



25 May 2022

## COVID-19 caseload update

A total of 12,419 new COVID-19 cases were reported to 8 pm Tuesday night. This brings us to 77,331 currently active cases in Western Australia with 301 people with COVID-19 in hospital, 7 of which are in ICU.

WA has recorded 684,326 cases since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Weekly cases, hospitalisations and ICU snapshots are [available online](#).

### Positive RATs

A reminder to all staff: a positive RAT is sufficient confirmation of COVID-19 infection, a follow-up PCR is not required.

Of the 12,419 new reported cases, 4,317 were confirmed via PCR test, the remaining 8,102 were self-reported positive rapid antigen tests.

A total of 15,597 PCR tests were conducted at either state-run or private pathology clinics yesterday.

## Asymptomatic close contact staff

Staff are reminded that asymptomatic close contacts are encouraged to return to work as requested by their managers.

Affected staff should discuss their return to work arrangements with their manager before attending work.

The existing [staff furlough policy](#) related to close contacts should continue to be used.

## COVID-19 vaccination program update

### New COVID-19 vaccination pop-up clinics as PCEC clinic closes

The Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) vaccination clinic will close on Tuesday 31 May.

New pop-up clinics at shopping centres across Perth's suburbs will replace the centrally-based clinic to deliver vaccinations closer to where people live.

The PCEC clinic has been one of the backbone clinics of the vaccination campaign, helping WA's COVID-19 vaccination rates reach world-leading levels.

## **Temporary COVID-19 booster exemptions**

The mandatory vaccination policy has been updated to reflect the recent ATAGI advice to wait 3 months after COVID-19 infection before they receive their next COVID-19 vaccine dose.

As such, staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 are exempt from receiving a booster vaccination for a period of 4 months from the date of their infection.

Approved evidence confirming the person's RAT or PCR test result must be provided.

[Learn more](#) about the update.

## **In-home COVID-19 vaccination program**

Efforts are continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccination closer to home for people who may not easily be able to get to a clinic, pharmacy or GP.

Teams of vaccinators can visit residential areas to offer convenient, at-home COVID-19 vaccines to household members aged 5 years and older if they are eligible for first, second or booster doses.

To book an appointment:

- complete the [Further Assistance Required](#) online form, or
- email [COVID.Immunisation@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:COVID.Immunisation@health.wa.gov.au), or
- call 13 COVID (13 26843) between 8 am and 6 pm 7 days per week to request the operator complete the [Further Assistance Required](#) form on your behalf

## **Enhanced access and sensory vaccination clinic established in Midland**

The COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Midland has joined Kwinana and Carramar clinics in supporting people with disabilities, mental health conditions and those who require a low sensory environment or who may need other additional support, to receive their vaccination.

These clinics provide:

- trained staff to support people with a disability, mental health condition or who require additional support

- quiet, large and separate consultation rooms
- a range of distraction and sensory options
- hoists to support people with mobility issues and
- accessible parking directly in front of the clinic.

The Claremont vaccination clinic is also being modified this month to offer the enhanced access and sensory capabilities.

Bookings are recommended and further information is available at the [Roll up for WA website](#).

## On a roll campaign

The WA Government's [On a Roll campaign site](#) is now live, encouraging Western Australians to keep up with public health measures and stay up to date with vaccinations.

A new advertising campaign driving people to this website will begin this week.

## Planning for the care of dependents in case carers get COVID-19

COVID-19 care plans are now available to help people plan for the care of dependents if they, or the people they care for, catch the disease.

All staff are encouraged to share this information with others – patients, family and friends.

The plans include important information about you and your health and your plans for the care of pets or livestock, and dependent children or adults in your care, should you need to go to hospital.

Use the [COVID-19 Care Plan for adults](#) if you are an adult without children and if you have dependent adults, such as elderly family members, who rely on your care.

Use the [COVID-19 Care Plan for parents/carers and children](#) if you are an adult with dependent children

A COVID-19 Care Plan for people with disability will also soon be available on [Staying safe \(healthywa.wa.gov.au\)](#). Other resources to help prepare to isolate at home with COVID-19 are also available.

## Influenza vaccination program

As at 8 May this year, a total of 10,599 laboratory confirmed [notifications of influenza have been reported to the NNDSS](#) in Australia.

With case numbers rising, it's a timely reminder for [staff to get their flu vaccine](#).

Staff can now complete the [WA Health staff influenza immunisation program registration form](#) (external site) using VaccinateWA.

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.

## Staffing updates

### **Incident Controller arrangements**

While Dr Tudor Codreanu is assisting St John Ambulance with logistical support, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones is the SHICC Incident Controller in the State Health Incident Coordination Centre.

Dr Sharon Nowrojee is the interim Deputy Incident Controller, Public Health.

### **Public Health Operations changes**

Acknowledgment and farewell to Dr Ben Scalley, who is leaving the role of Director of Public Health Operations in the State Health Incident Coordination Centre on Friday 27 May.

Ben has played a crucial role in WA's public health response to COVID-19 having led the Public Health Operations team since early 2020. His achievements have included overseeing the rapid growth of our contact tracing team and championing the use of technology and innovation to support contact tracing efforts. We thank Ben for his commitment and wish him all the best for his next endeavour.

Dr Chantal Ferguson will be Acting Director of Public Health Operations from next week.

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