



Agency Advisory #12

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Tuesday 24 March 2020 **14:00** Hours (latest updates in RED)

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

New Information

- As of 24 March 2020, there are 175 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in WA.
- To date, 10,353 Western Australians tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- NEW & UPDATED DAILY** [Daily Snapshot COVID-19](#)
- WA borders closed at 13:30 24 March 2020.** Interstate arrivals are now required to self-isolate for 14 days, and the border controls apply to all road, air, rail and sea access points. Exceptions apply for essential services and workers. Please see details [Self-Isolation Following Interstate Travel Direction](#)
- New WA Directions** are now in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please see Department of Premier and Cabinet website. [COVID-19 State of Emergency Declarations](#)
- The community should call police on 131 444 to report people who should be self-isolating and are not.**
- As at 18:30 AEDT 23 March 2020, there have been 1,709 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and seven deaths. Of the 1,709 confirmed cases, there have been 32 cases from the ACT, 704 cases from NSW, four cases from the NT, 319 cases from QLD, 134 cases from SA, 21 cases from TAS and 355 cases from VIC.
- According to the most recent [WHO Situation Report](#) dated 23:59 CET 23 March 2020, in the past 24 hours:
 - Worldwide: 40,788 new confirmed cases (332,930 total); 1,727 new deaths (14,510 total);
 - Western Pacific Region: 850 new confirmed cases (95,637 total); 35 new deaths (3,473 total);
 - European Region: 20,131 new confirmed cases (171,424 total); 1,318 new deaths (8,743 total);
 - South-East Asia: 519 new confirmed cases (1,776 total); 13 new deaths (58 total);
 - Eastern Mediterranean Region: 1,706 new confirmed cases (25,375 total); 145 new deaths (1,741 total);
 - Regions of the Americas: 17,331 new confirmed cases (37,016 total); 213 new deaths (465 total);
 - African Region: 251 new confirmed cases (990 total); three new deaths (23 total).
- As of 20 March 2020, the Prime Minister has announced:
 - a “human biosecurity emergency” has been declared under the Biosecurity Act 2015, allowing the Health Minister to issue targeted, legally enforceable directions and requirements to combat the virus;
 - a travel ban on all non-Australian residents and non-Australian citizens coming into Australia from 21:00 AEDT 20 March 2020;

- all Australian residents and citizens arriving from overseas from 16 March 2020 will be required to self-isolate for 14 days;
 - the Australian Government will be issuing Isolation Declaration Cards (IDC) to all incoming travellers, asking if they 'understand the need to isolate for 14 days', while collecting personal information for public health follow up by the states and territories. Travellers will be requested to complete the card at all international airports from 06:00 AEDT 20 March.
 - cruise ships from international ports will be banned from docking in Australia for 30 days;
 - the national Cabinet endorses the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) to introduce additional social distancing measures;
 - the Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has now moved to the Targeted Action stage;
 - non-essential outdoor organised gatherings should be limited to fewer than 500 people. Major events have since been cancelled; non-essential indoor gatherings should be limited to fewer than 100 people. **This information is further clarified in the new WA Direction (Mass Gatherings)** [WA Mass Gatherings Directions](#)
 - residents of aged care homes will only be able to have one visit per day, of no more than two people;
- **Advice for Funeral Directors** [COVID-19 Advice for Funeral Directors](#)
 - **On 21 March 2020 the WA Minister for Health announced:**
 - the cessation of all Category 3 elective surgeries from Tuesday 24 March. No new Category 2 elective surgeries will be booked from Monday 23 March.
 - new guidelines for hospital visitors will be introduced on Monday 23 March.
 - **COVID Clinics** [Find a COVID-19 Clinic near you](#)
 - **Mining Sites and Remote Industry Guidelines** [Preventing the spread of COVID-19 on remote industrial sites](#)
 - **Information for Hotels & Accommodation who have guests self-isolating as a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases.** [Hotels and Accommodation COVID-19 Confirmed or Suspected](#)
 - **Australian Health Protection Principal Committee** [AHPPC Statement](#) published 23 March
 - [Limits on dispensing and sales of medicines](#) Medicine supplies in Australia are strong, however demand for medicines has increased markedly over the past two weeks, resulting in some community pharmacies and wholesalers reporting temporary strain on the supply of some medicines.

Information for Employers and Employees

- It is not possible for employees to provide medical certificates if they have been declined a test for COVID-19. People who do not have symptoms SHOULD NOT be tested.
- [COVID-19 and employment flexibilities for Public Sector employees](#)
- [Government employees visiting remote communities](#)

Summary of other key information

- On 7 March 2020, the Chief Health Officer (CHO) formally escalated the [Infectious Disease Emergency Management Plan](#) to TARGETED ACTION PHASE. On 15 March 2020, the CHO formally escalated the [State Hazard Plan Human Biosecurity](#) to a Level 3 Incident and a State of Emergency was declared.
- **TRAVEL** - The current advice (at 16 March 2020) to all Australians (regardless of age, health or destination) is to reconsider any non-essential overseas travel at this time. For up to date information please go to the Australian Government's [Coronavirus Health Alerts](#)

- Ban on Work-Related International Travel for WA Health Staff - Due to the international outbreak of COVID-19, the State Government has recently banned non-critical, work-related international travel for public sector employees, effective immediately. In order to protect our staff and patients, WA Health has decided to extend this ban to include all funded international work-related travel, including sponsored travel.

More information

National Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080

- International information and updates: [World Health Organization](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Rolling Updates](#)
- Various resources for employers, schools and higher education, health, aged care, childcare, transport, travel and hotel sectors are available at the following websites:

[WA Department of Health](#)

[HealthyWA](#)

[Commonwealth Government](#)

[COVID-19 MythBusters](#) (World Health Organisation)

Next advice - The next agency advisory will be issued **on Friday 27 March 2020.**

© Department of Health 2020

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia. health.wa.gov.au