



PHEOC BULLETIN

Tuesday 14 July 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **14 July 2020**, there have been **636** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **606** people have recovered.
- To date **209,567** 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 media campaign

The Department of Health will commence a media campaign this week reinforcing the key messages:

- Continue to physical distance where possible
- Continue to wash hands often and practise good personal hygiene e.g. cover coughs
- Stay home if unwell. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms get tested
- Download the COVIDSafe app.

COVID-19 and face masks

The advice about wearing masks in the community has been the same since the pandemic began: it is not generally recommended. The chance of coming into contact with someone with COVID-19 is low. However, if you are in a region where community transmission is occurring, you should take extra precautions, in some circumstances. For people at increased risk of severe COVID-19 themselves, because of older age or chronic illness, physical distancing is most important. If you cannot maintain physical distance, wearing a mask is an important protective measure.

The main value of wearing a mask is to protect other people. If the person wearing the mask is unknowingly infected, wearing a mask will reduce the chance of them passing the virus on to others.

Please see [Australian Department of Health advice](#) and [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#) fact sheets.

AHPPC recommendations for managing health risk as COVID-19 measures lift

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has revised its advice for vulnerable workers. Please see full statement [HERE](#)

In a low COVID-19 prevalence environment such as currently exists in WA, there is no recommendation for elderly and vulnerable people to continue to isolate, but they should take note of the following:

- We all need to do things differently as we learn to live with COVID-19. Maintaining good hygiene and taking care when interacting with other people is the best defence for you and your family against coronavirus.
- With the easing of restrictions, it is especially important for vulnerable groups who are at greater risk of serious illness if they get COVID-19 (such as older Australians) to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 where they can.
- It is also important to keep up to date with the latest health advice regarding COVID-19 in your area. Advice is likely to vary between the different states and territories of Australia depending on their local situation.

COVID-19 advice in other languages

A list of resources regarding COVID-19 in languages other than English is available on the WA Government website [here](#). The resources include fact sheets, guidelines and other useful publications.

Resources for Aboriginal people

The [COVID-19 for Aboriginal people website](#) has many resources suitable for a variety of settings.

Phase 5 pushed back

Based on the latest health advice, Phase 5 of the WA COVID-19 roadmap, has been pushed back. Except WA's hard border and access to remote Aboriginal communities, Phase 5 would see remaining restrictions removed, including the removal of WA's 2 square metre rule and the 50 per cent capacity for our major venues. The new tentative date for Phase 5 is Saturday, 1 August. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

Information for Employers

WA has strict border controls in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. All travellers returning to Western Australia are required to undertake a 14-day quarantine period. Please be aware there have been a few instances where travellers have returned to their place of work prior to completing their quarantine period. Managers are encouraged to be vigilant and ensure any new staff or staff returning from interstate or international travel have completed a 14-day quarantine period prior to commencing work.

Victoria Update

As at 13 July, Victoria has reported 3,967 cases of COVID-19, with 177 being reported from the previous day. Of these cases, 641 may indicate community transmission. Media release with further details can be viewed [HERE](#). WA continues to support Victoria by providing expert advice and remote contact tracing. WA's former Chief Health Officer, Tarun Weeramanthri, has been seconded to Victoria's Department of Health and Human Services to assist.

Community

Department of Premier and Cabinet

The [FAQs](#) provide the latest community updates about Phase 4 easing of restrictions and what it means for community and business.

DETECT schools' program

The school research project forms part of the [DETECT program](#). View the complete list of participating schools [here](#).

To date 4,499 tests have been performed on school staff and students with no positive cases. Note testing numbers have not increased due to school holidays.

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](#).

Quarantine (Closing The Border) Amendment Directions (No 2) (see [HERE](#))

Aged Care Facilities – Changes have been made effective 8 July 2020 (see [HERE](#))

Presentation for Testing Directions (2) have been introduced as at 9 July 2020 (see [HERE](#))

Testing

General population testing criteria (see [HERE](#))

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), **OR acute loss of smell or taste**.

People may also be considered for testing if they meet one of the following criteria:

- close contact of a confirmed or probable case
- healthcare, aged, or residential care workers with direct patient contact
- persons who have returned from overseas or have lived/ travelled through an area in Australia with elevated risk of community transmission
- where there is no alternative cause of symptoms
- **anyone with non-specific signs of infection if admitted to hospital**

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.

Testing of asymptomatic patients

The purpose of the [Testing Directions](#) is to prohibit a person from requesting or conducting testing for COVID-19 except in accordance with these directions. Testing asymptomatic patients is permitted in several settings, approval for each of these scenarios can be found [here](#).

Asymptomatic testing should not be performed for return to work purposes or fit for work purposes, unless requested or approved by Public Health.

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The latest iteration was released on 1 July 2020. (see [HERE](#))

Business and Industry

See latest updates about how the Western Australian Government is supporting business and industry economic recovery through COVID-19 [HERE](#).

Resources for more information

- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)

- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [HealthyWA](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)

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. The next issue will be **Tuesday 21 July 2020**.

Last updated 14 July 2020

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

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