



13 April 2022

## Easing public health social measures

[Public health measures will be relaxed further](#) from 12.01am tomorrow, Thursday 14 April.

This easing of measures includes:

- a refined close contact definition to align with National Cabinet's definition
- limits to home and private outdoor gatherings removed
- contact registration will only be required for people visiting a hospital
- 500 capacity limits for all hospitality venues and function centres to be removed
- RAT testing on arrival no longer required for international and domestic travellers, with all arrivals at Perth Airport encouraged to take a free test on offer.

### Refined close contact definition

A close contact is now defined as:

- a household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period
- someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where they spent 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in a residential setting, (i.e. a home, accommodation facility) where masks have been removed by both people for all of this period
- someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

People in isolation who are **not a household close contact** will be able to leave isolation at 12.01am tomorrow, Thursday 14 April.

Staff who can leave isolation because of the changed close contact definition should discuss their return to work arrangements with their manager before attending work.

## Evusheld® availability in WA

Evusheld® (Tixagevimab plus cilgavimab), has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for Pre-exposure Prophylaxis of COVID-19 in individuals who are severely immunocompromised.

Evusheld® may be suitable for patients 18 years and over who:

- are moderate-to-severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition
- receive immunosuppressive medications or treatments that make it likely that they will not mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination
- when vaccination is contraindicated due to a documented history of severe adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 vaccine component.

Evusheld® is **not** a substitute for vaccination in individuals for whom COVID-19 vaccination is recommended.

Due to limited stock and ongoing supply uncertainty, approvals for treatment will only be deemed eligible for [WA patients who meet strict criteria](#) (currently only for lung transplant, allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplant and chimeric antigen receptor T (CAR-T) cell recipients). If stock levels permit, other medical conditions will be considered for approval as per priority listing to ensure those patients at highest need receive treatment.

Evusheld® is currently only available through the National Medical Stockpile and medical practitioners must complete and submit a WA Emergency COVID-19 Treatment Approval for tixagevimab plus cilgavimab (Evusheld®) Form for each patient they wish to be considered for treatment approval (available on [Formulary One](#)).

## Registering a patient's positive RAT

The WA Health [Framework for System Alert and Response](#) (SAR) outlines when hospital staff are to administer a rapid antigen test (RAT) or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

All positive RAT results must be:

- registered via the [HealthyWA](#) website or, if unable to access the online register, by phoning 13 COVID (13 26843)
- recorded in the hospital patient administration system.

### **RATs administered by hospital staff**

When a RAT is required by a patient for hospital admission (i.e. pre-admission, admission, outpatient), it is the individual's responsibility to register a positive RAT result; however, if a patient is unable to do so it becomes the clinician's responsibility.

Clinicians should refer to local site procedures for recording the result in the hospital patient administration system as this will differ between sites. This is in keeping with usual requirements for recording hospital-requested diagnostic testing.

### **RATs undertaken in transit with St John Ambulance**

RATs undertaken in transit to hospital are considered a requirement for hospital attendance. Clinicians at the receiving hospital are responsible for recording the

result in the hospital patient administration system and for registering a positive RAT via the [HealthyWA](#) website if the patient is unable to do so.

## Hospital visitors

Visitors who are required to undertake a RAT as a requirement to visit a patient are responsible for registering the positive result on the WA Health RAT register via the [HealthyWA](#) website.

## School holiday COVID-19 vaccinations

[Extra COVID-19 vaccination opportunities](#) will be available during the school holidays to ensure all young Western Australians are protected.

Locations include the May Drive Parkland playground in Kings Park, Bibra Lake, Whiteman Park, the Mundaring Sculpture Park, Lake Leschenaultia, and other locations in Wanneroo, Rockingham, Mandurah, and Yanchep.

Community vaccination clinics will also continue to provide children's vaccinations over the school holidays. Walk-ins are welcome, and appointments are available on [VaccinateWA](#).

Regional children will have greater access to their community clinics with extended opening times and days, as well as mobile clinics travelling to districts.

## Department of Health resources

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

HealthyWA updates include:

- [COVID-safe travel in WA](#)
- [People at risk of serious illness](#).

## Clinical guidelines

Updates to clinical guidelines include COVID-19 guidance on [diabetes and hyperglycaemia](#) management, [renal dialysis](#), [maternity](#) services, [neonatal](#) services, and clinical care of [paediatric](#) patients.

Internal WA health system guidelines are available on the [staff intranet](#).

## Patient information sheets

Patient COVID-19 [information sheets](#) includes guidelines for [breastfeeding](#), [pregnancy](#), women in [labour](#), [diabetes](#) and other endocrine conditions, FAQs for [mental health services](#).

Printable patient [information sheets](#) for the immunocompromised have been developed by South Metropolitan Health Services to provide advice on how to stay safe, including during social gatherings.

## Hospital guidelines

Hospital guidelines have been developed to guide development of local hospital policy, in support of the [SAR](#), including

- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Outpatient Services](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Public Hospital Visitors](#)
- [COVID-19 RACF Guidelines for resident transfer to and from hospital.](#)

## 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. It will feature a presentation from Deputy Chief Health Officer Dr Paul Armstrong and Deputy Incident Controller Dr Revle Bangor-Jones on the upcoming winter flu season in the COVID-19 context.

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