Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Agency Advisory #13

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Friday 27 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 27 March 2020, there are 255 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in WA.
- To date,11,836 Western Australians who have tested for COVID-19 have returned a negative result.
- NEW & UPDATED DAILY Daily Snapshot COVID-19
- As at 18:00 AEDT 26 March 2020, there have been 2,799 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and 13 deaths. Of the 2,799 confirmed cases, this includes 53 cases from the ACT, 1,219 cases from NSW, eight cases from the NT, 493 cases from QLD, 235 cases from SA, 40 cases from TAS and 520 cases from VIC.
- According to the most recent WHO Situation Report dated 10:00 CET 26 March 2020, in the past 24 hours:
    - Worldwide: 49,219 new confirmed cases (462,684 total); 2,401 new deaths (20,834 total);
    - Western Pacific Region: 1,292 new confirmed cases (99,058 total); 22 new deaths (3,540 total);
    - European Region: 29,771 new confirmed cases (250,287 total); 1,964 new deaths (13,950 total);
    - South-East Asia: 192 new confirmed cases (2,536 total); 7 new deaths (79 total);
    - Eastern Mediterranean Region: 2,811 new confirmed cases (32,442 total); 154 new deaths (2,162 total);
    - Regions of the Americas: 14,878 new confirmed cases (75,712 total); 252 new deaths (1,065 total);
    - African Region: 275 new confirmed cases (1,937 total); two new deaths (31 total).
- From 00:00 AEDT 28 March 2020, all people returning to Australia will be required to self-isolate in a hotel or other accommodation for 14 days before returning home.
- On 27 March 2020, the Premier announced travel between regions in Western Australia will be restricted from midnight 31 March 2020. Regional boundaries will mirror those of the state's Regional Development Commissions. Further detail will be released later.
- TRAVEL - On 24 March the Prime Minister announced a ban on all overseas travel, with few exceptions. If you have future travel planned or are considering going overseas, cancel or postpone these plans. A ban is in place. The risks to your health and that of others is too great. For urgent consular assistance contact your nearest Australian embassy, high commission or consulate or call DFAT's Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 from Australia or +61 6261 3305 from overseas. Also see SMARTRAVELLER

- **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 for all listed below. COVID-19 State of Emergency Declarations

    - Western Australia Declaration of State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency

    Travel
    - Border Controls
    - Self-Isolation Following Interstate Travel Direction
    - Self-Isolation Following Overseas Travel Directions
    - Rottnest Island Directions
    - Cruise ships
    - Large Vessel Directions
        - MV Pacific Princess Directions
        - MSC Magnifica Directions
        - MS Artania Directions
        - Silver Whisper Directions

    Business and community
    - Preventative Restriction of Activities Directions
    - Closure of Certain Places of Business, Worship and Entertainment Direction
    - Closure of Gun Shops
    - Mass Gatherings Directions
    - Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions
    - Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Direction
    - Incident Management Team Accommodation Directions - Optus Stadium

    Local government
    - Public Authorities Directions - Delivery of Goods and Collection of Rubbish and Refuse

- **The community should call police on 131 444 to report people in breach of self-isolation directions or businesses in breach of State Emergency Management Act Directions.**

- Aboriginal Communities Information

    - Checklist for Remote Clinics in Aboriginal Communities

    - Remote Aboriginal Communities Guidance

- Hon Greg Hunt MP, Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP - Travel Restrictions to Remote Areas Media Release

- 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. 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; Aged Care Facilities Directions

- 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

- 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

- 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. 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 Tuesday 31 March 2020.**

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