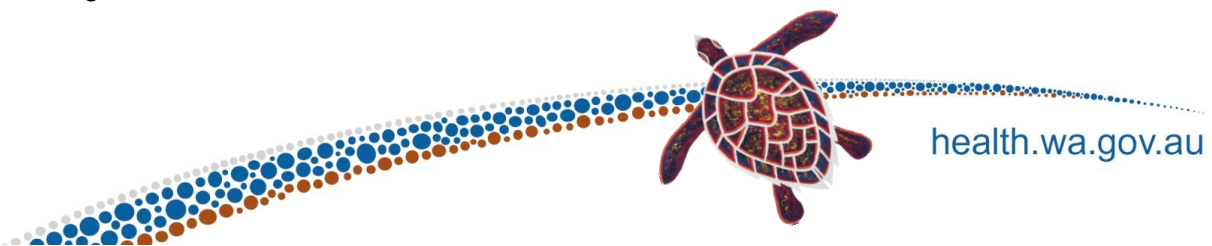
- **0.8% (69 cases)** of all COVID-19 positive (confirmed) cases (**8,566**) notified in the Australian *National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS)* were recorded as Aboriginal people – an increase of **9** cases from the previous update (**14 July**).
- There were no deaths reported among Aboriginal positive cases.
- **12%** Aboriginal positive cases (**8** persons) were admitted into hospitals, compared to **14%** (**1,200** persons) of all Australian positive cases.
- Of the **69** Aboriginal positive cases reported, **57%** (**39** persons) acquired their infection locally, while **43%** (**30** persons) acquired their infection internationally.
- Of the **39** Aboriginal persons who domestically acquired the infection, **70%** (**48** persons) acquired the infection in major cities, **10%** (**7** persons) in the outer regional area and **20%** (**14** persons) in inner regional areas.
- There were no infections acquired or reported in the remote and very remote areas.
- The median age of Aboriginal positive cases remained at **33** years compared to **44** years for all Australian positive cases.
- The completeness of Aboriginal identification fields in the NNDSS was **91%**, with **9%** of cases recorded as 'not stated' or 'unknown'.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) as at 21 July 2020, there are around 166 SARS-CoV2 or COVID-19 candidate vaccines (an increase of 6 candidates from the last update) being pursued at various stages by vaccine developers around the world.

Latest Updates

Phase 1 campaign refresh

The Department of Health is re-releasing phase 1 campaign messages to ensure that communities continue to engage in good hygiene practices and physical distancing with the easing of restrictions.

The Mary G TV commercials that focus on good hygiene and physical distancing are being re-run across Aboriginal media.



In addition, new radio advertisements are being played across Aboriginal radio stations that focus on good hygiene, what do to if you are unwell, and physical distancing.

Phase 5 of WA roadmap pushed back

Based on the latest health advice, Phase 5 of the roadmap has been delayed. The new tentative date for the start of Phase 5 is Saturday 15th August. A final decision on whether Phase 5 can proceed on this date will be decided closer to the time.

Phase 5 would see the removal of all restrictions, except WA's hard border and access to remote Aboriginal communities. It would also see the removal of WA's 2 square metre rule and the 50 per cent capacity for our major venues.

For more information on the WA Government's COVID-19 Roadmap click here – [WA roadmap](#)

Priority COVID-19 health messages

The Department of Health has recently commenced a new media campaign. 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 personal hygiene
- stay at home if unwell and rest to stay strong
- if unwell with flu-like symptoms get tested
- download the [COVIDSafe app](#)
- make sure your family get the flu vaccine
- keep attending your regular health checks, especially for chronic illnesses

Find out more at healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus

Update for anyone coming into WA who has travelled from, or through, New South Wales or Victoria

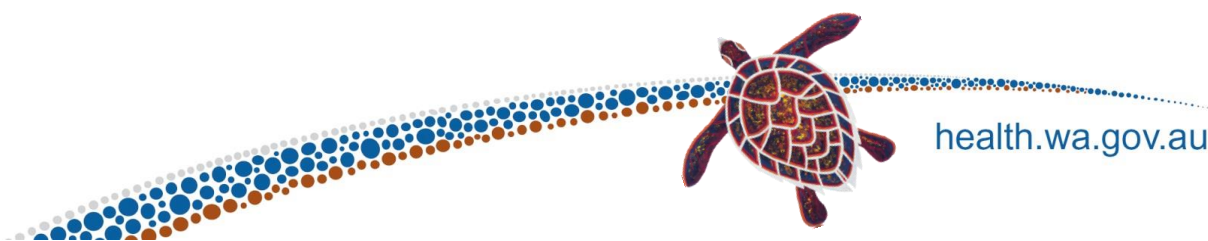
Anyone coming into WA who has come from or has travelled through Victoria in the 14 days prior to arrival in WA will be directed to hotel quarantine at their own expense.

As another precaution, there are now specific rules which apply to travellers from New South Wales.

For additional information on exemptions for entering WA from interstate or overseas see the [Travel to WA page](#).

Information for Employers

WA has strict border controls in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. All travellers returning to WA are required to undertake a 14-day quarantine period. Please be aware there have been a few instances where travellers have returned to their place of work prior to completing their quarantine period. Managers are encouraged to be vigilant and ensure any new staff or staff returning from interstate or international travel have completed a 14-day quarantine period prior to commencing work.



G2G PASS application processing times

People cannot travel to WA unless they have met the criteria to be an exempt traveller. Exemptions must be applied for via a G2G PASS. Recent developments have led to a significant increase in demand regarding the processing of G2G PASS applications.

