



## PHEOC BULLETIN #42

**Tuesday 29 December 2020 14:00 Hours**

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

### COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **29 December 2020**, there have been **859** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **43** historical cases. **836** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **620,875** 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

#### Specific powers to bolster State hotel quarantine facilities

New specific powers under the Emergency Management Act will be granted for security who work at State hotel quarantine facilities, to give them enhanced legal protection to prevent a person from breaching a quarantine direction given under the Act. Please refer to the [media statement](#) for full details.

#### NSW travellers

Any person who entered Western Australia after 12.01am on 18 December 2020 and prior to 12.01am on 20 December and who had been in NSW or had direct contact with a person who has been in NSW after 12.01am on 11 December 2020 (or, for completeness, direct contact in the last 14 days with a person who has been in South Australia or outside of Australia in the last 14 days) must:

- self-quarantine in suitable premises for 14 days;
- present for a further test on Day 11 after arrival in WA (with Day 0 being the day of arrival in WA).

Any person who entered or wishes to enter Western Australia after 12.01am on 20 December 2020 and has been in NSW:

- after 12.01am on 11 December 2020; and
- within the 14 days prior to the time the person enters WA,

will only be permitted to enter WA if they are an approved traveller and, unless directed otherwise, must:

- self-quarantine in suitable premises for 14 days;
- present for a test for COVID-19 on arrival at Perth Airport or otherwise within 48 hours of their arrival;
- present for a further test on Day 11 after arrival in WA (with Day 0 being the day of arrival in WA).

## South Australia travellers

Following the latest public health advice, WA's controlled interstate border was safely adjusted to permit travel from South Australia into WA subject to the following updated conditions:

- completion of a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days
- all Perth Airport arrivals to undergo a health screening and temperature test
- travellers to be prepared to take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health clinician (voluntary asymptomatic testing available for all airport arrivals)
- all travellers to receive a SMS health check reminder one week into their stay in WA
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked.

Other jurisdictions currently in the 'very low risk' category include the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Victoria.

Anyone who arrived from SA into WA prior to 25 December is required to follow the rules under the 'low risk' category, including completing 14-days of self-quarantine.

## SafeWA

The WA Government is aware that some businesses are using their own QR based contact register systems. This has led to confusion with members of the community who endeavour to use the code with the SafeWA system. The government is encouraging all businesses to align with the SafeWA system.

## Community

### Public transport

Transperth, in conjunction with the Department of Health, has developed a webpage providing information for using public transport in a Covid safe manner.

<https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/Using-Transperth/coronavirus-advice>

## COVID-19 Vaccination Program

WA Health has created a new web page for the latest updates on the WA Health COVID-19 vaccination program.

Located on the corporate site: [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-vaccination](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-vaccination) the page currently includes sections about vaccine development and the WA Health response. As the implementation approach is confirmed for the roll out of the vaccine in WA, these pages will provide the most up-to-date news, information and trusted links.

## 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 **23 December 2020**.

## Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer.

The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters. The AHPPC released three statements during the last week.

- [24 December 2020](#) - Statement on Australia's National Hotel Quarantine Principles
- [24 December 2020](#) - Statement on mandatory quarantine for aircrew who are not local residents
- [22 December 2020](#) – Statement on new variant of the virus that causes COVID-19

## Business and Industry

### 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](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages

## 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](tel:131444) To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

**Next advice** - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 5 January 2020**.

**Last updated 29 December 2020**

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