



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #13

Wednesday, 23 February 2022 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 **Wednesday, 23 February**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **4,452** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **2,655** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,469,211** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

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

- [Advice on Liquor Stores and Bottle Shops — 22 February 2022](#)
- [Transition to level 1 public health and social measures — 18 February 2022](#)
- [Controlled Border Arrangements — 18 February 2022](#)

Public health and social measures

As of 6:00am Monday, 21 February 2022, additional public health and social measures took effect in regions across Western Australia (WA). Level 1 public health and social measures (PHSM) are in place for Perth, Peel, South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Pilbara regions and all other regions must adhere to baseline measures. Level 2 PHSM will be introduced, if necessary.

Refer to the WA.gov.au [website](#) and [announcement](#) for information.

Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine (TTIQ) Plan

As WA transitions to living with COVID-19, and caseloads are higher within the community – businesses, facilities and service providers will be required to play a more active role in managing COVID-19 related communications within their workplaces.

The [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan](#) provides guidance and [resources](#) for businesses, facilities, and service providers to assist with this transition.

These resources provide information on how to notify close contacts in the workplace of a case, and the testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine (TTIQ) requirements in different settings – including businesses, schools and aged care.

System alert and response

The *WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response* (SAR) provides overarching guidance for public hospitals to manage and mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 transmission. Non-government health care organisations, including private hospitals, may find the guidance useful when determining their own strategies to mitigate risks to patients and service delivery associated with COVID-19.

The current risk ratings in place for the following regions are:

- Interim AMBER: Pilbara, Mid-West, Goldfields and Kimberley
- AMBER: Perth, Peel, South West, Wheatbelt and Great Southern

Refer to the [SAR](#) on the Department of Health website for the requirements of each risk rating.

COVID-19 medicines available

The Commonwealth Department of Health has authorised a limited number of COVID-19 medications, available through the National Medical Stockpile, to treat WA patients who meet specific criteria.

Governance documents, patient information sheets and consent forms are available on the Department of Health [webpage](#) in the 'Clinical guidelines' accordion.

Community healthcare practice guidelines

The *COVID-19 Guidelines for Healthcare Practices in the Community in a High and Very High Caseload Environment* will assist healthcare practices in assessing the risk following a COVID-19 exposure. They are considered different to general workplace settings due to the potential susceptibility of patients and the duty of care related to providing health services. The guidelines will ensure that healthcare practices in the community can risk-assess COVID-19 exposure and ensure continuity of critical services, particularly in remote and rural WA, and that healthcare practitioners are better positioned to support patients in their ongoing health needs.

Refer to the Department of Health [website](#) for information.

Healthcare worker furloughing guidelines

The *WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines* have been [published](#), replacing the interim advice. Visit the 'Transition policies and resources for healthcare workers' [page](#) on the Department of Health website for further information.

Critical worker furlough registration

The WA Government launched the online critical worker furloughing registration [system](#), required during a very high caseload environment to ensure critical supply chains and services continue. WA is not currently in a very high caseload environment however, businesses are encouraged to assess the criteria and register relevant critical workers as part of their COVID-19 preparedness strategy.

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

Updated COVID-19 modelling

The WA Department of Health released updated COVID-19 modelling to reflect the recent emergence of the Omicron variant.

Refer to [WA.gov.au](#) for more information.

Border update

Based on the latest health advice, the updated Safe Transition Plan will be in place from Thursday, 3 March 2022. This will allow for safe travel into WA from interstate and overseas, with vaccination and testing requirements on arrival.

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

Elective surgery update

The temporary scale down of elective surgery, set to commence on 14 March at all WA public hospitals and on 21 March at some larger private hospitals, relates to all surgery, not just non-urgent multi-day elective surgery, as previously reported.

WA COVID Care at Home program

The WA COVID Care at Home [program](#) has been launched to provide home monitoring care for COVID-19 positive people who have risk factors which put them at greater risk of requiring hospitalisation. It is a free service, however [registration](#) is required to determine whether the program would be of benefit to the case.

Community

Kids and COVID-19

The Telethon Kids Institute have developed a variety of resources about COVID-19 and children. Refer to the Telethon Kids Institute [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) for information.

Ventilation fact sheets

Three facts sheets have been developed to assist homeowners, building managers and public health personnel to assess and manage ventilation and indoor air quality to reduce the risk posed by COVID-19 in indoor environments. They can be found on the 'Information for business, industry and local government' page of the Department of Health [website](#).

Safe Transition Industry Support Package

The WA Government has announced the Safe Transition Industry Support Package to assist eligible businesses and individuals in sectors most affected by the decision to delay the full reopening of WA's borders. It includes nine support programs for the international education, tourism, aviation and events sectors. Information is available in the [announcement](#) and WA.gov.au [website](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Moderna approved by TGA for 6 to 11-year-old children

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [announced](#) on 17 February 2022, the provisional approval of the Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine for use in children aged 6 and older. This vaccine in children aged 6 to 11 years should be administered as 2 doses at least 28 days apart. A lower dose of 0.25 mL (50 micrograms) will be given to children 6 to 11 years, compared to the 0.5 mL (100 microgram) dose used for those 12 years and older. Further advice on the rollout of Moderna to this age group will be provided by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) in coming weeks.

