



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #21

**Tuesday 15 June 2021 9:00 Hours**

**COVID-19 is a continually changing situation, please check the latest information and updates to find the most current public health advice, please go to the [WA government website](#) and [HealthyWA](#)**

This regular statewide communication update is to keep health professionals abreast of the state-wide public health messages and resources for COVID-19 that have been developed by the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) for the Aboriginal community and health professionals.

## COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of 15 June 2021, there are **1019** confirmed cases, **92** historical cases and **1** active cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **1009** people have recovered from COVID-19 in WA. There have been **9** deaths from COVID-19 in WA.
- To date **1,242,607** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#) & [Australia's vaccine rollout](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

## National COVID-19 Aboriginal epidemiological profile

Updates on COVID-19 among Aboriginal Australians, key insights **#17**, data as of date **9<sup>th</sup> May 2021**:

- **0.52% (153 cases)** of all COVID-19 positive (confirmed) cases (**29,710**) notified in the Australian *National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System* (NNDSS) were recorded as Aboriginal people – (an increase of **3** cases since the last update).
- Of the total **153** Aboriginal COVID-19 positive cases, **75% (115 persons)** acquired their infection locally, while **24% (36 persons)** acquired their infections overseas, and **1% (2 persons)** acquired their infections from interstate and **1% (1 person)** had an unknown source of infection or is under investigated.
- Of the total **115** Aboriginal persons who acquired their infections locally, **81% (93 persons)** acquired the infection in a major city, **13% (15 persons)** acquired the infection in an inner regional area, **5% (6 persons)** acquired the infection in an outer regional area, and **1% (1 persons)** acquired the infection in a remote area.
- Of the **36** Aboriginal people who acquired the infection overseas (including few cases from WA), **39% (14 persons)** were linked to cruise ships.
- The majority (**129 cases or 84%**) of Aboriginal positive cases resided in major cities, and only about **8 (5%)** positive cases resided in outer regional and remote areas.
- From January 2021 to March 2021 there were no new cases notified amongst Aboriginal people.
- Between July to December 2020, there were no new overseas-acquired cases notified in the NNDSS, while no new locally-acquired cases recorded in the NNDSS between September and October 2020.

- **10%** (16 cases) of Aboriginal cases required hospital admission, while **90%** (134 cases) required quarantine/isolation. **No deaths** were recorded among Aboriginal positive cases.
- The median age of Aboriginal positive cases is **31.5** years; compared to **36** years for non-Aboriginal people.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as at **15 May 2021** there are around **284** SARS-CoV2 or COVID-19 candidate vaccines (an increase of **12** candidate vaccines from the last update) being developed across the world, with total of **100** candidate vaccines (an increase of **8** candidates from the last update) are already progressed into Phase 1, 2, 3 or 4 of clinical trials. There are currently 6 candidate vaccines that have been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

## Latest updates

### Changes to WA entry conditions for Victoria

Victoria transitioned from a 'medium risk' state to a 'low risk' state at 6.00pm on Friday 11 June, following the latest public health advice.

Under the low risk category, all travellers who have been in Victoria or have travelled through Victoria can enter WA subject to strict conditions.

#### All travellers must:

- complete a G2G PASS declaration, stipulating they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, and which details which jurisdictions the traveller has been in over the previous 14 days
- self-quarantine for 14 days in suitable premises
- present for a COVID-19 test on day 11.

#### Arrivals entering WA at Perth Airport must:

- undergo a health screening and temperature test on arrival; and
- 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).

*(Note: all flights from Victoria must land at Perth airport and cannot fly directly to regional WA)*

#### Arrivals entering WA by land:

- will be met at the border checkpoint for a health screening and to have their G2G PASS declaration checked before proceeding to a self-quarantine premise.

The WA Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor and review his advice on border controls, should there be significant changes in the public health situation.

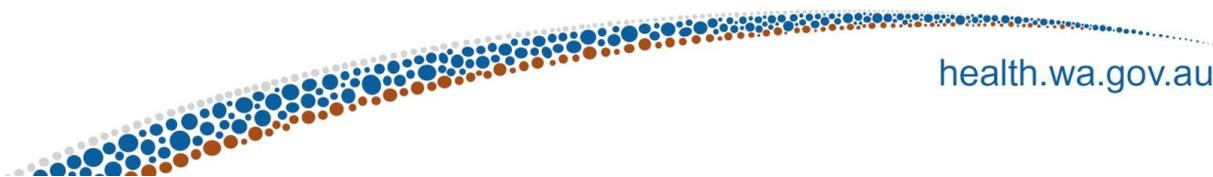
### Public health advice issued for recent arrivals from Queensland, NSW and ACT

WA Health has issued advice for recently returned travellers from Queensland, after a woman who travelled from Melbourne via New South Wales tested positive to COVID-19.

Recent arrivals into WA from Queensland who have been to one of the listed exposure sites during the relevant times must:

- get a COVID-19 test within 48 hours
- self-quarantine for 14 days from date of exposure
- present for a day 11 COVID-19 test.

