PHEOC BULLETIN #28

Tuesday 22 September 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of 22 September 2020, there have been 665 confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and 34 historical cases. 650 people have recovered.
- To date 402,667 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** Daily snapshot
- **National:** Current National Status
- **Worldwide**: WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard

Living with COVID

Covid Event Plans

From Friday 25 September, a public or private event involving more than 500 patrons that requires local government authority approval will need an approved COVID Event Plan as part of that process.

Like the industry specific COVID Safety Guidelines and Plans first introduced in May, the COVID Event Guidelines and Plans will ensure event organisers play their role in keeping Western Australians safer, reducing the potential risk and spread of COVID-19, and giving event-goers more confidence to attend and participate in events.

For more information, visit COVID-19 coronavirus: Events.

International arrivals into WA

Currently, 525 international arrivals are permitted to enter WA per week as part of a cap which was agreed to by the Commonwealth. At National Cabinet on 18 September, it was agreed the WA Government would work to lift the international arrival cap and get more Australians home.

WA will receive an additional 200 international arrivals from Monday, 28 September 2020. From Monday, 12 October, WA will take an additional 300 international arrivals per week. This will bring the State's weekly intake of international arrivals to 1025 people by Monday, 12 October.

New program to test wastewater for COVID-19

WA's wastewater will soon be tested for COVID-19, with an evaluation program to expand PCR testing to the State's sewerage network. The Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 (ColoSSoS) Project will track and monitor for traces of COVID-19 in WA's sewerage network. It will be led by WA Health, with testing undertaken by PathWest, to provide an opportunity for evaluation and review of the role of wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 in WA. Testing is expected to begin within the next month.

For more information see the New program to test wastewater for COVID-19 media statement.

COVID-19 prevention measures for the workplace

Although workplaces may be exempt from the 2m^2 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.

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

Weekly testing of WA border and hotel quarantine workers will run 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
o Hotel employees (including contractors)
o Security staff working at the hotel
o Health staff
o Drivers of transport of quarantine guests
o WA Police
o 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:
o Perth Airport or airline staff
o WA Police
o Security

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- o Federal agencies
- o 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.

There have been several amendments to Directions over the past week.

PRESENTATION FOR TESTING DIRECTIONS (NO 5)
CLOSURE AND RESTRICTION (LIMIT THE SPREAD) DIRECTIONS (NO 6)
AUTHORISATION TO APPROVE COVID EVENT PLANS UNDER THE CLOSURE AND RESTRICTION (LIMIT THE SPREAD) DIRECTIONS (No 6) **NEW**

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Testing

General population testing criteria (Updated 18 September 2020 to include runny nose)

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever (≥37.5^{0}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 29 September 2020.

Last updated 22 September 2020

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

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