



PHEOC BULLETIN #39

Tuesday 8 December 2020 14:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the PHEOC Deputy Coordinator, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **8 December 2020**, there have been **831** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **41** historical cases. **810** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **573,766** positive and negative COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

COVID-19 public information campaign

The key messages of maintaining physical distance wherever possible, practising good hand hygiene, staying home if sick, and getting tested, remain critical to reducing the opportunities of COVID-19 transmission in WA. The Department of Health has launched a new media campaign which aims to inform the WA community that COVID-19 is not over and remind them to practise COVID safe behaviours while enjoying summer activities.

The new material is available for you to download and share to help us reach all Western Australians. More materials are available on request.

Please visit [COVID-19 public information campaign](#) for the latest resources.

Community

Mandatory contact registers

To keep all Western Australians safe, some businesses and venues must maintain a contact register of patrons, staff, visitors and contractors for COVID-19 contact tracing, if required. The businesses affected are:

- food and licensed venues (restaurants, cafés, bars, pubs, taverns, nightclubs)
- gyms, indoor sporting centres, wellness centres, health clubs and fitness centres
- indoor play centres
- saunas and bathhouses
- swimming pool, both indoors and outdoors
- places of worship, and funeral parlours
- beauty and personal care services (hairdressers, barbers, nail salons, tattoo parlours, spa and massage parlours)
- galleries and museums
- cinemas, theatres and other entertainment venues (casino, gaming or gambling venues)
- auction houses and real estate inspections
- community facilities, libraries and halls
- zoos and amusement parks

- function centres
- hotels, motels, campgrounds or other accommodation facilities that ordinarily have check-in arrangements
- boarding schools or residential colleges (not including residents)
- adult entertainment premises (strip clubs, brothels and sex on premises venues).

Details required are location, date, name, telephone number and arrival time. Email addresses are optional.

To help businesses and venues, the WA Government has developed the SafeWA app. This is a free system that uses QR codes to register attendance. It is not mandatory to use SafeWA, but it is encouraged.

Alternative contact register formats are available, including recording details electronically or on paper. Businesses must still maintain a written contact register for people who choose not to use the SafeWA app.

For more information please see the frequently asked questions for:

- [Businesses and venues](#) FAQs and
- [Visitors and Patrons](#) FAQs

More information on the SafeWA app can be found [here](#)

WA's controlled interstate border

Following updated advice from the Chief Health Officer, Premier Mark McGowan has announced that, travel from Victoria and New South Wales will be classified as 'very low risk' as of Tuesday, December 8.

Western Australia's controlled interstate border will be safely adjusted, with travel from Victoria and New South Wales to be permitted into WA with the following conditions:

- completion of a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
- all Perth Airport arrivals to undergo a health screening and temperature test on arrival;
- travellers to be prepared to take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing available for all airport arrivals);
- all travellers to receive a SMS health check reminder one week into their stay in WA; and
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked.

Other jurisdictions currently in the 'very low risk' category include the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Northern Territory and Tasmania.

The Premier has also announced that from this Friday, December 11, South Australia will be reclassified to 'low risk' from its current medium risk classification, subject to no further community outbreaks. This means travellers from SA will be permitted to enter under the 'low risk' classification, however are required to comply with these additional conditions:

- take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing available for all airport arrivals);
- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable approved premise; and
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 11.

The Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor and review these travel arrangements to determine if there can be any further adjustments in the future, should there be any significant changes in the public health situation.

Enhanced regular testing for hotel quarantine staff

As part of the new weekly mandatory testing program, security personnel and cleaning staff at all State-run quarantine hotels will be tested every 7 days. The new testing program better protects hotel quarantine workers and adds to the protection measures already applied at WA's State-run hotel quarantine system.

The new direction came into operation at 12.01am on Friday, 20 November. The media release is located [here](#).

Surge employment process for the Department of Health

As a part of the Department of Health's preparedness for any change in COVID-19 transmission in WA, employment opportunities are advertised on the Department of Health [Jobs in Health](#) website.

WA Roadmap – Phase 5

The start date for Phase 5 is yet to be determined. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

The Commonwealth Government has released the [Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#), which outlines the approach, principles and responsibilities for providing COVID-19 vaccines in Australia. WA Health is working in partnership with the Commonwealth Government to develop the *Western Australian COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Plan*.

Directions updates

COVID-19 [State of Emergency Declarations](#) and [Community Advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA. Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#) and the [Directions FAQs](#).

New Directions:

[Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No.9\)](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) OR history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [Healthy WA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the notification form.

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest iteration](#) was released on 28 October 2020.

Business and Industry

Resources for more information

- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health; HealthyWA](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough – in multiple languages](#)

Updated Fact Sheets

[Presentation for Testing fact sheet](#)

[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 2\) Frequently asked questions](#)

[Information for Quarantine workers \(NEW\)](#)

[Domestic arrivals into Perth Airport: COVID-19 testing for symptomatic travellers \(NEW\)](#)

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

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 15 December 2020**.

Last updated 8 December November 2020

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

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