



PHEOC BULLETIN #27

Tuesday 15 September 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **15 September 2020**, there have been **659** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **34 historical cases**. **646** people have recovered.
- To date **384,601** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

Message of the week

COVID-19 prevention measures for the workplace

Although workplaces may be exempt from the 2m² rule under the [Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Direction \(No5\)](#), WA Health still recommends physical distancing wherever possible. For information on how to do this, see our updated factsheet - [Advice for physical distancing in the workplace](#). The fact sheet provides advice on other prevention measures such as encouraging workers to stay home if unwell, and practising good hand hygiene and cough etiquette,

It is important that workplace cleaning regimes are reviewed to ensure they are appropriate during the COVID-19 pandemic. For advice on cleaning in the home and workplace (non-healthcare settings) see our factsheet [Environmental cleaning for workplaces](#).

Living with COVID

COVID-19 Campaign

Help us spread the word. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) and share our messages through your social media channels, in patient waiting rooms, and at home with friends and family. Campaign resources are available [online](#).

Events and mass gatherings - position statement

The WA Government is committed to supporting event organisers in a way that also ensures public health and safety are prioritised. Work is progressing on developing appropriate guidelines under which COVIDsafe events may be permitted.

Hotel & accommodation providers (with guests in quarantine or isolation)

If hotel and accommodation management require support to review and implement best practice infection prevention measures, please contact the Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) team at pheoc@health.wa.gov.au See also [Hotel/Accommodation Fact Sheet](#)

Phase 5 date postponed

The tentative date for Phase 5 has been postponed until Saturday, 24 October. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

Victoria and NSW Update

VICTORIA - Latest updates can be viewed [HERE](#).

NSW - Latest updates can be viewed [HERE](#).

Community

DETECT Borders program

New weekly testing of WA border and hotel quarantine workers will run from now until the end of November. This program offers free, voluntary testing for frontline workers at COVID clinics in the metro and regional areas and aims to detect and prevent or limit community transmission of COVID-19. Some testing will be facilitated in affected workplaces to maximise participation.

People who fit the criteria for asymptomatic testing do not need to self-isolate after testing and can resume normal activities immediately. Negative results will be sent via SMS. Anyone who tests positive will be followed up in line with existing public health procedures.

People who are eligible for this testing include adult workers who display **no symptoms** of COVID-19 working at:

State Health Incident Control Centre (SHICC) quarantine hotels

- Hotel employees (including contractors)
- Security staff working at the hotel
- Health staff
- Drivers of transport of quarantine guests
- WA Police
- Others, such as Australian Defence Force.

Perth Airport

Workers on-site at Perth Airport in areas through which arriving passengers (or their baggage) transit including:

- Perth Airport or airline staff
- WA Police
- Security
- Federal agencies
- Drivers of hotel quarantine buses.

Sea ports

Any employee or contractor involved in any function of a sea port that involves close contact with people arriving from overseas.

Eucla and Kununurra border crossings

Any employee or contractor involved in any function at Eucla or Kununurra border crossings that requires close contact with people arriving from interstate.

For more information see the [DETECT Borders fact sheet](#)

Any other community member who has symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, is encouraged to get tested so we can catch cases before they spread.

Outbreak planning

The Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) continues to plan for, and refine, the public health response for COVID-19 outbreaks. Planning has involved site visits to high risk settings such as Aged Care Facilities, Abattoirs, Correction Facilities and Food Distribution Centres. In addition, desktop scenarios are being conducted to assess current planning and public health response against hypothetical outbreak situations in both metropolitan and regional settings.

GeneXpert rollout complete

WA now has 14 GeneXpert machines deployed around the state. These machines can be used for the rapid testing of COVID-19. The rollout of these machines is particularly important for regional WA, as samples from these areas would normally involve longer transport times, delaying COVID-19 results. The last three sites to go live included Esperance, Northam and Carnarvon.

Regular testing of interstate freight drivers

Any truck driver entering WA is required to present for testing every 7 days while in WA (up until they have been in WA for 14 days). See our [Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions FAQs](#).

Presentation for testing Directions (NO 4)

All interstate arrivals are now subject to a requirement to present for testing on Day 11 after arrival in WA. See our [factsheet on the Presentation for Testing Directions](#).

DETECT schools' program

The school research project forms part of the [DETECT program](#). View the complete list of participating schools [here](#).

To date **13,937** tests have been performed on school staff and students with zero positive cases.

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](#) and the [Directions FAQs](#).

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#) (updated 14 September 2020)

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

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [Healthy WA](#).

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 August 2020.

Business and Industry

See latest updates about how the Western Australian Government is supporting business and industry [economic recovery](#) through COVID-19.

Resources for more information

- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health; HealthyWA](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)

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 or complete the [exemption application form](#)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: [131 444](#) To report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 22 September 2020**.

Last updated 15 September 2020

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