



## PHEOC BULLETIN #33

**Tuesday 27 October 2020 14:00 Hours**

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

### COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **27 October 2020**, there have been **764** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **36 historical cases**. **700** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **480,530** positive and negative 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 - Looking after your mental health during coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions

The impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, physical distancing and isolation can make us feel anxious, stressed and worried. Read about what you can do to look after your mental wellbeing and look out for those around you as we tackle these challenges together. More information and resources are available on the following websites:

[WA Health](#)

[think Mental Health](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Head to Health](#)

If you need mental health support in your language, call TIS National on 131 450 or visit [tisnational.gov.au](https://tisnational.gov.au) (opens in a new tab) to get an interpreter. TIS National covers more than 100 languages and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the cost of a local call.

### Community

#### New exemptions introduced to Phase 4

Starting from Saturday, 24 October, the maximum capacity for a seated performance or seated entertainment that is ticketed and takes place in a seated entertainment space is 60 percent.

The key focus of the amendments to Phase 4 remains on physical distancing and the safety of the Western Australian community, particularly the elderly and other vulnerable groups. The WA Government recognises that the arts and culture industry has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the application of the 2 square metre rule.

These changes affect certain venues with one or more seated entertainment spaces which contain fixed seating and were regularly used for seated performances or seated entertainment immediately before 15 March 2020 or immediately before 11.59pm on 23 October 2020. This exemption does not apply to events that are required to develop a COVID Event Plan.

Eligible venues include theatres, concert halls, music auditoriums/amphitheatres, cinemas, comedy lounges and performing arts centres.

Places of worship are not included in the list of eligible venues. These places are currently only restricted by the 2 square metre rule and have access to alternatives, including multiple services and streaming of services. WA continues to have the most generous restrictions in the country and will continue to review these restrictions as the situation changes.

For more information about changes to Phase 4, please read our [Phase 4 exemption – Easing restrictions for seated performances- frequently asked questions](#).

### **Surge training in the regions**

Public Health Operations is offering two opportunities for people working in health, allied health, local government, aged care, Aboriginal community-controlled services, environmental health, prisons and students (medical, nursing and allied health) to attend a one hour introduction to contact tracing using syphilis and COVID-19 as examples to illustrate the principles and practice of contact tracing. The session will be presented four times with face to face and video-conference options for each session:

Friday 13 Nov 2020, 7-8am, Kununurra Hospital Training room

Friday 13 Nov 2020, 2-3pm, Kununurra Hospital Durack room

Register before COB Tues 10 Nov 2020 by emailing your name, organisation, phone number and venue/VC preference to [KPHU.Reception@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:KPHU.Reception@health.wa.gov.au)

### **Events Guidelines updated**

The latest version of the [Event Guidelines](#) has been published online. This now contains extended information on [COVID Safety Marshals](#) (Section 5) and the minimum time required for a COVID Event Plan to be assessed by the DoH (Section 6).

### **Halloween info sheet**

You may receive enquires on COVID-safe Halloween activities. A new [fact sheet](#) has been released this week to provide tips for safe trick or treating.

### **Supporting agricultural industries can secure workers**

Based on health advice and under strict conditions, the WA Government will allow WA growers access to [Seasonal Worker Program and Pacific Labour Scheme](#) workers to help WA's agricultural and horticultural industry fill critical labour gaps for this season's harvest.

### **Phase 5 date postponed**

The start date for Phase 5 is yet to be determined. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

### **Victoria and NSW Update**

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

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

## **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](#).

## 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 [Healthy WA](#).

### 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 9 October 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](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [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)
- 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 3 November 2020**.