



PHEOC BULLETIN

Tuesday 5 May 2020 14:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Clare Huppatz

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **5 May 2020**, there have been **551** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **528** people have recovered.
- To date **48,153** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

Living with COVID

COVID-19 is changing the way we live, work and communicate. Even though the government is relaxing restrictions we should all remain vigilant during this period of transition to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in WA.

Self-Isolation in WA for travellers, close contacts and those tested

For those who have been identified as someone who needs to self-isolate, **they must self-isolate under section 67 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (WA)***. They must immediately go to their home, hotel room, or other accommodation and self-isolate for 14 days, even if they are perfectly well with no symptoms. For further information see [Self-Isolation in WA to prevent the spread of COVID-19](#).

Medical Clearance

People with COVID-19 may be managed in hospital or in the community, as clinically indicated. A clearance letter will be provided by Public Health when the person is no longer infectious and when the person can be released from isolation. Please see updated fact sheet on [Medical Clearance of a Case](#).

Latest Updates

COVIDSafe: New app



The Australian Government's new voluntary COVIDSafe app, is an important public health initiative. It speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). As of **1 May, over 4 million Australians** have downloaded COVIDSafe. For further information and to get the app see [COVIDSafe app](#).

We are all in this together – challenge stigma

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing a great deal of anxiety and stress in the community. It is important to understand the facts:

- A disease such as COVID-19 can be contracted by **anyone** in our community; it knows no

boundaries.

- If you have been sick with COVID-19, and then medically cleared and released from isolation, you are no longer infectious.

There is no place for fear or anger towards people who have been in self-isolation because of COVID-19. We need to support each other through this difficult period. Stigma and discrimination hurt everyone.

Flu Vaccination Campaign

It is more important than ever to be vaccinated this year - especially if the influenza season overlaps with more **COVID-19** cases. Further information can be found at [Healthy WA](#).

Directions Updates

Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Directions (No 2)

Effective 11.59 pm 26 April 2020, indoor and outdoor gatherings for up to 10 people are allowed including weddings, outdoor personal training, and open house or display village inspections.

Closure and Restriction (Elite Athlete Training) Modification Directions

Effective 1 May 2020, certain gatherings are exempt from being prohibited to enable certain activities to occur and to enable certain places to be open for the purposes of enabling people to engage in these specific activities.

Visitors to Residential Aged Care Direction (No 2)

Effective 25 April 2020, a person whose presence at the premises is required for the purposes of emergency management, law enforcement or otherwise responding to an emergency does not have to have an up to date vaccination against influenza, irrespective of whether such a vaccination is available.

Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#).

COVID-19 [State of Emergency Declarations](#) and [Community Advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA.

Hospitals

Elective surgery resumes in Western Australia

[Elective surgery at public and private hospitals resumed](#) on 28 April 2020 at a quarter of their usual activity.

Primary Health

See your GP

The government is urging Western Australians [to maintain regular contact with their GPs](#) for the sake of their health.

Education

Study to track impact of COVID-19 in schools

Thousands of staff and students from WA schools have been invited to participate in a study to test for COVID-19 in schools and psychosocial impacts of the virus. The research forms part of the DETECT program - a new WA-based population study focused on testing targeted groups of people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Following schools, it is anticipated FIFO workers and frontline healthcare workers will be incorporated into the DETECT program which will see randomised testing of people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

Testing

General population

Any person presenting with a fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ **OR** history of fever (e.g. sweats, chills) **OR** an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) can be considered for testing, where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely.

Testing locations

Testing can be performed at COVID clinics, hospitals, Commonwealth-endorsed GP respiratory clinics, private pathology COVID collection centres approved by the Chief Health Officer, as listed on [Healthy WA](#). Tests can also be performed by domiciliary specimen collectors and GPs in residential care facilities. Regional testing can also occur in health centres and remote health clinics operated by WACHS, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the [notification form either **ONLINE** or by printing out the notification form](#). Notifying by phone is not necessary. All laboratories report both positive and negative results to the WA Department of Health, [as per the COVID Testing Reporting Directions](#).

Point of Care (POC) serology testing

COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) serology testing (including as assay or device) as an acute illness diagnostic tool for COVID-19, is [prohibited under the WA Public Health Act 2016 \(external site\)](#).

Resources for more information

- Series of National Guidelines, [SoNG](#) was last updated on 1 May 2020, with addition of new sections: Summary, The Disease, Surveillance, Communications, and Data management, and revisions.
- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee](#) (AHPPC) News
- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [HealthyWA](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)

Who to contact for 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: [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](tel:1326843)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website or complete the [exemption application form](#)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: [131 444](tel:131444) To report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Next advice – The next PHEOC Bulletin will be issued on **Friday 8 May 2020**.

Last updated 5 May 2020

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

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