



PHEOC BULLETIN #46

Wednesday 27 January 2021 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **Wednesday 27 January**, there have been **897** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **48** historical cases. **873** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **718,421** 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

The 2021 State general election

As part of their COVIDSafe voting plan for the 2021 State general election, the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) is encouraging everyone who has concerns about attending a polling place on election day to vote prior to election day, either by postal vote or at an Early Voting Centre.

If there is an incident of community transmission of COVID-19 in WA leading up to or at the time of the election, the WAEC will follow the instructions and requirements of the Department of Health to determine the most appropriate steps.

More information is available on the [Western Australian Electoral Commission](#) website.

Wastewater testing in the community

The latest wastewater testing results across Perth and regional WA has shown no unexpected detection of COVID-19. Weekly testing has been ongoing since November at six of Perth's wastewater treatment plants - Subiaco, Woodman Point, Alkimos, Beenyup, Gordon Road and Point Peron. The Subiaco plant was the only one to have detected inactive viral fragments of SARS-CoV-2. These detections were expected because the Subiaco plant processes wastewater from the State-run quarantine hotels. Regional wastewater treatment plant sites were added throughout January 2021 to include Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Northam, and Port Hedland.

See the [Media Statement](#) and [COVID-19 wastewater testing](#) webpage for more information.

New South Wales and Queensland travellers

Following the latest public health advice, effective 12:01am, Monday 25 January, New South Wales and Queensland now join Victoria as low risk states. Travel from these states is permitted into WA, subject to the following conditions:

- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premises;
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 11;
- complete a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating:
 - they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms;

- which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
- undergo a health screening and temperature test on arrival if arriving at Perth Airport.
- be prepared to take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary; by a health clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing available for all airport arrivals);
- undergo a health screening and have G2G Pass declaration checked at the border checkpoint if arriving by land before proceeding to self-quarantine premises.

The Chief Health Officer has also advised, given the unique situation in Queensland, they could transition to 'very low risk' from February 1. This transition will be confirmed closer to the date, based on the latest public health information.

State-by-state risk rating

Jurisdictions currently in the 'low risk' category include New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

Jurisdictions currently in the 'very low risk' category include the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, South Australia and Tasmania.

For more information, see the WA Government's [controller interstate border](#) webpage.

SafeWA

Resources to help business promote and implement SafeWA and paper-based contact registers are available on the WA Government's [contact registers stakeholder toolkit](#) webpage. This includes paper-based contact register templates, information posters and how-to guides. Resources for businesses on mandatory contact registers is available in 27 languages.

Community

Airports

Airports and air travel can present an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission due to the presence of people who may be infectious. Wearing face masks is effective in helping to prevent this. Please refer to the WA Government's [frequently asked questions on face masks](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

As the WA implementation plan for the roll out of the vaccine program is further developed, the following links provide the most up-to-date news and information:

- WA Health: [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for consumers) including a link to the national hotline for more information and [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for health professionals) including a link to subscribe to the WA COVID-19 Vaccine Update.
- The Australian Government [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#) to find out more about the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) provisional approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Australia's COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy and where to subscribe to the Australian Government COVID-19 vaccines update.

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](#).

New Directions:

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 15\)](#)

[Aircraft Travel \(Face Mask\) Directions](#)

[Airport and Transportation \(Face Mask\) Directions](#)

[Victorian Outbreak Revocation Directions](#)

Amended Directions:

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No.11\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Presentation for Testing Fact Sheet](#)

[Clinician Alert #43 – all clinicians](#)

[Fact sheet for travellers from a low risk State or Territory](#)

[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 2\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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 12 January 2021.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer.

The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters. The latest statement from AHPPC statement is:

- [23 January 2021](#) – **Statement on COVID-19 and influenza vaccination requirements for aged care workers**

Business and Industry

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](#)

health.wa.gov.au

- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages and Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)
 - [Planning a trip poster](#)
 - [Visiting family poster](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages

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-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 2 February 2021**.

Last updated **27 January 2021**

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

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