



PHEOC BULLETIN #53

Wednesday 17 March 2021 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **Wednesday 17 March**, there have been **927** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **58** historical cases. **907** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **910,259** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

WA Health advice for travellers

Anyone who has arrived in WA from Queensland since 10 March and who visited any of the affected [locations](#) during the relevant times should get tested immediately for COVID-19 and quarantine.

Anyone who has arrived in WA from NSW since 13 March and who visited any of the affected [locations](#) during the relevant times should get tested immediately for COVID-19 and quarantine. They should also get tested again 11 days after their attendance at the location.

Victorian travellers

Victoria transitioned from 'low risk' to 'very low risk' at 12.01am Monday, March 15.

Under the 'very low risk' category, safe travel is permitted 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 also available); and
- land arrivals to be met at the border checkpoint, for a health screening and to have their G2G Pass declaration checked.

State-by-state risk rating

All jurisdictions are considered 'very low risk' and are permitted to enter WA without COVID-19 testing or self-quarantine requirements.

They are still, however, required to complete a G2G PASS declaration and undergo a health screening upon arrival into WA.

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

Venue capacity update

More people are permitted into venues from 12.01am on Monday, March 15.

Increased capacity of up to 75 per cent is allowed at seated outdoor and indoor venues including:

- restaurants, cafes, food courts, and bars;
- indoor and outdoor auditoriums and amphitheatres;
- theatres;
- concert halls;
- cinemas;
- comedy lounges;
- performing arts centres;
- places of worship;
- function centres;
- community, recreation or youth centre or facilities, including community halls and sporting clubs including but not limited to:
 - community halls, sporting clubs, Returned and Services League facilities and Police and Community Youth Centres
- WA's major stadiums (Optus Stadium, HBF Park, RAC Arena, HBF Stadium - Main Arena); and
- funeral parlours.

If the 2 square metre rule capacity is greater than 75 per cent capacity, the greater option is permitted for these particular venues and events.

The 2 square metre rule continues to apply to all other venues and facilities with unfixed seating.

See the [media statement](#) and [announcement](#) for more information.

COVID-19 vaccination program

WA's Chief Health Officer Dr Andrew Robertson has issued a [media statement](#) providing reassurance and advice of the continued safety of the COVID-19 vaccination program and the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Clinics have now been established at most metropolitan health campuses and some pop-up clinics as required, with regional clinics now operating at health campuses in Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Esperance, Geraldton, Karratha, Kununurra and Port Hedland. The program is focussed on vaccinating those most at risk from contracting COVID-19 – frontline hotel quarantine, border and healthcare workers along with people working within the emergency services sector.

For the most up-to date information on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, please visit the trusted sources below:

- **HealthyWA** - [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for consumers) including [new FAQs](#) for the WA community about the COVID-19 vaccination program.
- **WA Health** - [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for health professionals) including targeted information for WA health providers and how to [subscribe](#) to the WA COVID-19 Vaccine Update. health.wa.gov.au
- **The Australian Government** - [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#) including the latest news and information about the development, approval process and rollout plans for the COVID-19 vaccines.

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:

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No. 16\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No. 17\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No. 18\)](#)

[Queensland Limited Self Quarantine and Presentation for Testing Directions](#)

[New South Wales Limited Self Quarantine and Presentation for Testing Directions](#)

[Gathering and Activities Directions](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(HBF Stadium – Main Arena\) Directions](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(HBF Park\) Directions](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(Optus Stadium\) Directions](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(RAC Arena\) Directions](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Clinician alert #48 – all clinicians](#)

[Clinician alert #49 – all clinicians](#)

[Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in WA #28](#)

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 4 March 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:

- [3 February 2021](#) – Updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools

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 23 March 2021**.

Last updated **17 March 2021**

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

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