



PHEOC BULLETIN

Friday 8 May 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **8 May 2020**, there have been **552** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **534** people have recovered.
- To date **52,825** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

Living with COVID

COVID-19 is changing the way we live, work and communicate. Even though the government is relaxing restrictions we should all remain vigilant during this period of transition to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in WA.

Addressing social stigma and COVID-19

The COVID-19 disease is causing a great deal of confusion, anxiety and stress in our community. The outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people who have become unwell with COVID-19, as well as their caregivers, family, friends and communities.

Stigmatising people can be harmful and can result in people not accessing health care or mental health support that they need. We need to support each other through this difficult period. Stigma and discrimination hurt everyone. Further information is available on the [WA Health website](#).

Mental Health

A mental health campaign has been launched to help Western Australians manage their wellbeing through the COVID-19 pandemic. To access resources or more information visit [think Mental Health](#).

Medical Clearance

People with COVID-19 may be managed in hospital or in the community, as clinically indicated. A clearance letter will be provided by Public Health when the person is no longer infectious and when the person can be released from isolation. Please see updated fact sheet on [Medical Clearance of a Case](#).

COVIDSafe: New app



The Australian Government's new voluntary COVIDSafe app, is an important public health initiative. It speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). As of **7 May**, over **5.3 million Australians** have downloaded COVIDSafe. For further information and to get the app see [COVIDSafe app](#).

Latest Updates

In the Kimberley

It is more the 28 days since the last new case of COVID-19 in Broome and Halls Creek. These towns are no longer considered to be areas of elevated risk of community transmission.

Directions Updates

Closure and Restriction (Elite Athlete Training) Modification Directions

Effective 1 May 2020, certain gatherings are exempt from being prohibited to enable certain activities to occur and to enable certain places to be open for the purposes of enabling people to engage in these specific activities.

Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#).

COVID-19 [State of Emergency Declarations](#) and [Community Advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA.

Hospitals

Locally made face shields

[The manufacture of up to 10,000 high-quality locally made face shields](#), approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, will enhance the safety of WA health staff and patients and highlights the resourcefulness of Western Australians. Strong demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) is expected to continue throughout the COVID-19 emergency.

Primary Care

WA records lowest flu numbers in history

Only 20 cases of influenza have been detected in WA for the past month, [the lowest in the State's history for this period](#). This compares to 548 cases detected in April 2019. This record-low detection rate is attributed to the extensive COVID-19 precautions to reduce the spread of the COVID-19, including social distancing, good hand hygiene and the early uptake of the influenza vaccine.

It is more important than ever to be vaccinated this year. Further information can be found at [Healthy WA](#).

See your GP

The government is urging Western Australians [to maintain regular contact with their GPs](#) for the sake of their health.

Education

Residential boarding schools to reopen

[Residential boarding facilities across WA reopened](#) this week. There will be a facility-by-facility approach depending on a range of factors including size, capacity, current enrolments and the ability

for hygiene requirements to be implemented. Parents will still have a choice as to whether to send their child back to a boarding facility.

Community

Research expanded to FIFO workers

The WA Government is partnering with major resources companies and WA's leading researchers to roll out [COVID-19 testing among fly-in, fly-out \(FIFO\)](#) mining and resources workers who do not have symptoms. The testing among FIFO workers is the second pillar of the DETECT program, a joint initiative of the Department of Health and the WA research community.

Building recommissioning

[Water supply and water related services](#) may be affected in buildings or parts of buildings that have not been occupied for extended periods of time. It is important for building owners and operators to manage and maintain buildings before they reopen.

Testing

General population

Any person **may** be tested if they have any one of the clinical criteria: - fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ **OR** history of fever (e.g. sweats, chills) **OR** an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) unless the clinician feels an alternative diagnosis is more likely.

Testing locations

Testing can be performed at COVID clinics, hospitals, Commonwealth-endorsed GP respiratory clinics, private pathology COVID collection centres approved by the Chief Health Officer, as listed on [Healthy WA](#). Tests can also be performed by domiciliary specimen collectors and GPs in residential care facilities. Regional testing can also occur in health centres and remote health clinics operated by WACHS, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the notification form. Notifying by phone is not necessary. All laboratories report both positive and negative results to the WA Department of Health, as per the [COVID Testing Reporting Directions](#).

Point of Care (POC) serology testing

[COVID-19 Point of Care \(POC\) serology testing](#) (including as assay or device) as an acute illness diagnostic tool for COVID-19, is [prohibited under the WA Public Health Act 2016 \(external site\)](#).

Resources for more information

- Series of National Guidelines, [SoNG](#) was last updated on **5 May 2020**, with revised case definition – clinical criteria.
- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [HealthyWA](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)

Who to contact for more information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: [1800 313 223](tel:1800313223) (Note: **NOT** for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](tel:1326843)
- 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-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Next advice – The next PHEOC Bulletin will be issued on **Tuesday 12 May 2020**.

Last updated 8 May 2020

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

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