Novavax available for eligible Western Australians

WA Department of Health [announced](#) on 21 February 2022 that the Novavax vaccine is now available at State vaccination clinics. Novavax will be offered to walk-in clients, for the first week only, on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday to Wednesday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday and Thursday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) (Thursday to Sunday). Following this week, bookings will be essential via the [VaccinateWA](#) or [Roll up for WA](#) websites. From 28 February 2022, Novavax will also be available in the Goldfields-Esperance region at all State-run clinics and selected clinics in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

ATAGI recommend COVID-19 vaccine 4 months after COVID-19 infection

ATAGI recently provided updated [advice](#) reducing the time for deferral of COVID-19 vaccination after a previous COVID-19 illness to 4 months. This is due to the increased risk of re-infection with the Omicron variant, particularly for those who had a Delta variant infection in 2021. Current advice states that vaccination can occur following resolution of acute illness. A precaution for all vaccination is acute illness. This is to avoid adverse events (including common side effects of vaccination) in an already ill person or to avoid attributing illness symptoms to vaccination. Those with prolonged symptoms of COVID-19 should be vaccinated on a case-by-case basis.

ATAGI announce new 'up-to-date' vaccination status

ATAGI released a [statement](#) on 10 February 2022 defining 'up-to-date' status for COVID-19 vaccination. The advice states that all individuals aged 16 years and over are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to maintain an 'up-to-date' status. This booster dose is now recommended from 3 months after the last primary dose. This is called the 'due date'. Specific information for people who are severely immunocompromised or who have previously had COVID-19, is available in the [statement](#).

This up-to-date guidance serves as the basis for policies for the public health management of the COVID-19 pandemic, in a domestic context. It forms the basis of the due and overdue rules for the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Advice may change as the pandemic evolves.

New Commonwealth Vaccination Hubs open this week

The Australian Government has established a small number of pop-up vaccination hubs in the locations detailed below for individuals working in disability, aged care, childcare, food, freight and pharmaceutical distribution industries. People with disability, their families and carers are also eligible to attend. **All hubs include wheelchair access, walk-in appointments, dedicated time slots for people with disabilities and in-car vaccination availability.**

Address	Hours	Bookings
Uniting Church Hall 133 Le Souef Drive, Kardinya	Weekdays between 16 and 24 February 2022, 10.30am to 6.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	Uniting Church Hall Kardinya booking link bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph: 1300 662 328
St Augustine's Church (Como) 21 Cale St, Como	Weekdays between 16 and 24 February 2022, 10.30am to 6.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	St Augustine's Church booking link bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph: 1300 662 328
Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre 400 Abernethy Road, Cloverdale	Weekdays between 16 and 24 February 2022, 10.30am to 6.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre booking link bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph: 1300 662 328

Osborne Community Hub 9 – 11 Royal St, Tuart Hill	Weekdays (excluding Wednesday) between 17 and 25 February 2022, 9.00am to 4.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available daily from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph:1300 662 328
Scarborough Library 173 Gildercliffe St, Scarborough	28 February to 4 March 2022, 9.00am to 4.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph:1300 662 328

Community vaccination clinics

Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times. To avoid extended queues, people are encouraged to make a booking at [VaccinateWA](#) or 13COVID (13 268 43), as people with bookings will be prioritised.

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), Spikevax (Moderna) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies 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](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up 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

- [Unofficial Consolidation of the COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(as of 22 February 2022\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Amendment Directions](#)
- [COVID Safe \(Phase 5\) Directions \(No 2\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Critical Worker\) Directions](#)
- [Jameson Community Immediate Lockdown Directions \(No 2\)](#)

- [COVID Transition \(Face Covering\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.9\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Amendment Directions \(No 7\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Flight Crew Directions \(No 12\)](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 6\)](#)
- [Parliamentary Employees \(Restrictions on Access\) Direction](#)
- [Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 41\)](#)
- [Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 14\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing Directions \(No 4\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [Exposed On-Board Worker Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing \(Airport Workers – Direct International Arrivals\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Workers\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [Rig or Platform Crew Member Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Transport and Accommodation Services \(Exposed Maritime Worker\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

- [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan \(new\)](#)
- [WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines \(new\)](#)
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35](#)
- [Clinician Alert – Public Health #80 \(new\)](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace \(new\)](#)
- [Release of Cases from Isolation: Information for Clinicians](#)
- [Medicines for COVID-19 in Residential Care Facilities and Aboriginal Health Services \(new\)](#)
- [Dialysis and COVID-19: Risks and Information \(new\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Renal Dialysis Version 2](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Advice on Cleaning and Disinfection in the Workplace \(new\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Airport Staff Version 2](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Non-State Quarantine Facilities Providing Accommodation for Guests in Quarantine or Isolation Version 5.1](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Onsite Healthcare Teams in State quarantine Facilities Version 9](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Neonatal Services Version 5](#)

Testing

General population testing criteria

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35* is available on the Department of Health [website](#).

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 **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

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.

Positive rapid antigen test results must be registered on the Department of Health [website](#).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on **21 January 2022**.

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 recently released the following statement:

- [15 February 2022](#) – Mandating booster vaccinations in residential aged care 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
- Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific [FAQs](#)
- Proof of vaccination [Directions](#), [information](#) and [FAQs](#)

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: **1 March 2022**.

Last updated **23 February 2022**

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

© Department of Health 2022