



# PHEOC BULLETIN #47

**Tuesday 2 February 2021 14:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **Tuesday 2 February**, there have been **904** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **48** historical cases. **886** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **738,946** 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

### Perth metro, Peel and South West hard lockdown

Effective from 6pm Sunday, 31 January 2021 until 6pm Friday, 5 February, the Perth metropolitan area and the Peel and South West regions entered a 5-day lockdown, based on health advice. For more information, please see [the announcement](#).

Everyone is required to wear a mask when outside their place of residence during this period, including at workplaces and on public transport. [The HealthyWA website](#) provides more information on mask use.

If you have been at any of the exposure locations at the times specified, you need to attend a COVID clinic for testing and isolate at home until you receive a negative result.

Continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days following your visit. If you experience any symptoms at any time – fever, coughing, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, loss of smell or taste – go to a COVID clinic to be retested.

The list of exposure locations is available [here](#).

These measures were implemented due to a fast-evolving situation in WA with a positive COVID-19 case detected in a hotel quarantine worker.

### The 2021 State general election

As part of their COVIDSafe voting plan for the 2021 State general election, the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) is encouraging everyone who has concerns about attending a polling place to vote prior to election day, either by postal vote or at an Early Voting Centre.

If there is an incident of community transmission of COVID-19 in WA leading up to or at the time of the election, the WAEC will follow the instructions and requirements of the Department of Health to determine the most appropriate steps.

More information is available on the [Western Australian Electoral Commission](#) website.

## Wastewater testing in the community

The latest wastewater testing results across Perth and regional WA has shown no unexpected detection of COVID-19. Weekly testing has been ongoing since November at six of Perth's wastewater treatment plants - Subiaco, Woodman Point, Alkimos, Beenyup, Gordon Road and Point Peron. The Subiaco plant was the only one to have detected inactive viral fragments of SARS-CoV-2. These detections were expected because the Subiaco plant processes wastewater from the State-run quarantine hotels. Regional wastewater treatment plant sites were added throughout January 2021 to include Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Northam, and Port Hedland.

See the [Media Statement](#) and [COVID-19 wastewater testing](#) webpage for more information.

## Queensland and Victoria travellers

Following the latest public health advice, Queensland moved to the 'very low risk' category at 12.01am, Monday 1 February and Victoria will move to the 'very low risk' category at 12.01am, Friday 5 February, pending no further outbreaks.

Under the 'very low risk' category, safe travel is permitted into WA, subject to the following updated conditions:

- completion of a [G2G PASS](#) prior to travel, stipulating:
  - they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms;
  - which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
- undergoing a health screening and temperature test if arriving at Perth Airport
- being prepared to take a COVID-19 test at the airport COVID clinic, if deemed necessary by a health clinician;
- undergoing a health screening if arriving by land.

Based on the health advice, the small number of recent arrivals from Queensland and Victoria who are serving their 14 days of self-quarantine will be permitted to end their period of quarantine on the same day those states transition to 'very low risk'.

## New South Wales travellers

Effective 12:01am, Monday 25 January, travel from New South Wales is permitted into WA, subject to the following conditions:

- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premises;
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 11;
- complete a G2G Pass declaration, stipulating:
  - they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms;
  - which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days;
  - undergo a health screening and temperature test on arrival if arriving at Perth Airport.
- 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);
- undergo a health screening and have G2G Pass declaration checked at the border checkpoint if arriving by land before proceeding to self-quarantine premises.

## State-by-state risk rating

Jurisdictions currently in the 'low risk' category include New South Wales and Victoria.

Jurisdictions currently in the 'very low risk' category include the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, [Queensland](#), South Australia and Tasmania.

For more information, see the WA Government's [controller interstate border](#) webpage.

## SafeWA

There has been an expansion of the list of businesses and venues required to maintain a contact register. As of 6am on 2 February 2021, places added to the list include:

- Retail venues (including supermarkets, department stores, shopping centres, pharmacies, hardware and department stores) and retail components of other businesses where customers are physically present such as bank branches;
- Commercial buses or vessels that can carry 12 or more people where different groups of people interact (party buses, wine and food tour buses, hop on/hop off tour buses, sightseeing tours, party/function boats, sightseeing/tour boats, private charter buses/boats);
- Public and private hospitals (visitors only - persons visiting patients, or attending meetings/lectures, couriers, and contractors);
- Takeaway food and beverage services;
- Events with a COVID Event Plan (500+ patrons), and certain outdoor functions and gatherings of under 500 people (e.g. weddings, corporate functions, fetes, festivals).

It is now also mandatory for businesses to use the SafeWA app as the electronic recording system for contact information.

Resources to help business promote and implement SafeWA and paper-based contact registers are available on the WA Government's [contact registers stakeholder toolkit](#) webpage. This includes paper-based contact register templates, information posters and how-to guides. Resources for businesses on mandatory contact registers is available in 27 languages.

## Community

### Airports

Airports and air travel can present an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission due to the presence of people who may be infectious. Wearing face masks is effective in helping to prevent this. Please refer to the WA Government's [frequently asked questions on face masks](#) for more information.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Program

As the WA implementation plan for the roll out of the vaccine program is further developed, the following links provide the most up-to-date news and information:

- WA Health: [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for consumers) including a link to the national hotline for more information and [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for health professionals) including a link to subscribe to the WA COVID-19 Vaccine Update.
- The Australian Government [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#) to find out more about the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) provisional approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Australia's COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy and where to subscribe to the Australian Government COVID-19 vaccines update.

## 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](#).

New Directions:

[Stay at Home and Closure \(Perth, Peel and the South West Regions\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)  
[Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No 12\)](#)

[Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions \(No 5\)](#)  
[Face Covering Directions](#)  
[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 15\)](#)

Amended Directions:

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 12\)](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 11\)](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Clinician alert #44 – all clinicians](#)  
[Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in WA #25](#)  
[Presentation for Testing Fact Sheet](#)

## 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 **29 January 2021**.

## 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 latest statement from AHPPC statement is:

- [23 January 2021](#) – Statement on COVID-19 and influenza vaccination requirements for aged care workers

## 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** 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 9 February 2021**.

**Last updated 2 February 2021**

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

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