WA Police have boosted staff numbers to address this demand. All applicants must supply clear evidence to justify why their travel into WA is essential.

The situation across the country is constantly evolving, which has impacted processing times. Each case must be individually assessed. Applicants will be advised of their outcome via email. For more information on entry to WA and G2G PASS, see the [Travel to WA page](#).

Aboriginal COVID-19 Resources

A suite of statewide Aboriginal tailored resources has been developed by the Department of Health WA for the community and health professionals to support both 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 based on the official public health messages and health information issued by the Chief Health Officer from the Department of Health

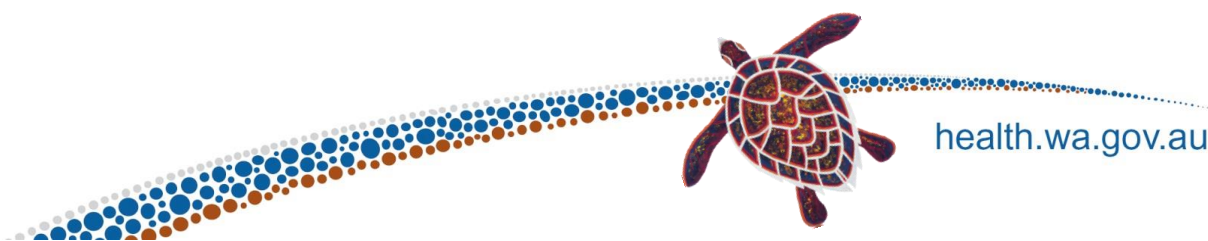
Refer to the Department of Health COVID-9 website for up-to-date information

Health services are welcome to tailor and localise Department of Health 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 Aboriginal resources available

1. Fact sheet - Information for a confirmed case
2. Fact sheet - Information for a close contact of a confirmed case
3. Fact sheet - Information for low risk contacts of a confirmed case
4. Fact sheet - Information for your quarantine stay
5. Poster - Essential health tips for travellers
6. Poster - Staying well on my travels
7. Radio advert - Physical distancing – let’s work together to protect our mob
8. Radio advert - Stay home if you are sick
9. GPs and other support lists



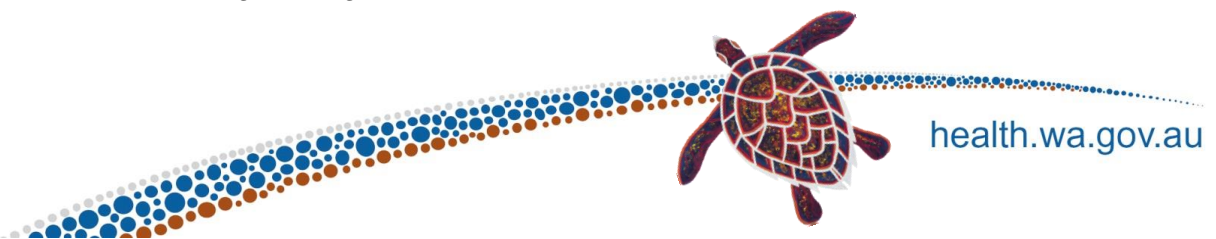
Resources for more information

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

- **Aboriginal sector communication updates**
 - Communication update #1
 - Communication update #2
 - Communication update #3
 - Communication update #4
 - **Communication update #5**
- **Aboriginal health professionals**
 - Aboriginal ethical position statement
 - Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses
 - Guide for Aboriginal health staff
 - Guide for Funeral and Sorry Business
 - How to identify Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients
 - Information for Aboriginal people (HealthyWA)
- **External stakeholder resources**
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities
 - COVID-19 resource toolkit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals (NATSIHWA)
- **Remote and rural planning**
 - Remote Aboriginal communities – restrictions on entering (WA Government)
 - Remote Aboriginal communities – safety and support measures (WA Government)
 - Checklist for remote clinics in Aboriginal communities (WACHS)
 - Health guidance for remote Aboriginal communities of Western Australia (DoH)

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

- **Fact sheets**
 - Information flyer for Aboriginal people – what you need to know
 - **Information for a confirmed case**
 - **Information for a close contact of a confirmed case**
 - **Information for low risk contacts of a confirmed case**
 - **Information for your quarantine stay**
- **Posters**
 - **Poster – Essential tips for travellers**
 - Poster – Personal hygiene
 - Poster – Physical distancing
 - Poster – Stay strong when you are sick
 - **Poster – Staying well on my travels**
 - Poster – Symptoms and what to do if unwell
 - Poster – Visit your doctor
- **Video/radio messages**
 - TV commercial – Good hygiene with Mary G
 - TV commercial – Social distancing with Mary G
 - Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses



- Radio – Protect yourself and other with good hygiene
- Video - Mary G telehealth and regular checkups
- Radio – Physical distancing – let's work together to protect our mob
- Radio – Stay at home if you are sick
- **Other resources available**
 - Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA)
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities (Australian Government)
- **GPs and other support phone lists**
 - Goldfields
 - Great Southern
 - Kimberley
 - Midwest
 - Perth
 - Pilbara
 - South West
 - Wheatbelt

Who to contact for more information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: [1800 313 223](tel:1800313223) (Note: **NOT** for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](tel:1326843)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website or complete the [exemption application form](#)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: [131 444](tel:131444) To report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Last updated **29 July 2020**

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

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