



PHEOC BULLETIN #80

Tuesday 21 September 2021 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday 21 September**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,094** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 103 historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,080** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **1,737,312** 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](#).

- [Access to Pfizer vaccination for people greater than 60 years of age - 13 September 2021](#)

Asymptomatic testing of taxi and ride share drivers

Any taxi or ride share driver without symptoms who transports people from the Perth domestic airport or to/from a COVID testing facility is now eligible to receive free COVID-19 testing as part of the [DETECT Borders](#) surveillance program. The program has been extended to offer peace of mind to drivers and to strengthen Western Australia's existing surveillance measures.

Those eligible under the voluntary Detect Borders program can receive asymptomatic testing at [public COVID Clinics](#) and can continue with any usual activities while waiting for their test results.

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

RACF worker and HCW access exemptions

Supporting [documents](#) to the *Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions (No 2)* have been released. They include an exemption guideline and the application forms for temporary exemptions. Similar documents have been [released](#) regarding the *Health Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions (No 2)*.

Local Government Contact Register compliance – reporting changes

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are responsible for conducting compliance checks on all relevant premises, as per the Contact Register Directions (No.2), as part of the current State of Emergency, COVID-19 pandemic. Returns of actions undertaken by EHOs as authorised officers are required to be submitted on a weekly basis. Currently, this is achieved by an email.

A web form has been developed, which will allow EHOs to submit their statistics via a weblink, rather than email. This will:

- Streamline reporting for all EHO and LGAs

- Ensure all reports received provide standardised information.
- Improve accuracy of reporting
- Reduce administration time

Access to the web form will be provided directly to authorised EHOs.

Driver testing requirements

As of 12:00pm 8 September 2021, transport, freight and logistics drivers entering WA from jurisdictions with a 'high' or 'extreme risk' category under WA's controlled border arrangement are subject to additional testing [requirements](#).

Drivers who have been in these jurisdictions in the 14 days prior are required to show proof of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test within the previous 72 hours. If drivers have not received their test result, they are required to undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT) at the WA border at Eucla or Kununurra and wait for a negative result before being granted entry.

If drivers receive a non-negative RAT result, they will be directed to travel immediately to undertake a PCR test and isolate until they receive a result.

For further information refer to the transport, freight and logistics drivers [webpage](#).

Jurisdiction risk rating

New South Wales is considered 'extreme risk'. Victoria is considered 'high risk'. Australian Capital Territory is considered 'medium risk'. Queensland is considered 'low risk'. South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania are considered 'very low risk'. New Zealand is no longer a jurisdiction in WA's controlled border. For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled border [webpage](#).

Community

Continuing COVID safe practices

Businesses and patrons are reminded to be vigilant with [COVID safe practices](#) despite there being no instances of COVID-19 community transmission.

Businesses should refer to trusted sources (see the [Business and industry](#) section below), when reviewing COVID Safety Plans (see the [COVID Safe Guidelines](#)), company website and social media accounts to ensure they include the most up to date advice. Consider utilising the visual [resources](#) and fact sheets (including [translated](#) resources) available to remind staff and patrons how to protect against COVID-19. Strategies include:

- physically distance
- stay home and get tested if unwell
- perform regular hand hygiene
- receive a COVID-19 vaccination or register at [Rollup for WA](#) (if eligible)
- sign into [SafeWA](#) or a manual contact register upon entering a premises.

Encourage [contact register](#) use by displaying SafeWA QR codes in prominent places and clearly advise where the manual contact register is held. This is a vital step to ensure the Public Health team can promptly trace contacts if COVID-19 is identified in the community.

COVID-19 vaccination program

School-based vaccination program announced

On the 17 September 2021 the state government [announced](#) that the COVID-19 vaccination school based program will begin in week 1 of term 4. The rolling school-based vaccination program for

students aged 12 and above and school staff will begin at around 20 schools across WA next month. Priority schools will include residential, agricultural and boarding colleges, and education support settings. During the school holidays, walk-in opportunities will be available at clinics in Midland, Kwinana and the city centre, as well as Joondalup and Claremont. School staff are also able to access the dedicated vaccination slots without an appointment after school hours and during the school holidays. Bookings can be made at [VaccinateWA](#) or by calling 13COVID (13 268 43).

