



## PHEOC BULLETIN #34

**Tuesday 03 November 2020 14:00 Hours**

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

### COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **2 November 2020**, there have been **770** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **37 historical cases**. **738** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **495,932** positive and negative COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

### Living with COVID – when to wear a mask

PHEOC is often asked why the wearing of masks is not mandatory. The 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 in WA with COVID-19 is currently low. However, if you are in a region where community transmission is occurring, you should take extra precautions, in some circumstances.

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. You may wish to review the information on masks on the [Healthy WA website](#).

For people at increased risk of severe COVID-19 themselves, because of older age or chronic illness, physical distancing is most important, and these people should avoid large crowds.

### Community

#### COVID-19 wastewater testing program on track

The WA Government has confirmed that COVID-19 wastewater testing will commence this week. Testing the state's sewerage network will complement WA's COVID-19 preparedness activities. The first samples being tested are those that have been collected by the Water Corporation from metropolitan wastewater treatment plants since April this year. For more information see the [COVID-19 wastewater testing program on track](#) media statement.

#### Victoria brought into line with other jurisdictions

Based on the continuing low numbers of COVID-19 cases in Victoria, WA's Chief Health Officer has recommended bringing Victoria into line with all other jurisdictions. From Saturday, 31 October, Victoria will move to the same entry conditions that apply to other states and territories. For a full listing of those who maybe exempt to travel into WA from Victoria see [here](#).

### **Controlled interstate border**

WA is set to transition to a safe and sensible controlled interstate border based on the latest public health advice. Pending the latest health advice, effective Saturday 14 November, WA will enact the new controlled interstate border under the Emergency Management Act. The existing hard border exemption system will be removed and replaced with an updated nationwide health-based threshold that allows for safe travel into WA from interstate, with conditions and subject to trigger points being met. For further details see [WA.gov.au](http://WA.gov.au).

### **Emergency WA platform customised for COVID-19 alerts**

The Department of Health and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) have partnered to customise the [Emergency WA website](#) platform for future community COVID-19 alerts and warnings. Managed by DFES, Emergency WA is the State's official website for community warnings for a range of emergencies - delivering real-time information during bushfires, cyclones, floods and more. Emergency WA's map-based display provides vital information to help people in impacted areas make informed decisions for their safety.

The platform can now be used to provide geographically targeted information to communities affected by a localised outbreak of COVID-19. It has a high level of existing awareness and community following, which makes it an ideal communications tool to provide public health messaging in the event of a community outbreak. As part of the customisation, a 'human pandemic' icon has been created to identify alerts and warnings specific to COVID-19.

### **Looking after your mental health during coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions**

The impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, physical distancing and isolation can make us feel anxious, stressed and worried. Read about what you can do to look after your mental wellbeing and look out for those around you as we tackle these challenges together. More information and resources are available on the following websites:

[WA Health](#)

[think Mental Health](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Head to Health](#)

If you need mental health support in your language, call TIS National on 131 450 or visit [tisnational.gov.au](http://tisnational.gov.au) (opens in a new tab) to get an interpreter. TIS National covers more than 100 languages and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the cost of a local call.

### **New COVID-19 mental health campaign – How's your head today?**

[How's your head today?](#) is a new national COVID-19 mental health campaign that urges people to prioritise their mental health, raise awareness about how to identify when something is wrong, and encourage people to seek help.

### **New exemptions introduced to Phase 4**

Starting from Saturday, 24 October, the maximum capacity for a seated performance or seated entertainment that is ticketed and takes place in a seated entertainment space is 60 percent.

The key focus of the amendments to Phase 4 remains on physical distancing and the safety of the Western Australian community, particularly the elderly and other vulnerable groups. The WA Government recognises that the arts and culture industry has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the application of the 2 square metre rule.

These changes affect certain venues with one or more seated entertainment spaces which contain fixed seating and were regularly used for seated performances or seated entertainment immediately before 15 March 2020 or immediately before 11.59pm on 23 October 2020. This exemption does not apply to events that are required to develop a COVID Event Plan.

Eligible venues include theatres, concert halls, music auditoriums/amphitheatres, cinemas, comedy lounges and performing arts centres.

Places of worship are not included in the list of eligible venues. These places are currently only restricted by the 2 square metre rule and have access to alternatives, including multiple services and streaming of services. WA continues to have the most generous restrictions in the country and will continue to review these restrictions as the situation changes.

For more information about changes to Phase 4, please read our [Phase 4 exemption – Easing restrictions for seated performances- frequently asked questions](#).

## Phase 5 date postponed

The start date for Phase 5 is yet to be determined. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

## Victoria and NSW Update

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

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

## 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](#)

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, runny nose) **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 9 October 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](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)

- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages and Translated Resources](#)
- [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 10 November 2020**.

**Last updated 2 November 2020**

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

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