



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #36

Wednesday 5 October 2022 14:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by **Incident Controller**, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **WA:** [Weekly statements](#), [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](#).

National isolation agreement reached

Mandatory isolation requirements for COVID-19 cases and close contacts will end from Friday 14 October 2022. This decision was made at [National Cabinet](#) on 30 September 2022.

National Cabinet agreed to the end the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment effective the same date. To support the most vulnerable and those in high-risk settings, targeted financial support will be available for casual workers in aged care, disability care, Aboriginal health care and hospital care sectors.

The removal of the mandatory isolation requirement does not mean the pandemic is over. Individuals and businesses are encouraged to remain vigilant and protect themselves and the community against COVID-19.

Until 14 October 2022, the current mandatory isolation requirements for [COVID-19 cases](#) and [close contacts](#) remain in place.

Continue to monitor the [Department of Health](#), [HealthyWA](#) and [WA Government](#) websites for the most up-to-date advice.

New Bill introduced to WA Parliament

The WA Government has introduced a Bill into State Parliament to provide a new framework to manage COVID-19.

The new framework will allow for a 'Temporary COVID-19 Declaration' for the continuation of public health measures to manage COVID-19 in the community without a State of Emergency declaration. It will not allow the closure of State borders.

Refer to the [media statement](#) for further information.

GP referral for private PCR testing

A reminder that patients need a referral from a GP or other medical practitioner to access [PCR testing](#) by private pathology providers.

People who are close contacts or with COVID-like symptoms can continue to receive PCR testing without a referral at Public COVID clinics. These clinics are at Joondalup Hospital, PathWest Murdoch drive-through, Rockingham Hospital drive-through and Royal Perth Hospital in the metro area, and at regional testing locations as [listed](#).

In most circumstances, a rapid antigen test (RAT) is suitable to test for COVID-19 and is safe, convenient and fast.

Information for employers

The WA COVID-19 Test Trace Isolate Quarantine Plan (TTIQ Plan) and the Health Care Worker (HCW) Furloughing Guidelines have been removed from the WA Health website.

Relevant information previously available in these documents is now available at the [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) web page, which includes:

- information to prevent and manage COVID-19 in the workplace
- requirements for asymptomatic close contacts to attend work in non-high risk and in high-risk settings (including HCWs in health care settings)
- links to key resources including HealthyWA case and close contact isolation information, COVID-19 infection prevention and control advice on cleaning and disinfection and COVID-19 vaccination information.

Specific guidance for the management of acute respiratory infection in residential aged care facilities in WA is available at the *COVID-19 information for aged care and community care providers* page of the Department of Health [website](#).

Weekly reporting period

The Department of Health has transitioned to a weekly COVID-19 statement, in line with a national approach. Western Australia (WA) case data is now available every Friday via the [statement](#) on the Department of Health website.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Bivalent Original/Omicron (Moderna) vaccine included in COVID-19 vaccination program

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has [advised](#) that the Bivalent Original/Omicron (Moderna) will be included in the COVID-19 vaccination program for boosters in people aged 18 years or older from 10 October 2022.

This Moderna bivalent vaccine can be used as an alternative vaccine for any booster dose in people aged 18 years or older according to the current ATAGI [recommendations](#) for booster doses. ATAGI does not currently recommend use of the Moderna bivalent vaccine as a booster in anyone under 18 years as it is not registered for this age group.

It is not recommended for the primary course of vaccination (first two doses in most people or first three doses in severely immunocompromised people).

The Moderna bivalent vaccine will be available from participating pharmacies **and GPs**, which can be found on the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Updated ATAGI recommendations fact sheet

ATAGI fact sheet with [recommendations](#) on the use of a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised has been updated.

Updates include recommendations:

- for children aged 6 months and older
- on the use of Nuvaxovid (Novavax) COVID-19 vaccine.

Co-administration with other vaccines in children aged 6 months to <5 years

In children aged 6 months to <5 years, ATAGI [recommends](#) (where possible) a minimum interval of 7 to 14 days between a Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines to minimise the risk of adverse events such as fever.

Moderna paediatric COVID-19 vaccine can be co-administered with other vaccines if separation of vaccines would be logistically challenging, such as with outreach programs, in remote areas, or for children receiving complicated catch-up schedules.

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. New [Directions](#) can be found on the WA Government [website](#).

Updated factsheets

- [WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response \(SAR\) Version 9.1](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

Testing locations

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

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 9 September 2022.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The [AHPPC](#) recently released the following statement:

- [Statement on reduced isolation period for COVID-19 cases](#) – 8 September 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
- [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: **19 October 2022**.

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