These travellers should continue to monitor the Queensland Government site for updated exposure sites.



Recent arrivals into WA from New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory who have been to one of the listed exposure [sites](#) during the relevant times is required to get tested and self-quarantine for 14 days.

These travellers should continue to monitor the NSW Health [website](#) and/or ACT Government [site](#).

A list of testing [clinics](#) is available on the [HealthyWA](#) website.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 and over are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. People can book in to receive the COVID-19 vaccine that is appropriate for them at their local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) OR at a state-run COVID-19 vaccination community clinic or at a regional public hospital-based vaccination clinic. Alternatively, participating AMS or GP clinics can be found by using the Vaccine Eligibility Checker [here](#).

People aged between 30 and 49 in Western Australia are also now eligible to get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at State-run clinics with bookings open now. Appointments are still available for people in the Phase 1A and 1B cohorts, including people who work in disability and aged care, and younger adults with a specified medical condition. Adults aged 50 years and over can access the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The Western Australian Government encourages every eligible Western Australian to get vaccinated as soon as possible. It is the safest and easiest way to protect yourself, loved ones and the community with getting very sick from **COVID-19**.

Please book by visiting [Rollup for WA](#) or calling 13 COVID (13 268 43)

## Community clinics

[Claremont Showgrounds](#) community vaccination clinic operates seven days a week. The clinic has a new capacity of about 2,000 appointments each day, and the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now offered seven days per week. The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine will also be administered on Mondays through to Wednesdays.

[Joondalup and Kwinana](#) community vaccination clinics will also start to provide both types of COVID-19 vaccines on different days, from Monday 21 June, with capacity to administer 1,500 and 2,000 vaccines each day respectively.

[Redcliffe](#) community vaccination clinic will commence administering both vaccines from 28 June, offering 700 appointments a day.

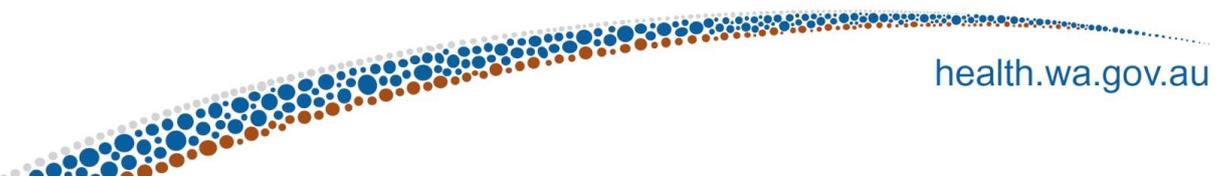
## WA's first regional community clinic

The first regional State-run COVID-19 community vaccination clinic has opened in Bunbury with the capacity to offer more than 600 appointments each day. The Bunbury clinic is located at the Bunbury Home Maker Centre and is open 8.30am to 4pm. It will administer the Pfizer COVID vaccine on Tuesdays to Thursdays and the AstraZeneca appointments will be filled on Mondays and Fridays.

## Requests for alternative COVID-19 vaccine

WA Health has established a process to allow individuals over 50 years old, who meet the qualifying medical conditions, to [request](#) an alternative COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals will need a letter, in electronic format, from their GP or treating specialist outlining which of the criteria applies to them. Once this letter has been obtained, the request for alternative COVID-19 vaccination [form](#) for persons aged 50 years and over needs to be completed online.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia (THANZ) released a joint statement that the [list](#) of health conditions for which Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the preferred vaccine has been expanded to include



people with a past history of: **cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT), idiopathic splanchnic (mesenteric, portal and splenic) venous thrombosis, and anti-phospholipid syndrome with thrombosis.** A full list of the conditions that are not likely to increase the risk of TTS is provided in the joint [statement](#); people in these groups can receive the COVID-19 Vaccine [AstraZeneca](#).

The WA COVID-19 Vaccine Myths and FAQ factsheet has now been updated and can be found [here](#).

The [Roll up for WA](#) COVID-19 vaccination campaign features real frontline workers and volunteers, including Ronda who is a Nyikina woman from the Kimberley region who shares why she got vaccinated against COVID-19. Read more of Ronda's story [here](#).

A new vaccination [dashboard](#) is also now live to check regular updates on WA's COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

Across WA, more than 500,000 doses of the two vaccines have been administered across Australia through a combination of GP clinics, GP-led respiratory clinics, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, state and territory-run vaccination clinics, and via 'in-reach providers' for residential aged care and disability care facilities.

## Flu vaccination

Flu season is approaching for 2021 and all Western Australian's are encouraged to get vaccinated as early as possible to protect themselves and their community from the highly contagious virus.

Our mob aged 6 months and older can receive the flu shot for free at your local GP or Aboriginal Medical Service. It is recommended to wait at least 7 days between receiving your COVID-19 vaccine and the flu shot.

