



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #33

Tuesday 23 August 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by **Senior Medical Advisor,**
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COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** for Western Australia (WA) to date:
 - **1,119,395** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,109,092** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **4,470,973** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status and Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

Masks are required in healthcare settings

Masks must be worn by people 12 years and older in certain settings such as hospitals and healthcare settings (where face-to-face care is provided), unless [exempt](#). This includes GPs, Aboriginal health services, dental and optical health clinics and allied health services (e.g. physiotherapy, radiology and occupational therapy services).

Face masks are strongly encouraged in other circumstances, such as when indoors and where physical distancing is not possible.

Always carry a mask with you in case it's needed.

Mask-use posters and social media tiles are available from the [HealthyWA](#) and [WA Government](#) websites. Additional face mask guidance is available on the [HealthyWA](#) website.

More free RATs

From Monday 15 August 2022 each WA household can collect 20 [free rapid antigen tests \(RATs\)](#) at various locations listed on the [WA Government](#) website.

RATs being distributed via the WA Government's free RATs program are safe, effective and approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA [website](#) has a list of all RATs approved for use in Australia.

When to use a RAT

RATs remain a vital measure to protect the community from COVID-19 and are a convenient, safe and fast way to test for the disease.

People with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) should get tested using a RAT or visit a [COVID-19 testing clinic](#).

Instead of seeking a PCR test, people who are unsure about a negative RAT result should test again after 24 hours.

SAR update

The [new](#) System Alert and Response ([SAR](#)) Framework Blue alert level **was** implemented **from** Monday 15 August 2022.

The statewide step down of current measures to a Blue alert level **applies** to all public hospitals and health services covered under the SAR, providing consistent, systemwide guidance designed to support effective processing of patients through hospitals and emergency departments, while maintaining sensible measures to protect healthcare workers and those who are most at risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19.

Key changes include:

- reduced screening requirements
- targeted testing
- changes to staff mask requirements
- visitor hours reverting to normal, 7 days per week
- staff conducting proof of vaccination (or valid exemption) spot checks, rather than mass on-entry inspections.

Amended [Proof of Vaccination Directions](#) and [Visitors to Hospitals and Disability Support Accommodation Facilities Directions](#) **came** into effect at 12:01am Monday 15 August 2022 to support the SAR alert level change. The updated COVID-19 Visitor Guideline for WA Public Hospital and Health Services **are** available on the Department of Health [website](#).

Monitor the resources on the Department of Health [website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

COVID-19 vaccination program

COVID-19 shopping centre vaccination clinic changes

There will be changes to the locations of pop-up vaccination clinics operating at selected shopping centres across the Perth metropolitan area this month.

From 28 August, pop-up vaccination clinics at Butler Central, Wanneroo Central and Rockingham Shopping Centres will close.

New pop-up vaccination clinics will open on Monday 29 August at Ocean Keys Shopping Centre (Clarkson) and in the Fremantle Mall.

Pop-up vaccination clinics at Mandurah Forum, Maddington Central, Midland Gate and Victoria Park Shopping Centres will continue to operate.

Bookings are not needed but, as most clinics will be open for 4 to 6 weeks only, people are encouraged to attend as soon as possible to be vaccinated.

Find a vaccination clinic, participating pharmacy or GP at the Roll up for WA [website](#).

COVID-19 vaccinations now recommended for some young children aged 6 months to 5 years

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends the Moderna COVID-19 vaccination for some young children aged 6 months to 5 years.

This includes children:

- who are severely immunocompromised
- with a disability
- who have complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19.

A list of relevant medical conditions is available on the [Australian Government's website](#).

Eligible children in this age group will receive 2 primary doses. Children who are severely immunocompromised will need 3 primary doses. The recommended interval between doses is 8 weeks.

More information about making an appointment will be available in early September.

Children who are not in the above risk categories are not currently recommended for COVID-19 vaccination.

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- Australian Government – [COVID-19 booster vaccine advice](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccination clinical considerations](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccine translated information](#)
- WA Department of Health – [COVID-19 information](#) for health professionals and GPs
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on the WA Government [website](#). New COVID-19 Directions are published at the WA Government [website](#).

Updated factsheets

- [WA Health's System Alert and Response \(SAR\) COVID-19 Framework factsheet](#)
- [COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines for WA Public Hospitals and Health Services Version 12](#)
- [Where to get Tested for COVID-19 in Regional and Remote WA – Updated August 2022](#)
- [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities Version 15](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 22 July 2022.

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- [Mandatory vaccination Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Proof of vaccination Directions, information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees
- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice The Bulletin is issued fortnightly. Next issue: **7 September 2022**.

Last updated **23 August 2022**

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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