



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #4

Tuesday 7 December 2021 12:00 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 **Tuesday 7 December**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - 1,122 confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 111 historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 1,112 people recovered from COVID-19
 - 1,978,078 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](#).

- [Controlled border arrangements - South Australia - 2 December 2021](#)

Updated South Australia advice

South Australia (SA) transitioned from a 'low risk' to a 'medium risk' jurisdiction from 12.01am Friday December 3, 2021. Travel from SA to Western Australia (WA) is no longer permitted without an approval under the controlled border arrangements.

Approved travellers arriving in WA after 12.01am Friday, December 3 must:

- provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the 72 hours prior to departure
- provide proof of double dose vaccination, if eligible
- self-quarantine in a suitable premise for 14 days
- present for an initial COVID-19 test within 48 hours, and on day 12 after arrival in WA (if still in WA), or at any point when symptoms develop.

Unless advised otherwise by WA Health, anyone who arrived in WA from SA between 1.15pm November 27 and 12.01am December 3 must continue to follow their Directions.

Unless advised otherwise by WA Health, anyone who arrived in WA from SA between 23 November and 1.15pm on 27 November who has been at the listed close or casual [exposure venues](#) 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 the date of exposure.

Anyone from SA who entered WA between 23 and 27 November should get tested if symptoms develop and regularly check the SA Exposure Locations website.

Further information is available in the [media release](#).

Expanded East Kimberley wastewater surveillance

WA Health is continuing its COVID-19 wastewater surveillance program in Kununurra and Halls Creek in the East Kimberley and is considering the merits of expanding water sampling to additional communities.

All results have been negative so far.

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

Omicron variant of concern

On 26 November 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the SARS-Cov-2 variant B.1.1.529 as a Variant of Concern (VOC), and named it [Omicron](#). Omicron was initially reported from South Africa and has multiple mutations. Global research to determine the impact of the Omicron variant is in progress.

The WA Department of Health has not issued any alternative advice in response to the Omicron VOC.

Further information is available at the WHO [website](#).

Jurisdiction risk rating

Victoria is considered 'extreme risk'. New South Wales is considered 'high risk'. **South Australia and Australian Capital Territory** are considered 'medium risk'. Northern Territory is considered 'low risk'. 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

Industry-specific mandatory vaccination FAQs

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about mandatory COVID-19 vaccination are available at the Department of Health [website](#) to address common queries relevant to all people affected by the vaccination requirement. In consultation with stakeholders, industry-specific FAQs are in development to provide more nuanced advice for different sectors. The [disability sector](#) and [abattoir and meat industry](#) FAQs are currently available at the Department of Health website.

All FAQs are under constant review and should be referred to regularly for the most up to date information.

All mandatory vaccination [Directions](#) (and supporting documents) are published on the WA.gov.au website and [FAQs](#) are published on Department of Health website. Recent additions to the Directions include those for the **public and commercial transport industries**.

COVID-19 vaccination program

TGA provisionally approve Pfizer for 5-11 year olds

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally [approved](#) the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine for use in 5 to 11 year-olds. The vaccine approved by the TGA is the same safe and effective vaccine used for other age cohorts, however is one-third the dose approved for those aged 12 and over. The Australian Department of Health [announced](#) on 5 December 2021 that, subject to final considerations and recommendations from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), the Pfizer vaccine for 5 to 11 year-olds would be rolled-out from 10 January 2022.

ATAGI statement on Omicron and COVID-19 booster doses

On 3 December 2021 ATAGI made a [statement](#) on the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant. ATAGI advised that, at this stage, there is no evidence to suggest that earlier booster doses of current COVID-19 vaccines will increase protection against the Omicron variant. In certain circumstances, the routine six-month interval for booster doses may be shortened to five months for logistical reasons, for example: those with a greater risk of severe COVID-19 in outbreak settings; individuals travelling overseas who will be away when their booster dose is due; or in outreach vaccination programs where access is limited. Individuals are advised to discuss shortening this interval with a health provider in the first instance.

Summer Vax Drive

The [Summer Vax Drive](#) was [announced](#) on the 24 November 2021 [has been extended until 19 December 2021](#). This is a targeted initiative to help Western Australia reach its 90 per cent vaccination target [ahead of the safe transition of Western Australia](#). The initiative includes new pop-up vaccination clinics in [participating](#) Woolworths and Aldi supermarkets [until 10 December](#) and pop-up vaccination clinics at the women's and men's Big Bash League (BBL) cricket matches at Optus Stadium during November and December. The COVID-19 Vaccine Community Funding Program has been established to facilitate the uptake of vaccinations in priority groups, including: Aboriginal communities, those living with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, homeless and people sleeping rough, those suffering mental health problems and those who may be at greater risk of COVID-19.

Carramar Vaccination Clinic caters to special needs

The State Government [announced](#) on the 29 November 2021 that the Carramar Vaccination Clinic has been re-designed as an enhanced access and sensory clinic to support people with a disability. The re-designed vaccination clinic aims to better support those who may require a low sensory environment, or some additional care provided by specially trained staff. The vaccination clinic offers an alternate entrance and quiet rooms with low lighting options, soft furnishings such as beanbags, recliners, and couches, and distraction and sensory options including fidget spinners and stress balls. The vaccination clinic also has a hoist to support people with mobility issues, ACROD Parking directly in front of the clinic, delivery of vaccinations in a vehicle for people who may have difficulty entering the site and therapy dogs present in five metropolitan vaccination clinics at varying times in the lead up to Christmas. Further information is available at [Roll up for WA](#) and assistance is available by either completing the [Further Assistance Required](#) online form or calling 13 COVID (13 26843).

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

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 50\)](#)

[Building and Construction Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[COVID Safe \(Phase 5\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Education Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No. 3\)](#)

[Public and Commercial Transport Workers \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Port Worker and Exposed Port Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#)

[Community Care Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[Regulated Entry of Higher Risk Vessels into Western Australia Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Regulated Entry of Higher Risk Vessels into Western Australia Directions \(No 2\) Approval under paragraph 7\(D\) for MMA Coral to enter](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Clinician Alert #71](#)

[Quarantine After Being Tested: High-Risk and Low-Risk Tested Persons Version 2](#)

[Mandatory Vaccination – Meat Industry Workers FAQs Version 3](#)

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #31](#)

[Exposed Maritime Crew Members](#)

[IPC - Guidelines for the Management of Passengers, Flight and Freight Crew at Perth Airport Version 3](#)

[Mandatory Vaccination – General FAQs Version 2](#)

[Mandatory Vaccination – Disability Sector Workers FAQs \(New\)](#)

[Principles for Health Care and Residential Aged Care Facilities: Visits from People in Quarantine](#)

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.

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 statement:**

- **[7 December](#) – Statement on national principles for end-to-end best practice managed quarantine arrangements for international travellers**

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: **14 December 2021**.

Last updated **7 December 2021**

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

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