



# PHEOC BULLETIN #76

**Wednesday 25 August 2021 16:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Wednesday 25 August**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **1,084** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **101** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **1,051** people recover from COVID-19
  - **1,630,167** 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](#).

- [Controlled border - New South Wales - 20 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - New Zealand - 18 August 2021](#)
- [Western Australia's controlled border arrangement - 16 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - Australian Capital Territory - 13 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - South Australia - 5 August 2021](#)

### New South Wales to be elevated to an 'extreme risk' jurisdiction

Based on the latest public health advice, New South Wales (NSW) will be further elevated to an extreme risk jurisdiction from 12:01am Thursday, 26 August 2021, under the WA's [controlled border arrangements](#).

Under the extreme risk category travel from NSW to WA will not be permitted and the exemptions for approved travellers will be further restricted to Commonwealth and State officials, Members of Parliament, Diplomats and specialist or extraordinary circumstances determined by the State Emergency Coordinator or the Chief Health Officer. These approved travellers are subject to the following conditions, unless otherwise advised:

- undertake mandatory hotel quarantine at a State quarantine facility for 14 days at their own expense
- undergo COVID-19 testing on days 1, 5 and 13
- must have returned a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the past 72 hours
- have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible.

Under the extreme risk setting, if a Western Australian returning from overseas falls into one of the above categories, is approved to enter WA, and has completed 14 days of supervised quarantine in NSW they will be required to undergo a further 14 days of self-quarantine in WA in a suitable premises.

The trigger for review which guides the implementation of an 'extreme risk' classification is a 500-case rolling average over five or 14 days, which has been met.

The Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor the situation and provide advice on border controls.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [Media Statement](#) for full details.

### **New Zealand to ‘medium risk’**

WA will introduce a hard border with New Zealand (NZ), moving from ‘low risk’ to a ‘medium risk’ from 12.01am, Thursday 26 August, following the evolving COVID-19 situation.

From this date, travel from NZ will not be permitted, unless approved.

The exemption list is limited to:

- certain senior Government officials
- certain active military personnel
- a member of the Commonwealth Parliament
- a person carrying out functions under a law of the Commonwealth
- a person responsible for transport freight or logistics
- anyone who is given approval by State Emergency Coordinator or an authorised officer.

The final category includes compassionate reasons - including those Western Australians who may have travelled to NZ recently and need to return to WA.

Approved travellers arriving to WA after 12.01am, Thursday 26 August must:

- self-quarantine in a suitable premises for 14 days
- present for an initial COVID-19 test within 48 hours
- present for a COVID-19 test if any symptoms develop during quarantine
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 12 after arrival in WA (if still in WA).

Anyone who has recently arrived from NZ prior to the introduction of a hard border should continue to comply with their existing Directions, under the low risk settings provided to them upon entry to the state.

Recent arrivals into WA are asked to continue to monitor the NZ [exposure sites](#).

Anyone who arrived in WA before 12.01am, Thursday August 26 and who has been to a NZ [exposure site](#) at the specific times must self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested within 48 hours and on day 12.

For more information, see the [announcement](#).

### **Queensland to ‘low risk’**

Queensland will transition from ‘medium risk’ to ‘low risk’ from 12.01am, Thursday 26 August.

Under the low risk category, all travellers who have been in Queensland or travelled through Queensland can enter WA subject to the following strict conditions:

- complete a G2G PASS stating they do not have COVID-19 symptoms, and which jurisdictions they have been in over the previous 14 days
- undergo a health screening upon arrival in WA
- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premises
- present for COVID-19 testing within 48 hours of arrival and on day 12
- wear a mask when transiting to quarantine premises and when presenting for COVID-19 testing.

For more information, see the [announcement](#).

### **South Australia to ‘very low risk’**

South Australia (SA) will move to ‘very low risk’ from 12.01am, Thursday 26 August.

This means travellers entering from or via SA will be permitted to enter WA without quarantine requirements, but still be subject to the following strict conditions of entry:

- complete a G2G PASS declaration, which states they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and which jurisdictions they have been to in the previous 14 days
- undergo health screening upon arrival.

Any recent arrivals from South Australia who are serving their 14 days of self-quarantine will be permitted to end their period of quarantine on the same day that South Australia transitions to a 'very low risk' state, based on health advice.

For more information, see the [announcement](#).

