



# PHEOC BULLETIN #74

**Thursday 12 August 2021 11:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer

- **Summary:** as of **Thursday 12 August**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **1,059** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **100** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **1,046** people recover from COVID-19
  - **1,572,501** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#) & [Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

## Living with COVID

### Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

### Weak positive detection in the Perth community

On 4 August 2021 WA Health [announced](#) the detection of a weak positive COVID-19 case in the community. The case, a man in his 30s, resides in Perth and works FIFO at a mine in the Pilbara region. He is currently in isolation.

The FIFO worker was a casual contact of a Queensland traveller at Perth Airport on 20 July. The traveller, who was refused entry to WA, returned to Queensland where he subsequently tested positive to COVID-19.

Anyone who visited an [exposure location](#) during the exposure periods is required to follow the instructions online, or the advice provided directly to them by the Department of Health.

Read the [media release](#) for additional information.

### Broome Wastewater

On 6 August 2021 it was reported that the state's wastewater surveillance [program](#) detected traces of the virus in the Broome township area.

While the finding does not necessarily indicate there is a positive case in the community, anyone with even the mildest of symptoms is urged to get tested as soon as possible as a precaution.

Repeat testing of wastewater in Broome resulted in no further detections.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for additional information.

## Healthcare settings IPC guidelines update

The *Coronavirus Disease - 2019 (COVID-19) Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities* document includes an updated section (12.2) regarding lift management practices. Health care facilities (HCFs) are required to have a designated person oversee and control the lift until it can be returned to service.

Refer to the section 12 of the [resource](#) for further information.

## Notice to Shipping

The WA Government has released a statement outlining the COVID-19 protocols and standards for commercial vessels arriving at WA ports.

The statement outlines the expectations of the WA government in relation to the shipping industry to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 on board vessels entering WA ports.

To date, no cases of COVID-19 on a vessel at a WA port has resulted in community transmission.

Refer to the [document](#) for further information.

## Jurisdiction risk rating

South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland are considered 'medium risk'. Australian Capital Territory is considered 'low risk'. Northern Territory, Tasmania and New Zealand are considered 'very low risk'. For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled interstate border [webpage](#).

## Vessel management

WA Health is currently managing **the vessel MV Darya Krishna**, berthed at Fremantle Port, with confirmed cases of COVID-19 among crew. **The BBC California has been cleared of COVID-19 and has departed Western Australia.**

## Community

### Vaccination requirement for residential aged care facility workers

The Chief Health Officer approved [Directions](#) to ensure that any person working at a Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) must have received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccination.

This advice aligns Western Australia with the [Commonwealth position](#) agreed by the National Cabinet and is based on advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

This requirement applies to any person working at the facility including facility workers, administrative staff, ancillary staff, all visiting health care workers (including doctors, allied health and ambulance staff), students and volunteers. These workers must receive this first vaccine on or before 12.01am on 17 September 2021. Exemptions apply.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for further information.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### TGA grant provisional approval for Moderna vaccine

On the 9 August 2021 the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [announced](#) provisional approval to Moderna Australia Pty Ltd for its COVID-19 vaccine — Spikevax (elasomeran). The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is provisional approved for individuals 18 years and older and will be distributed to and administered by primary care providers only.

## People aged 30-39 eligible to book COVID-19 vaccination

Western Australians are urged to book an appointment for a vaccination as soon as they are eligible, to help protect ourselves, our families and our communities from COVID-19.

Individuals aged 30-39 are now eligible to make a booking to receive their COVID-19 vaccination, with a two week vaccination 'blitz' occurring from 16-29 August. During the 'blitz', more than 140,000 vaccination appointments will be available.

You can register and book your appointment now at [VaccinateWA](#) or call 13COVID (13 268 43), if you require assistance.

## 12-15 year-olds with underlying medical conditions eligible for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Following the TGA [announcement](#) and approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) for 12-15 year-olds, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recently reviewed the available safety and efficacy data and recommends that the following groups of children aged 12–15 years be prioritised for vaccination using the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Those living in remote communities (as part of broader community outreach vaccination programs)
- Those people with specific medical conditions including: severe asthma; diabetes; obesity; cardiac and circulatory congenital anomalies; neuro developmental disorders; epilepsy; immuno-compromised or trisomy 21.

Please see the [ATAGI statement](#) for further information.

Book online through the Australian Government [Eligibility Checker](#), register and book online at [VaccinateWA](#) or call 13 COVID (13 268 43).

## New community clinics

**Perth CBD** Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road Perth, short walk from Elizabeth Quay train station.  
Operating from 16 August and offering Pfizer and open Monday - **Saturday**.

**Midland** Centrepont Shopping Centre, 307 Great Eastern Highway Midland, short walk from Midland train station. (Replacing Redcliffe).  
Operating from 6 September and offering Pfizer and open 7 days a week.

Existing [Community clinics](#) in WA include Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, Redcliffe and Bunbury.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, General Practitioners (GPs) in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 Vaccine [Eligibility Checker](#).

## Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- Requests for [alternative COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- HealthyWA - [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health - [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) - workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government - [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Rollup for WA](#) and [Rollup for WA posters](#)
- [KAMS - Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign NEW](#)

## 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](#).

### New Directions:

[Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions](#)

[Exposure Site \(Western Australia\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Authorisation to approve simultaneous roles and an alternative ratio for the COVID Safety Marshal Condition under the COVID Safe \(Phase 5\) Directions](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Aboriginal sector communication update #24](#)

[Clinician Alert – Kimberley Region](#)

[Testing criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #32](#)

[COVID-19 infection prevention and control in Western Australian healthcare facilities version 10](#)

[Transport of exposed maritime workers](#)

[Exposed vessels](#)

## Testing

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

The *Testing criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #32* has been published in response to changes in [Directions](#).

Refer to the Department of Health [website](#) for further information.

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** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste.

### Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

### 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 24 June 2021.

## Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\)](#) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer. The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters.

## Business and industry

### Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [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
- [Contact register information](#)

### 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
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

**Next advice** - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 17 Aug 2021**.

Last updated **12 August 2021**

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

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