Vaccination of residential aged care facility workers now mandatory

The vaccination of residential aged care workers became mandatory on the 17 September. Currently approximately 98% of residential aged care workers are vaccinated. Further information for residential aged care worker is available in the [frequently asked questions](#).

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine available at selected pharmacies

On the 22 September Minister for Health [announced](#) that the Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine will be available in participating community pharmacies from this week.

People aged 12 and over will be eligible to receive the Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine. To find a participating pharmacy please visit the Australian Government's [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) or [findapharmacy](#).

12-15 year olds can now receive Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine

Children aged 12-15 can now be booked in to receive the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine. Appointments can be booked by a parent or legal guardian through **GPs, GP respiratory clinics or Aboriginal Medical Services** by contacting a participating provider through the Vaccine Eligibility [Checker](#), or in a **State-run vaccination clinic** by registering them as a dependant under the [VaccinateWA](#) account of a parent or legal guardian. If the parent or legal guardian does not have a VaccinateWA account, appointments can be made by calling 13COVID (13 268 43). Instructions on how to book a dependant online are available in the VaccinateWA [FAQs](#).

Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine for people aged 60 and over

On 14 September 2021 the Minister for Health [announced](#) that all Western Australians aged 60 years and over are eligible to receive the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine at **state-run vaccination clinics** from the 20 September 2021. People aged 60 or older who have already had a first dose of Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccine are urged to get a second dose of the same vaccine in line with the advice provided by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). Those aged 60 or older who had booked a first Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 dose but not yet received it, can cancel their booking and re-book an appointment for the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine if they wish. Bookings can be made and changed at [VaccinateWA](#) or by calling 13COVID (13 268 43).

New community clinics

Midland Centrepoint Shopping Centre (between Australia Post and Pharmacy 777), 307 Great Eastern Highway Midland, short walk from Midland train station.
Offering Pfizer 7 days a week. Monday - Saturday 8.30am-4.30pm,
Sunday 11am-5pm.

Existing [Community clinics](#) in WA include Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, GPs in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for eligible populations and will soon commence administering the Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine. 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

[Authorisation \(No 4\) to Supply or Prescribe a Poison](#)

[WA Police Mission Critical Areas \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of Covid-19 Vaccination for the Purposes of Paragraph 9 of the Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Health Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\) \(and supporting documents\)](#)

[Transport and Accommodation Services \(Exposed Maritime Worker\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Rig or Platform Crew Member Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Exposed On-Board Worker Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Public Health Act 2016 Instrument of Authorisation to Supply or Administer a Poison \[SARS-COV-2 \(COVID-19\) VACCINE – COVID-19 VACCINATORS – CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICE\] \(No. 4\) 2021](#)

[Public Health Act 2016 Instrument of Authorisation to Supply or Administer a Poison \[SARS-COV-2 \(COVID-19\) VACCINE – COVID-19 VACCINATORS – WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE\] \(No. 5\) 2021](#)

[Approval for Travellers under a Specified Arrangement pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[Approval for Transport Freight and Logistics Drivers pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 4\)](#)

[Use of Rapid Antigen Tests \(Transport, Freight and Logistics Drivers\) Directions](#)

[Chief Health Officer Approved Form of Evidence of Covid-19 Vaccination Under Paragraph 8 Of The Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions \(No 2\)](#)

[Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions \(No 2\) \(and related exemption documents\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Infection Prevention and Control Advice for Environmental Cleaning in Non-Healthcare Settings \(Home and Workplace\) Version 7](#)

[Clinician Alert #66](#)

[Clinician Alert #65](#)

[Exposed On-board Workers Fact Sheet](#)

[Rig or Platform Crew Members Fact Sheet](#)

[COVID-19 Detected on a Vessel - Advice for Port Workers](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control Advice for WA Police During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

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 7 September 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
- SafeWA [user guide](#)

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 28 September 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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