



## Easing of public health social measures

### Modified Level 1 measures

Public health social measures (PHSMs) will be eased to Level 1 from 12.01 am tomorrow morning.

Key aspects of the modified Level 1 PHSMs include:

- SafeWA check in will only be required for higher-risk venues that require proof of vaccination
- visitation to hospitals, residential aged care and disability care remains unchanged
- the 500-patron cap for hospitality venues is to be removed from 14 April.

Visit the [WA Government website](#) for further information.

### Easing of measures in schools for term 2

[Restrictions at Western Australian schools will be eased](#) for the start of term 2 in-line with the latest health advice; however, parents and carers attending school sites must continue to wear a mask and physically distance where possible.

School camps remain postponed due to the risks of COVID-19 transmission and disruption to learning. The School Camps COVID-19 Assistance Package is continuing to support school camp operators and encourage public schools to undertake day camps.

## Winter booster dose advice

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has made [recommendations on a winter booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for particular cohorts](#).

ATAGI recommends an additional winter booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccination to increase protection before winter for selected groups. These 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.

These groups are:

- adults aged 65 years and older

- residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- people aged 16 years and older with severe immunocompromise (as defined in the [ATAGI statement](#) on the use of a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older.

ATAGI does not currently recommend an additional booster dose for people who are not in one of the above groups.

The additional winter booster dose can be given:

- from 4 months or longer after the person has received their first booster dose  
**or**
- from 4 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, if infection occurred since the person's first COVID-19 booster dose.

## Free RATs for regional and remote WA

Improved access to rapid antigen testing (RAT) kits for regional and remote communities was [announced last week](#) to ensure they are well-equipped to detect COVID-19.

Local Aboriginal organisations are helping to distribute the RATs, in addition to pop-up sites across the State.

Residents in these communities will receive 20 RATs per household – above the 15 tests available to households around the State – due to the distance from services and access to postage.

## Department of Health web resources

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

The department's updates include clinical guides for managing COVID-19 in a:

- [Residential Aged Care Facility](#)
- [Mental Health Hostel](#)
- [Residential Disability Facility.](#)

HealthyWA updates include:

- [How do I Quarantine/Isolate Safely?](#)

## COVID-19 staff update webinar

All WA health system staff are invited to weekly COVID-19 update webinars presented by senior COVID-19 response executives.

Visit the [HealthPoint home page](#) to learn weekly topics and to access the MS Teams invitation – next week’s webinar includes a WACHS update and is scheduled for 11 am Tuesday 5 April.

[A recording of this week’s webinar is available](#) on the staff intranet, which featured guests from East Metropolitan Health Service, including a nurse, physiotherapist and a COVID-19 navigator, who shared their perspectives of managing COVID-19 in our health system.

**Message Authorised by:** Director, Office of Director General