



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #1

Thursday 18 November 2021 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller - Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Thursday 18 November**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,117** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **111** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 1,103 people recovered from COVID-19
 - **1,917,785** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

PHEOC and SHICC combine

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) and the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) have merged to streamline the COVID-19 response within the Department of Health. This is reflected in the new name of the Bulletin.

Stakeholders should continue to communicate with their contacts in PHEOC and SHICC through existing methods and contacts. As the merge evolves, more information will be made available to stakeholders.

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Controlled border transition arrangements](#) - 4 November 2021
- [Controlled border arrangements - New South Wales](#) - 2 November 2021

Northern Territory transitions to 'low risk'

Based on the latest health advice, the Northern Territory (NT) transitioned from a 'very low risk' jurisdiction to a 'low risk' jurisdiction at 4:00pm, Tuesday 16 November, under WA's controlled border arrangements.

Anyone who arrived in WA from the NT on or after 10 November and who has been to an [NT exposure site](#) between 10 November and 4:00pm on 16 November at the specified times is required to:

- present for a COVID-19 test on arrival (within 48 hours) and on day 12
- self-quarantine for 14 days from date of exposure.

Anyone from the NT, including the Darwin, Robinson River and Katherine areas, who did not visit any exposure sites and has arrived in WA between 10 November and 4:00pm on 16 November, is advised to get tested if they develop any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for more information, including details on current conditions for entry from the NT.

Public health advice for Tasmania

WA Health has contacted travellers into WA on flights from Hobart to Perth on the evening of Sunday 14 November, following Hobart Airport being listed as an exposure site for COVID-19.

Arrivals who are identified as close or casual contacts as per the Tasmanian Government [exposure sites](#) website, during the relevant times, are required to:

- get tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours and on day 12
- self-quarantine at a suitable premises for 14 days from date of exposure
- wear a mask when transiting to self-quarantine premises and presenting for COVID-19 testing.

Travellers who are not identified as close or casual contacts, but who have transited through Hobart Airport at the specified time, are instructed to monitor themselves for symptoms, and present for COVID-19 testing if they become unwell.

Anyone who has been to an [exposure site](#) in Tasmania should quarantine until they have been advised otherwise by Public Health.

Anyone who has recently arrived from Tasmania and has not visited any of the listed venues should present for COVID-19 testing if they develop symptoms and keep checking the list of exposure sites.

This advice is published in the [media statement](#).

Public health advice for Queensland

Public Health advice has been issued for recent travellers from Queensland.

All persons who have been in at a public [exposure site](#) in Queensland at the relevant time must:

- get tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours and on day 12
- self-quarantine at a suitable premises for 14 days from date of exposure
- wear a mask when transiting to self-quarantine and when presenting for COVID-19 testing.

All other arrivals should present for testing at a [COVID Clinic](#) if symptoms develop and regularly check the relevant exposure site lists, as they may be updated.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and latest [media release](#) for additional information.

WA's Safe Transition Plan

On 5 November 2021, the WA Government announced WA's Safe Transition Plan. The Plan, based on the latest public health advice, outlines the safe conditions for domestic and international travel and introduces public health and social measures required to minimise the impact of COVID-19 in the community.

WA's [controlled border](#) will be eased once a 90 per cent double dose vaccination rate (12 years and older) is reached, which is expected in late January/early February 2022. International and interstate travel from all jurisdictions, with testing and vaccination requirements, will commence post-transition.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for further information.

International arrival cap to increase

The WA Government announced WA is expected double the weekly international arrivals cap on 20 November 2021, when it's expected 70 per cent of the population will be double dose vaccinated. This increase will take the weekly international arrivals cap from 265 to 530 travellers per week.

[International arrivals](#) will still be required to complete 14 days mandatory quarantine in a State-supervised facility (hotel) at their own expense and receive COVID-19 testing.

Refer to the [media release](#) for more information.

WA hospital capacity increase

The WA Government recently announced a \$400 million investment into the health system, aiding WA's preparation for the easing of the controlled border arrangement and COVID-19 transmission in the community. An additional 270 beds will be deployed, and 410 extra nurses and 180 more doctors will be working on hospital wards.

An additional 1,200 graduate nurses are expected to be employed in the public health system in 2022.

Refer to the [media statement](#) for more information.

Jurisdiction risk rating

Victoria is considered 'extreme risk'. New South Wales is considered 'high risk'. Australian Capital Territory is considered 'medium risk'. Northern Territory is considered 'low risk'. South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland are considered 'very low risk'. For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled border [webpage](#).

Community

Mandatory vaccination Directions

Based on the latest public health advice, most occupations and workforces will be subject to Directions requiring COVID-19 vaccination to enter certain areas and perform certain roles. Each Direction is accompanied by supporting documents such as the Direction-specific approved form of evidence of COVID-19 vaccination, and exemption guidelines and forms.

