



07 April 2022

Staff influenza vaccine update

The Vaccine consent eForm will soon be released across WA Health.

The [WA Health Staff Member Influenza Vaccination Program Policy](#) requires all staff to complete the influenza form by 30 June each year to either:

- consent or decline to the influenza vaccination
- state that they have already received the influenza vaccination elsewhere in that calendar year.

[Learn more](#) about the healthcare worker influenza vaccination program.

Transition Care Program

As at 6 April 2022, there are 160 patients who are medically stable in hospital waiting for aged care services (PAACs), such as the Transition Care Program (TCP) or a permanent place in a residential aged care (RAC) facility.

To help the system prepare and respond to COVID, public and private hospitals are working together under the Private Hospital Cooperation Agreement COVID-19 (Agreement), and plan transfer of some of these public patients to private hospital sites, while they are awaiting TCP or RAC placement.

Transfers will consider proximity to patients residential and care location, and to a hospital service with the capability and capacity.

HSP social workers and TCP Coordinators are continuing support to patients and their families during their private hospital transfer under the agreement and working with the community to secure long-term aged care service solutions for all eligible public patients.

Over this week, we will see approximately 18 patients transferred from a public to a private hospital site across the metropolitan area.

The department continues to work closely with aged care providers in WA to manage the impacts of COVID-19 on aged care services, and to ensure that older people are able to access the services they need on discharge from hospital in a timely manner.

COVID-19 surveillance report

The [COVID-19 surveillance report](#), developed by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD), provides a surveillance summary and de-identified information on hospitalisations, case data and testing data.

The report is published weekly and includes useful demographic information such as age, gender and region.

Winter booster dose available

Eligible individuals can now access a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at State-run vaccination clinics without an appointment, and through their GP or pharmacy. Booked appointments will be available via the [Roll Up for WA website](#) from mid-April.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) issued advice last week which recommended an [additional winter booster dose](#) of the COVID-19 vaccination to increase protection before winter for selected groups.

Eligible groups include those who are at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and have received their primary vaccination course and first booster dose. ATAGI advises that the winter booster should be administered at least 4 months after the previous dose.

Rapid antigen testing video

This [instructional video](#) explains how to complete a rapid antigen test (RAT) and read the result indicators. It also shows how to report a positive result via the [HealthyWA website](#) or by calling 13 COVID.

For more information about the WA free RAT program, including [translated advice](#), visit the [WA Government website](#).

Department of Health web resources

COVID-19 information and resources are updated regularly on the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites.

The department has published the [Release of cases from isolation](#) information for clinicians, which is now available online.

HealthyWA updates include:

- [COVID-19 Testing](#) webpage to reflect current testing and isolation protocols
- [Close contacts](#) webpage.

COVID-19 staff update webinar

All WA health system staff are invited to regular COVID-19 update webinars presented by senior COVID-19 response executives, which will now be delivered fortnightly.

Visit the [HealthPoint home page](#) to learn topics and to access the MS Teams invitation. The next webinar is scheduled for Thursday 21 April 2022.

[A recording of this week's webinar is available](#) on the staff intranet, which featured guest presenters from WA Country Health Service who shared a regional and remote perspective on managing COVID-19 in our health system.

Message Authorised by: Director, Office of Director General