



Closure of four metropolitan PCR testing clinics

Public PCR testing clinics were rapidly established in 2020 as a key element of Western Australia's testing strategy, recognising the need for widely accessible COVID-19 tests in the community to monitor for outbreaks.

The testing strategy is evolving to meet current requirements, and to ensure that staff and resources are deployed where they are needed most.

As part of this planning, and in line with the national 'living with COVID-19' approach, 4 public COVID testing clinics at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Armadale Health Service, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and St John of God Midland Public Hospital will close from 15 July 2022.

PCR testing will continue to be available at other sites across WA.

This decision has been made due to the reduced demand for PCR testing with the declining COVID-19 case numbers as Western Australia transitions out of the acute phase of the pandemic.

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) account for the diagnosis of more than half of the current total positive cases, and between 1 May and 22 June 2022, 178,617 positive PCR tests were registered, compared to 303,249 RATs.

The closure of these 4 public testing clinics will boost staffing in hospitals by returning 121 FTE staff, including nurses, to their usual workplaces in the WA health system.

Testing clinics providing PCR tests at Royal Perth Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Rockingham Hospital and the PathWest public drive through facility in Murdoch will continue to operate between 8 am and 8 pm on weekdays and from 8 am to 4 pm on weekends.

PCR testing is available through private pathology clinics and arrangements in regional areas remain unchanged.

The staff working in COVID-19 testing clinics have performed an integral role in Western Australia's management of the virus. Testing clinics experienced intense

demand throughout the past 2 years, and the dedication and professionalism of clinic staff delivered the foundation of our successful response to COVID-19.

All staff who have worked on the frontline of the COVID-19 response are thanked for their continuing efforts in keeping the Western Australian community safe.

Message Authorised by: Director, Office of Director General