



# PHEOC BULLETIN #29

**Tuesday 29 September 2020 14:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **29 September 2020**, there have been **684** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **34 historical cases**. **653** people have recovered.
- To date **413,446** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

## Living with COVID

### Message of the week – Keep up the physical distancing and good hygiene

Every Western Australian needs to play their part to help stop the spread of COVID-19. This means following good hygiene habits and physical distancing.

- **If you're sick, stay home.** Don't go to work, don't go to school, don't go out (except to get tested), and don't have visitors.
- **Keep 1.5 metres away from others** wherever possible.
- **Don't make unnecessary physical contact with others.** Avoid physical greetings, such as handshakes, hugs and kisses.
- **Wash your hands regularly** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitiser.
- **Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.** Use a flexed elbow or a tissue; if you use a tissue, dispose of it immediately and appropriately.

### Update - Patricia Oldendorff vessel

As of 29 September 2020, there are 17 confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst the crew from the Patricia Oldendorff vessel which is currently moored off Port Hedland. Seven of the cases are on board the vessel and 10 are in hotel quarantine. All crew members are in good spirits and have been able to contact family at home.

Planning continues with the vessel operator, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Pilbara Ports Authority regarding the safety of the vessel and potential replacement crew – if required.

The Department of Health, together with the WA Country Health Service, have reassured the Port Hedland community that every safety measure is being put in place to protect the maritime workers, emergency services and transport staff, hotel staff and the local community.

### School Leavers 2020 update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WA School Leavers program with organised events from Monday, 23 November through to Thursday, 26 November will take on a slightly different feel this year.

WA Police is working with partner organisations and the Department of Health on potential options for structured activities that comply with the relevant Directions and all other COVID-19 health requirements.

School leavers and parents are encouraged to download the free Leavers App, which will be updated with this year's information by 1 November. It will have all the latest information on events, getting around, and tips to stay safe.

For more information, a [dedicated website](#) and [Facebook page](#) have been created.

## **Covid Event Plans**

COVID Event Plans are now required for any public or private event involving more than 500 patrons that also requires local government authority approval. COVID Event Plans must be approved by an authorised officer before they can proceed.

A COVID Event Plan will not be required for events that form part of the "usual business" of places for which there is an existing public building approval. These places will already have COVID Safety plans in place.

The COVID Event Guidelines and Plans will ensure event organisers play their role in keeping Western Australians safer, reducing the potential risk and spread of COVID-19, and giving event-goers more confidence to attend and participate in events.

For more information, visit [COVID-19 coronavirus: Events](#).

## **International arrivals into WA**

Currently, 525 international arrivals are permitted to enter WA per week as part of a cap which was agreed to by the Commonwealth. At National Cabinet on 18 September, it was agreed the WA Government would work to lift the international arrival cap and get more Australians home.

WA will receive an additional 200 international arrivals from Monday, 28 September 2020. From Monday, 12 October, WA will take an additional 300 international arrivals per week. This will bring the State's weekly intake of international arrivals to 1025 people by Monday, 12 October.

## **New program to test wastewater for COVID-19**

WA's wastewater will soon be tested for COVID-19, with an evaluation program to expand PCR testing to the State's sewerage network. The Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 (ColoSSoS) Project will track and monitor for traces of COVID-19 in WA's sewerage network. It will be led by WA Health, with testing undertaken by PathWest, to provide an opportunity for evaluation and review of the role of wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 in WA. Testing is expected to begin within the next month.

For more information see the [New program to test wastewater for COVID-19](#) media statement.

## **Hotel and accommodation providers (with guests in quarantine or isolation)**

If hotel and accommodation management require support to review and implement best practice infection prevention measures, please contact the Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) team at [pheoc@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:pheoc@health.wa.gov.au) See also [Hotel/Accommodation Fact Sheet](#)

## **Phase 5 date postponed**

The tentative date for Phase 5 has been postponed until Saturday, 24 October. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

## Victoria and NSW update

VICTORIA - Latest updates can be viewed [HERE](#).

NSW - Latest updates can be viewed [HERE](#).

## Community

### Presentation for testing Direction

The updated [Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 5\)](#) has been released. In the updated Direction, people who must present for testing on day 11 (after arriving in WA) are now permitted to walk to and from a COVID clinic if it is located within 2km of their accommodation, provided they take all reasonable steps to stay 1.5m from other people while walking to and from the clinic.

### Residential aged care facilities – Infection Prevention and Control training

The Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) team from the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) have been supporting the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) to provide training and practical demonstrations in the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and in the use of infection control practices in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs).

Staff development nurses and nurse educators from the Area Health Services will be delivering this training across several RACFs over the next few weeks, with support from the PHEOC IP&C team, to assist RACFs in their COVID-19 preparedness.

### Changes to entry from Victoria and New South Wales

From Monday 5 October, people entering WA from Victoria will be able to self-quarantine, where possible, for 14 days at suitable premises, which will be assessed by WA Police as part of the G2G exemption application process. People entering from New South Wales will move to the same entry conditions that apply to other states and territories (excluding Victoria). The G2G NOW app will assist police with self-quarantine compliance. Use of the app is voluntary. Users will be instructed to take a selfie to verify their identity and location.

### DETECT Borders program

Weekly testing of WA border and hotel quarantine workers will run until the end of November. This program offers free, voluntary testing for frontline workers at COVID clinics in the metro and regional areas and aims to detect and prevent or limit community transmission of COVID-19. Some testing will be facilitated in affected workplaces to maximise participation.

People who fit the criteria for asymptomatic testing do not need to self-isolate after testing and can resume normal activities immediately. Negative results will be sent via SMS. Anyone who tests positive will be followed up in line with existing public health procedures.

For more information see the [DETECT Borders fact sheet](#)

### Regular testing of interstate freight drivers

Any truck driver entering WA is required to present for testing every 7 days while in WA (up until they have been in WA for 14 days). See our [Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions FAQs](#).

### Presentation for testing Directions (NO 4)

All interstate arrivals are now subject to a requirement to present for testing on Day 11 after arrival in WA. See our [factsheet on the Presentation for Testing Directions](#).

### DETECT schools' program

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

To date **13,962** tests have been performed on school staff and students with zero positive cases.

## 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](#).

Recently amended Directions:

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 5\)](#)

[Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No 6\)](#)

[Authorisation to Approve COVID Event Plans under the Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No 6\)](#)

[Specification of Criteria for a COVID Safety Marshal under the Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No6\)](#)

[Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions \(No4\)](#)

## 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 [HealthyWA](#).

### 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 24 August 2020.

## Business and industry

See latest updates about how the Western Australian Government is supporting business and industry [economic recovery](#) through COVID-19.

## 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](#) (Note: **NOT** for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)

[health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au)

- [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.

**Next advice** - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 6 October 2020**.

**Last updated 29 September 2020**

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

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