



PHEOC BULLETIN

Tuesday 21 July 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **21 July 2020**, there have been **651** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **625** people have recovered.
- To date **227,546** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Surge Planning

The Public Health Operations team (PHOps) are currently developing a surge workforce plan that will identify approximately 1000 staff who can be brought in at 24-48 hours' notice to work within our COVID-19 contact tracing team. This includes staff from WA Country Health Service (WACHS) who can work from regional areas as part of the state-wide response. The reserve workforce will receive regular training and education to ensure they have the skills required to perform contact tracing. The surge workforce plan also includes several contingency plans that can be rapidly activated in the event that additional assistance is required, or the approach to contact tracing needs to be modified.

Covid-19 media campaign

The Department of Health commenced a media campaign this week reinforcing the key messages:

- Continue to physical distance where possible
- Continue to wash hands often and practise good personal hygiene e.g. cover coughs
- Stay home if unwell. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms get tested
- Download the [COVIDSafe App](#)

COVID-19 and face masks

The advice about wearing masks in the community has been the same since the pandemic began: it is not generally recommended. The chance of coming in to contact with someone with COVID-19 is low. However, if you are in a region where community transmission is occurring, you should take extra precautions, in some circumstances. For people at increased risk of severe COVID-19 themselves, because of older age or chronic illness, physical distancing is most important. If you cannot maintain physical distance, wearing a mask is an important protective measure.

The main value of wearing a mask is to protect other people. If the person wearing the mask is unknowingly infected, wearing a mask will reduce the chance of them passing the virus on to others.

- Please see [Australian Department of Health advice](#) and [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#) fact sheets, and information on [HealthyWA](#)

Phase 5 pushed back

Based on the latest health advice, Phase 5 of the WA COVID-19 roadmap, has been pushed back. The new tentative date for Phase 5 is Saturday, 1 August. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

Information for Employers

WA has strict border controls in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. All travellers returning to Western Australia 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.

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.

To enter WA, you must be an exempt traveller. If a person is an exempt traveller who has been in Victoria or New South Wales in the 14 days before entering WA, they will not be permitted to enter WA unless they also get an additional exemption.

VICTORIA - As at 20 July 2020, Victoria has reported 5,942 cases of COVID-19, with 275 being reported from the previous day. Of these cases, 1,060 may indicate community transmission. Media release with further details can be viewed [HERE](#). WA continues to support Victoria by providing expert advice and remote contact tracing.

NSW – As at 20 July 2020, NSW has reported 3,410 cases of COVID-19, with 12 being reported from the previous day. Of these cases, 1,335 may indicate community transmission. See further NSW information [HERE](#).

Community

Department of Premier and Cabinet

The [FAQs](#) provide the latest community updates about Phase 4 easing of restrictions and what it means for community and business.

DETECT schools' program

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

To date 4,499 tests have been performed on school staff and students with no positive cases. Note testing numbers have not increased due to school holidays. **Testing will re-commence on Wednesday 22 July 2020.**

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 2) (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](#))

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.

People may also be considered for testing if they meet one of the following criteria:

- close contact of a confirmed or probable case
- healthcare, aged, or residential care workers with direct patient contact
- persons who have returned from overseas or have lived/ travelled through an area in Australia with elevated risk of community transmission
- where there is no alternative cause of symptoms
- anyone with non-specific signs of infection if admitted to hospital

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.

Testing of asymptomatic patients

The purpose of the [Testing Directions](#) is to prohibit a person from requesting or conducting testing for COVID-19 except in accordance with these directions. Testing asymptomatic patients is permitted in several settings, approval for each of these scenarios can be found [here](#). Asymptomatic testing should not be performed for return to work purposes or fit for work purposes, unless requested or approved by Public Health.

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The latest iteration was released on 1 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](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.

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. The next issue will be **Tuesday 28 July 2020**.

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

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