Read about getting your flu shot [here](#). See the Health Minister's media statement [here](#).

## Priority COVID-19 health messages for Aboriginal people

Aboriginal health professionals and sector representatives are encouraged to promote and reinforce the following key messages to Aboriginal clients and community. Remember to:

- physical distance where possible
- practise good hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- stay at home if unwell and rest to stay strong
- if unwell with flu-like symptoms, get tested (make sure to self-isolate until you receive your test result)
- make sure your family gets the flu vaccine
- keep attending your regular health checks, especially for chronic illnesses
- download and use the free [SafeWA app](#) for your phone
- look after your mental health and social emotional wellbeing during this time
- get a COVID vaccine as soon as you are eligible

## Statewide Aboriginal resources

A suite of statewide Aboriginal tailored resources has been developed by the Department of Health WA. The aim of providing culturally-appropriate communications is to increase awareness and reduce anxiety and fear in our communities. We encourage Aboriginal health professionals to demonstrate leadership when working with the Aboriginal community by:

- being "on message"
- reinforcing and encouraging people to 'stay vigilant' and 'don't get complacent'
- using positive strength-based messaging and language
- ensuring consistent, accurate and timely communication is provided, based on the

official public health messages and health information issued by the Chief Health Officer from the Department of Health.

Further resources can be sourced on the WA Government [website](#) including a variety of new posters that promote Roll up for WA for you to use. The posters include stories from people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine and information about how to book an appointment, what to expect at the community vaccination clinic and where to find more information.

Check the stakeholder [kit](#) regularly for updates. If you would like to receive a Roll up for WA poster pack please send an email to [COVID19Vaccines@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:COVID19Vaccines@dpc.wa.gov.au) with:

- the best mailing address to contact you
  - which posters you'd like, or to tell us a bit about your community so we can make a selection
  - where you plan to put up the posters
- The second video of Dr Sandra Eades is now on the HealthyWA Facebook page via [HealthyWA – Posts | Facebook](#).

**Health services are welcome to tailor and localise Department of Health COVID-19 Aboriginal resources to meet community needs.**

**Please reference the Department of Health WA and contact PHEOC ([pheoc@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:pheoc@health.wa.gov.au)) for further information.**

## All resources for the Aboriginal sector

[WA Department of Health – Aboriginal Sector](#) provides:

- **Aboriginal sector communication updates**
- **Aboriginal health professionals**
- **External stakeholder resources**
- **Remote and rural planning**

[HealthyWA - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for Aboriginal People](#) provides:

- **Vaccination**
- **Fact sheets**
- **Posters**
- **Video/radio messages**
- **Other resources available**
- **GPs and other support phone lists**

## Getting a COVID-19 test

- **WA Department of Health COVID-19 Resources for Aboriginal people**  
The WA Health Department has developed a suite of culturally-appropriate resources to support the Aboriginal community and health services in being COVID-19 safe and informed. They are found [here](#).
  - [COVID Clinics location in WA](#)
  - [Where to get tested for COVID-19 in regional and Remote WA](#)
  - [Self-isolation information after getting tested for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- **Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council**

QAIHC have been developing [culturally appropriate resources](#) to keep ACCHOs and their community informed and protected against COVID-19.

- [How are you tested for COVID-19?](#)
- **Getting the COVID-19 test: Story books**

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency has developed two easy-to-understand story books to help children understand what a COVID-19 test is and what will happen during the process.

  - [Getting the COVID-19 test at the testing station or hospital](#)
- **AHMRC's COVID-19 Testing Resources.**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales has provided various resources on their website <https://www.ahmrc.org.au/coronavirus/> to support their member services across NSW during a COVID-19 outbreak and to minimise the impact on Aboriginal communities. Below are some resources on COVID-19 testing.

  - [Getting ready for a COVID-19 test](#)
  - [Do what's best. Get a COVID-19 test](#)
- **#swab4mob**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales has initiated the #swab4mob campaign to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to get tested and protect their families and communities by getting a COVID-19 test if they feel unwell. You can find a link to the video below.

  - [#swab4mob campaign](#)
  - [Symptom poster #swab4mob](#)

## Crisis hotlines

- **Brother to Brother 24 hour crisis hotline** (1800 435 799) for Aboriginal men to provide extra support during the pandemic.
- **1800RESPECT** (1800 737 732) for advice concerning sexual, domestic or family violence.
- **Women's Domestic Violence Helpline** (1800 007 339) for support and referral for women experiencing domestic violence (incl referrals to women's refuges)
- **Crisis Care** (1800 199 008) if you require emergency accommodation.
- **National COVID-19 Older Persons Support Line** (1800 171 866)
- **Kids Helpline** (1800 55 1800)
- **Beyond Blue** (1300 224 636)
- **Lifeline** (13 11 14)
- **Suicide Call Back Service** (1300 659 467)

## 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.

Last updated **15 June 2021**

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

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