



PHEOC BULLETIN

Tuesday 28 July 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **28 July 2020**, there have been **659** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **647** people have recovered.
- To date **243,279** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Surge Planning

The Public Health Operations team (PHOps) are currently developing a surge workforce plan that will identify approximately 1000 staff who can be brought in at 24-48 hours' notice to work within our COVID-19 contact tracing team.

Covid-19 media campaign

The Department of Health has commenced a media campaign reinforcing the key messages:

- Continue to physical distance where possible
- Continue to wash hands often and practise good personal hygiene e.g. cover coughs
- Stay home if unwell. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms get tested
- Download the [COVIDSafe App](#)

You are encouraged to download and share the campaign materials to help to reach all Western Australians.

Aged Care [FAQs](#)

There are any mandatory restrictions on visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) in WA. These are specified in the [Visitors to Aged Care Facilities Directions \(NO 3\)](#)

Visitor guidelines should support the rights of older people and maintain the protection of all residents of an aged care home over the longer term. The Aged Care Quality Standards and the Charter of Aged Care Rights still apply, and residents have the right of choice and can determine who they want to visit them.

COVID-19 and face masks

The WA advice about wearing masks in the community has been the same since the pandemic began: it is not generally recommended. The chance of coming in to contact with someone with COVID-19 is low. However, if you are in a region where community transmission is occurring, you should take extra precautions, in some circumstances. For people at increased risk of severe COVID-19 themselves, because of older age or chronic illness, physical distancing is most

important. If you cannot maintain physical distance, wearing a mask is an important protective measure.

The main value of wearing a mask is to protect other people. If the person wearing the mask is unknowingly infected, wearing a mask will reduce the chance of them passing the virus on to others.

- Please see [Australian Department of Health advice](#) and [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#) fact sheets, and information on [HealthyWA](#)

WA Premier face mask message

At a press conference on Monday 27 July, WA Premier Hon Mark McGowan warned that West Australians would be told to wear face masks if WA experiences a Victoria-style outbreak of COVID-19.

The Premier said experience around the world showed wearing masks where the virus was present was “necessary”. He confirmed that the State Government had a “huge” stockpile of masks, face shields and smocks, but was looking to procure and manufacture more for the public.

Phase 5 pushed back

Based on the latest health advice, Phase 5 of the WA COVID-19 roadmap, has been further pushed back. The new tentative date for Phase 5 is Saturday, 15 August. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

Information for employers

WA has strict border controls in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. Travellers returning to Western Australia are required to undertake a 14-day quarantine period. Employers and managers are encouraged to be vigilant and ensure any new staff or staff returning from interstate or international travel have completed a 14-day quarantine period prior to commencing work.

- Staff can be tested at either [COVID clinics](#) or through GP referrals, IF they meet [testing criteria](#).
- Staff should NOT be sent to COVID-19 clinics or GPs for COVID-related medical clearances or certificates.
- Staff should be encouraged to practise quality personal hygiene— this includes covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often with soap or sanitiser, and staying away from work if unwell.

Anyone instructed to self-isolate by a medical professional must take the request seriously and stay home to avoid putting others at risk. This means you don't leave your property, go to work or school, go on outings or have visitors. The only time to leave the house is to seek medical attention.

Victoria and NSW Update

Given the serious situation in Victoria and New South Wales, Western Australia's border with the east coast has been further tightened. See [Travel To WA](#)

No one will be allowed into Western Australia if they have been in Victoria or New South Wales in the previous 14 days, unless they meet new exemption requirements. Please see the [FAQs](#) for the border rules that apply to Victoria and NSW.

VICTORIA - As at 27 July 2020, Victoria has reported 8,696 cases of COVID-19, with 532 being reported from the previous day. Of these cases, 1,308 may indicate community transmission. 77 people have now died in Victoria from coronavirus. More than 1,518,000 tests have been conducted in Victoria since 1 January 2020. Media release with further details can be viewed [HERE](#). WA continues to support Victoria by providing expert advice and remote contact tracing.

NSW – As at 26 July 2020, NSW has reported 3,496 cases of COVID-19, with 9 being reported from the previous day. Of these cases, 1,400 may indicate community transmission. See further NSW information [HERE](#).

Community

DETECT schools' program

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

To date 5,060 tests have been performed on school staff and students with zero positive cases. 73% of the tests have been conducted in the metro area with the median age being 13 years old. 15% of all tests have been conducted with people aged > = 18.

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](#)

Quarantine (Closing The Border) Amendment Directions (No 3) (see [HERE](#))

Aged Care Facilities – Changes have been made effective 8 July 2020 (see [HERE](#))

Presentation for Testing Directions (3) have been introduced as at 19 July 2020 (see [HERE](#))

Exempt Traveller Approval (Indian Ocean Territories) (see [HERE](#))

Quarantine and Isolation (Undiagnosed) Amendment (see [HERE](#))

Testing

General population testing criteria (see [HERE](#))

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.

People may also be considered for testing if they meet one of the following criteria:

- close contact of a confirmed or probable case
- healthcare, aged, or residential care workers with direct patient contact
- persons who have returned from overseas or have lived/ travelled through an area in Australia with elevated risk of community transmission
- where there is no alternative cause of symptoms
- anyone with non-specific signs of infection if admitted to hospital

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 July 2020. (see [HERE](#))

Business and Industry

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

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. The next issue will be **Tuesday 4 August 2020**.

Last updated 28 July 2020

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

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