



Agency Advisory #11

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Friday 20 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 20 March 2020, there are 64 confirmed cases in WA.
- To date, 8,539 Western Australians tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- **NEW & UPDATED DAILY** [Daily Snapshot COVID-19](#)
- As at 16:30 AEDT 19 March 2020, there have been 691 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and six deaths. Of the 691 confirmed cases, there have been three cases from the ACT, 307 cases from NSW, 144 cases from QLD, 42 cases from SA, ten cases from TAS and 150 cases from VIC.
- According to the most recent [WHO Situation Report](#) dated 00:00 CET 19 March 2020, in the past 24 hours:
 - Worldwide: 16,556 new confirmed cases (209,839 total); 828 new deaths (8,778 total). Numerous countries in Europe and the United States of America are experiencing a rapid rise in case numbers;
 - Western Pacific Region: 488 new confirmed cases (92,333 total); 20 new deaths (3,377 total);
 - European Region: 10,221 new confirmed cases (87,108 total); 591 new deaths (4,084 total);
 - South-East Asia: 119 new confirmed cases (657 total); 14 new deaths (23 total);
 - Eastern Mediterranean Region: 1,430 new confirmed cases (19,518 total); 150 new deaths (1,161 total);
 - Regions of the Americas: 4,166 new confirmed cases (9,144 total); 50 new deaths (119 total);
 - African Region: 132 new confirmed cases (367 total); three new deaths (seven total).
- 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;
 - residents of aged care homes will only be able to have one visit per day, of no more than two people;
 - non-essential indoor gatherings should be limited to fewer than 100 people.
- Australian Health Protection Principal Committee [AHPPC Statement](#) 17 March
 - [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.
 - To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Commonwealth State Governments are placing limits on organised gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups. New WA Directives are below:
 - [Self-Isolation Following Overseas Travel](#)
 - [Aboriginal Communities Directions](#)
 - [Mass Gatherings Directions](#)

For further information on mass gatherings and aged care guidelines see these links:

- [Guidelines to protect aged care residents](#)
- [Public Gatherings and Visits to Vulnerable Groups](#)

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.
- There are currently no restrictions in place to prevent interstate-based employees from returning to their general employment in WA, unless they are in self-quarantine or self-isolation.
- [COVID-19 and employment flexibilities for Public Sector employees](#)
- [Government employees visiting remote communities](#)

Summary of other key information

- On 7 March the CHO formally escalated the [Infectious Disease Emergency Management Plan, WA Health System](#) to TARGETED ACTION PHASE.
- On 15 March 2020, the CHO formally escalated the [State Hazard Plan Human Biosecurity](#) to a Level 3 Incident.
- On 16 March 2020 the WA Minister for Health declared a public health state of emergency with effect from 12am on 17 March 2020.
- TRAVEL - The current advice (at 16 March 2020) to all Australians (regardless of age, health or destination) is to reconsider any non-essential overseas travel at this time. For up to date information please go to the Australian Government's [Smartraveller](#) website.
- WA Premier announced a \$607 million COVID-19 economic relief package on 16 March 2020. [Media Statement](#)

- [Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan](#) March 2020
- Opening of Western Australian Metro COVID Clinics - Media Statement - [COVID-19 Clinics Media Statement 10 March](#)
- Ban on Work-Related International 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. In order 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 Organization)

Next advice - The next agency advisory will be issued **on Tuesday 24 March 2020**.

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