## Northern Territory public health advice

All persons arriving in WA from the Northern Territory (NT) between 16 August and 23 August 2021 were required to get tested immediately (within 48 hours) and isolate until they have received a negative result.

Anyone who has been at the listed NT [exposure sites](#) on the dates and time specified are required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11. Continue to monitor the listed [exposure sites](#) in case additional locations are added.

Recent arrivals who did **not** visit the NT exposure locations and arrived between 12 August and 16 August 2021 should get tested if COVID-19 related symptoms develop.

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

## Australian Capital Territory to 'medium risk'

As of 14 August 2021, Australian Capital Territory (ACT) transitioned to a 'medium risk' territory under the WA's [controlled border](#) arrangements.

Travellers arriving in WA after 12:01am, Saturday 14 August must:

- have approval via a G2G Pass to enter WA;
- self-quarantine in a suitable premises for 14 days; and
- present for a COVID-19 test within 48 hours of arrival, on day 12 and if symptoms develop.

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

## Updated Controlled Border classifications

Based on the latest health advice, the 'high risk' category has been upgraded and a new 'extreme risk' category has been added to WA's [controlled border](#) arrangements.

Since 14 November 2020 when the controlled interstate border was introduced, only the 'very low risk', 'low risk' and 'medium risk' categories have applied, but with growing concerns about transmission of the Delta variant in Australia, the Chief Health Officer has recommended a new, strengthened risk matrix.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for the requirements under each category.

## Jurisdiction risk rating

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

## Vessel management

WA Health is currently monitoring the health of crew from the MV Ken Hou vessel, with every precaution being taken to ensure the safety of port workers and the WA Community.

Of the 22 crew members from the MV Ken Hou vessel, 20 are infected with COVID-19. Two crew members who tested negative to COVID-19 have been transferred to hotel quarantine where they will undergo further testing.

The Department of Health is working closely with the captain, shipping agent, vessel owner, WA Police, Fremantle Ports and Commonwealth agencies to manage the vessel and crew.

For now, the vessel will remain berthed at Fremantle Port with all positive crew members remaining on-board and their health status monitored daily.

See the [media release](#) for more information.

## Community

### Donations to Afghan evacuees

The State Government is continuing to work with its community sector partners to support evacuees from Afghanistan who have recently arrived in Perth.

While many members of the Western Australian community are keen to show their support through the donation of goods and food, these donations are not needed at this time.

There are strict COVID safety restrictions at WA hotel quarantine facilities and it is important that people do not visit these locations, especially during quarantine periods.

The best way to can help is to make a financial donation through the Australian Red Cross [Afghanistan Crisis Appeal](#).

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### People aged 16 and over are now eligible to book in for their COVID-19 vaccine

Everyone aged 16 and over is now eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccination at **WA Health run vaccination clinics**. People aged 16 - 59 are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and those aged 60 and over are eligible to receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccine eligibility for primary care providers (GPs, GP Respiratory Clinics, Aboriginal Medical Services and pharmacies) differs slightly in line with Australian Government eligibility criteria, which can be accessed here: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>.

A three-week vaccination 'blitz' is occurring from 16 August – 3 September. During the blitz, more than 250,000 vaccination appointments will be available at state run community clinics.

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.

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

### Reporting adverse events following immunisation

The [WA Vaccine Safety Surveillance \(WAVSS\)](#) on-line reporting system allows medical and nurse practitioners, other immunisation providers, parents and guardians and vaccinated individuals to report significant Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI).

WAVSS provides expert immunisation safety advice to people who report AEFI and can provide clinical guidance for children and adults who have experienced AEFI.

Immunisation providers are asked to be aware of the extended time-frame during which significant AEFI may occur following a COVID-19 vaccine; which includes serious outcomes that may occur up to 42 days following immunisation with a COVID-19 vaccine. Immunisation providers are also reminded that suspected AEFI are notifiable conditions in WA (*Public Health Regulations, 2017*) and must be reported to the WAVSS system within 72 hours of recognition of the event.

## 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** Centrepoint 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](#)

## 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:

[Northern Territory Special Presentation for Testing and Isolation Revocation Directions Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 33\)](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 39\)](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 38\)](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 35\)](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 37\)](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 36\)](#)  
[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 4\)](#)  
[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 32\)](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #25](#)

[Risk for port workers – COVID-19 detected on a vessel](#)  
[Mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers FAQ](#)  
[Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities version 11](#)

## 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** 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 31 Aug 2021**.

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

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