



# Agency Advisory #15

**Friday 3 April 2020 14:00 Hours (latest updates in RED)**

This advisory has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Paul Armstrong

## New information

- As of **03 April** 2020, there are **422** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in WA.
- To date, **16,022** Western Australians who have tested for COVID-19 have returned a negative result.
- **NEW & UPDATED DAILY** [Daily snapshot](#)
- According to the most recent National Incident Room Situation Report dated **18:00 AEDT 02 April** 2020, there have been **5,133** laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and **23** deaths. Of the **5,133** confirmed cases, this includes **88** cases from the ACT, **2,298** cases from NSW, **20** cases from the NT, **835** cases from QLD, **385** cases from SA, **71** cases from TAS and **1,036** cases from VIC. To date, 67% of the cases have been acquired overseas; **of these overseas cases, the majority were acquired:** at sea (**26%**); the USA (**16%**); and the UK (**14%**).
- According to the most recent [WHO Situation Report](#) dated 10:00 CET **2 April** 2020, in the past 24 hours:
  - Worldwide: **72,839** new confirmed cases (**896,450** total); **4,923** new deaths (**45,525** total);
  - Western Pacific Region: **1,204** new confirmed cases (**107,626** total); **22** new deaths (**3,723** total);
  - European Region: **38,809** new confirmed cases (**503,006** total); **3,515** new deaths (**33,604** total);
  - South-East Asia: **149** new confirmed cases (**5,324** total); **21** new deaths (**216** total);
  - Eastern Mediterranean Region: **3,887** new confirmed cases (**58,168** total); **164** new deaths (**3,279** total);
  - Regions of the Americas: **28,161** new confirmed cases (**216,912** total); **1165** new deaths (**4,565** total);
  - African Region: **629** new confirmed cases (**4,702** total); **36** new deaths (**127** total).
- **COVID-19 Testing has been expanded in WA:**
  - **General public testing**  
Any person presenting with **BOTH** a fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  **AND** an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) can be tested.
  - **High-risk settings**

Anyone working within a high-risk setting that presents with **EITHER** a fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  **OR** an acute respiratory infection will be tested. This includes healthcare workers, including aged care and disability workers, and Western Australian Police Officers.

Testing will also be arranged for anyone from the following high-risk settings where two or more people are experiencing **EITHER** a fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  **OR** an acute respiratory infection:

- aged and residential care
  - rural and remote Aboriginal communities
  - detention centres
  - correctional facilities
  - boarding schools
  - military barracks or equivalent
  - geographically localised areas with increased risk of community transmission
  - cruise ship passengers or returned travellers (international and domestic).
- [AHPPC Statement 30 March](#)
  - **The community should call police on 131 444 to report people in breach of self-isolation directions or businesses in breach of State Emergency Management Act Directions.**
  - Travel between regions in Western Australia will be restricted from midnight 31 March 2020. Regional boundaries will mirror those of the state's Regional Development Commissions. Further details will be released when available from Department of Premier and Cabinet. [Regional Restrictions Directions](#)
  - **WA State of Emergency - WA Directions** are now in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please see Department of Premier and Cabinet website for all listed below. [COVID-19 State of Emergency Declarations](#)

#### **Travel**

- Border Controls
- Restrictions to access the Kimberley and remote Aboriginal communities
- Self-quarantine test and close contact directions
- Self-isolation Following Interstate Travel Direction
- Self-isolation Following Overseas Travel Directions
- Rottnest Island Directions
- Cruise ships
- Large Vessel Directions
  - MV Pacific Princess Directions
  - MSC Magnifica Directions
  - MS Artania Directions
  - Silver Whisper Directions

#### **Business and community**

- Preventative Restriction of Activities Directions

- Closure of Certain Places of Business, Worship and Entertainment Direction
- Closure of Gun Shops
- Mass Gatherings Directions
- Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions
- Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Direction
- Incident Management Team Accommodation Directions - Optus Stadium

### **Local government**

- Public Authorities Directions - Delivery of Goods and Collection of Rubbish and Refuse
- WA Premier announced Stage 3 restrictions will be in place after 11:59pm Tuesday, 31 March 2020. The WA Government's strong guidance to all Western Australians is to stay home unless for shopping, medical or health care needs, exercise in compliance with guidelines, work and study (if you can't work or learn remotely). Exceptions to this include:
    - people of the same household going out together
    - funerals - a maximum of 10 people
    - weddings - a maximum of 5 people.
 All playgrounds, skate parks and outside gyms in public places will be closed.
  - As of 29 March 2020, the Commonwealth government announced that the following restrictions are in place:
    - 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.
    - the Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has now moved to the Targeted Action stage.
    - Social distancing includes:
      - residents of aged care homes will only be able to have one visit per day, of no more than two people;
      - closure of businesses and venues including fitness centres, swimming pools, libraries, auction houses, beauty therapies, pubs, clubs, sporting and religious venues. Restaurants and cafes are only be allowed to offer takeaway services. There are also tighter restrictions on activities including weddings, funerals and markets;
      - all Australians should stay at home, and limit outings to essential activities such as attendance to work, shopping for food or medicine.
      - public gatherings, excluding household members, have been reduced to a maximum of two people
      - minimise all unnecessary contact with others
      - keep 1.5 metres away from others
      - avoid physical greetings such as handshakes, hugs and kisses
  - use tap and pay instead of cash
  - From 30 March 2020 to 3 April 2020, WA schools will have a normal teaching environment, but families are encouraged to keep children home if possible to do so. From 6 April to 9 April, schools will remain open for supervision only, in cases where parents still need to go to work and/or school is a safer environment for at-risk households. School holidays will then begin in full, as scheduled from 10 April

2020.

## Summary of other key information

- From 00:00 AEDT 28 March 2020, all people returning to Australia will be required to self-isolate in a hotel or other accommodation for 14 days before returning home.
- TRAVEL - On 24 March the Prime Minister announced a ban on all overseas travel, with few exceptions. If you have future travel planned or are considering going overseas, cancel or postpone these plans. A ban is in place. The risks to your health and that of others is too great. For urgent consular assistance contact your nearest Australian embassy, high commission or consulate or call DFAT's Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 from Australia or +61 6261 3305 from overseas. Also see [SMARTRAVELLER](#)
- **WA borders closed at 13:30 24 March 2020**. Interstate arrivals are now required to self-isolate for 14 days, and the border controls apply to all road, air, rail and sea access points. Exceptions apply for essential services and workers. Please see details [Self-Isolation Following Interstate Travel Direction](#)
- Aboriginal Communities Information
  - [Checklist for Remote Clinics in Aboriginal Communities](#)
  - [Remote Aboriginal Communities Guidance](#)
- [Hon Greg Hunt MP, Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP - Travel Restrictions to Remote Areas Media Release](#)
- Advice for Funeral Directors [COVID-19 Advice for Funeral Directors](#)
- COVID Clinics [Find a COVID-19 Clinic near you](#)
- Mining Sites and Remote Industry Guidelines [Preventing the spread of COVID-19 on remote industrial sites](#)
- Information for Hotels & Accommodation who have guests self-isolating as a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. [Hotels and Accommodation COVID-19 Confirmed or Suspected](#)
- [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.

## 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.
- [Government employees visiting remote communities](#)
- 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. 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 Organisation)

**Next advice** – The next agency advisory will be issued: **TO BE ADVISED.**

**Last updated 3 April 2020**

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

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