As Directions and the supporting documents are finalised they will become available at WA.gov.au under the Mandatory vaccination collection. Refer to the available resources for guidance.

More information, including access to [Frequently Asked Questions](#), is available [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Leavers COVID-19 vaccinations

State Government and WA Police [announced](#) on 15 November 2021 that young people planning to attend official school leavers celebrations in Dunsborough will need to present evidence of having had a COVID-19 vaccination to gain access to the events.

Attendance at Leavers events is voluntary based on the conditions of entry. Leavers can show proof of COVID-19 vaccination by uploading evidence of their vaccination on the Leavers WA Mobile app available through the Leavers WA [website](#). School leavers will be required to have at least one COVID-19 vaccination to enable purchase of an official Leavers wristband. Any school leaver who has not yet been vaccinated is encouraged to do so before Leavers 2021 begins next Monday, 22 November 2021.

Police anticipate around 10,000 school leavers will attend celebrations in the South West this year. A designated Leavers Entertainment Zone will once again be set up in Dunsborough to provide schoolies with a range of structured activities and entertainment throughout the week.

COVID-19 Vaccination event support

To ensure Western Australians aged 12 years and over are supported to receive both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, the WA COVID-19 Vaccination Program (WACVP) invites

requests for support to be considered by the program. Staff from the WA Health system, government agencies, non-government organisations and associations, and businesses/industry with mandated occupations should complete the online COVID-19 Events and Clinic Request [Form](#) for consideration by the WACVP. The form should be used to request support of a COVID-19 vaccination information event or COVID-19 vaccination pop-up clinic and to notify the WACVP of an externally organised COVID-19 information or vaccination event to be promoted.

All requests will be reviewed to determine if and when support can be provided, depending on the information provided for assessment and available resourcing. At risk groups will be prioritised. Please email Covid.Immunisation.Events@health.wa.gov.au if assistance is required.

New vaccination clinics across WA

Ellenbrook: Ellenbrook Central Shopping Centre, Shop G-033 (next to Priceline Pharmacy), 11 Main Street, Ellenbrook. Opening times are 9.30am to 4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 9.30am to 7pm on Thursday; and 11am to 4.30pm on Sunday.

Canning Vale: Canning Vale Market City, First floor, Block B, Suite 14, 280 Bannister Road, Canning Vale. Opening hours are 9am to 3pm Monday – Sunday (every day).

Community vaccination clinics

All State-run community vaccination clinics are now open for people to attend without an appointment. Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times.

There will be numerous regional pop-up clinics available for walk-ins in the coming weeks. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times.

Existing [Community vaccination clinics](#) in WA include Armadale, Mirrabooka, Carramar, Mandurah, Canning Vale, Midland, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, GPs in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the Spikevax (Moderna) and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA - [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health - [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) - workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government - [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Rollup for WA](#) and [Rollup for WA posters](#)
- KAMS - [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign](#)

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

[Meat Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[WA Police Force Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Fire and Emergency Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[WA Correctional Facility Entrant \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Air Services and Border Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
[Resources Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
[Leavers Event Area \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 7\)](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 47\)](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 48\)](#)
[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 12\)](#)
[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of COVID-19 Vaccination \(No 3\) for the Purposes of Paragraph 8 of the Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of Covid-19 Vaccination \(No 2\) Under Paragraph 8 of the Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions \(No 4\)](#)
[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of Covid-19 Vaccination \(No 3\) Under Paragraph 7 of the WA Police Mission Critical Areas \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of COVID-19 Vaccination \(no 3\) under Paragraph 7 of the Access to Quarantine Centres Directions \(No 2\)](#)
[Community Care Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 46\)](#)
[Exemption from Airport and Transportation \(Face Mask\) Directions \(RAAF Centenary Open Day – Busselton Margaret River Airport\) \(No 2\)](#)
[New South Wales Traveller Quarantine Modification Directions](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Frequently Asked Questions for Maritime Workers Boarding an Exposed Vessel](#)

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** acute respiratory symptoms (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 **15 November** 2021.

The *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units Version 6.0* reflect the occurrence of community transmission in some jurisdictions and Australia's progress through the [National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response](#). Key changes include additional considerations for jurisdictions with low or no community transmission, an emphasis on automation and prioritisation to maintain public health workforce capacity, and contact management guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons. **Version 6.1 contains updated release from isolation criteria.**

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. **AHPPC has recently released the following statements:**

- [15 November](#) – Statement on COVID-19, schools and early childhood education and care
- [15 November](#) – Statement on the role of face masks to protect individuals and the community from COVID-19
- [5 November](#) – Statement on home care vaccination
- [5 November](#) – Statement on mandatory vaccination disability workers

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health and 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](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact register](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents

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
- 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 Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 23 November 2021**.

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

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