



# Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #22

**Wednesday 30 June 2021 15:00 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 30 June 2021, there are **1028** confirmed cases, **96** historical cases and **7** active cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **1011** people have recovered from COVID-19 in WA. There have been **9** deaths from COVID-19 in WA.
- To date **1,322,731** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- 706,948** total vaccine doses have been administered, including **137,742** people who have received both doses and are fully vaccinated.
- 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

### 4-day lockdown introduced for Perth and Peel

Perth and Peel entered a minimum 4-day lockdown at 12.01am, Tuesday 29 June 2021. Anyone who has been to one of the [exposure locations](#) will need to get tested and quarantine as per the instructions they are given.

Travel from Perth and Peel to other regions is not be permitted, unless for essential purposes.

People are required to stay home unless they need to:

- work because it's not possible to work from home. Refer to the list of [essential workers](#)
- shop for essentials like groceries, medicine and necessary supplies, including click and collect, within 5km from your home or closest practicable location
- attend to medical or health care needs including emergencies, compassionate requirements and looking after the vulnerable;
- exercise with a maximum of two adults from the same household (children under 18 years are not counted), limited to one hour per day within a 5km radius from home, and masks must be worn, except for vigorous exercise outside.
- receive a COVID-19 vaccine, or
- leave due to an emergency (e.g. emergencies, fleeing domestic violence).

Except for primary school students and those who are exempt, mask-wearing is mandatory while indoors (except in your own home), outdoor public areas (except for vigorous exercise) and on public transport. Anyone who has travelled outside of the Perth and Peel regions since Sunday, 27 June must continue to wear face masks, as per the existing directions.

Private indoor and outdoor gatherings are not permitted. Only [essential providers](#) may open.

Schools, boarding schools and childcare centres are open with mask-wearing mandatory except for primary school students. Universities, TAFE and training colleges are closed unless for critical activities.

Five people permitted at weddings, 10 people permitted at funerals.

Visitors to residential aged care and/or disability facilities are limited to one care and support visit per resident per day, or visits for exceptional circumstances such as essential care, compassionate reasons, end of life and advocacy.

No visitors to hospitals except for compassionate reasons, end of life, accompanying a child, supporting a partner giving birth.

For more information, see the [announcement](#) and [Media Statement](#). A [Facebook post](#) is also available to share.

## **WA introduces hard border with Queensland**

Following updated advice from the WA Chief Health Officer, QLD transitioned from 'low risk' to 'medium risk' under [WA's controlled border](#), effective from 3.00pm, Tuesday 29 June.

Travel from QLD will no longer be permitted, except for exempt travellers.

This also applies to anyone who may have been in Queensland since Sunday 20 June and has not subsequently been in a 'very low risk' State or Territory for 14 days.

Recent arrivals into Western Australia are asked to continue to monitor the Queensland COVID-19 [exposure sites](#).

For more information, see the [announcement](#) and [Media Statement](#).

## **WA strengthens border with Northern Territory (NT) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**

Following updated advice from the WA Chief Health Officer, the NT and the ACT transitioned from 'very low risk' to 'low risk' at 6:00pm, Sunday 27 June 2021.

For more information, see the [announcement](#) and [Media Statement](#).

## **WA introduces hard border with New South Wales**

Following updated advice from the WA Chief Health Officer, NSW transitioned from a 'very low risk' to 'medium risk', effective from 11.00am, Wednesday 23 June. Travel from NSW is no longer permitted, except for exempt travellers.

This also applies to anyone who may have been in NSW and has not subsequently been in a 'very low risk' state or territory for 14 days, including travellers who have been in NSW since 12.01am Friday June 11, 2021 who arrive after the hard border has been introduced.

Anyone who has recently arrived from NSW prior to the hard border should continue to comply with their existing Directions provided to them upon entry to the State. That is anyone who has recently arrived from NSW, prior to the hard border being reintroduced and has been to a NSW [exposure site](#) during the relevant times must self-quarantine for 14 days from their date of exposure and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11.

Recent arrivals into WA are asked to continue to monitor the NSW Health website for updated [exposure sites](#).

For more information, see the [announcement](#), the [frequently asked questions](#) or the [Media Statement](#).

## **Public health advice issued for travellers from New Zealand**

WA Health has issued updated advice for recent New Zealand travellers following reports that an infectious person from Sydney travelled to New Zealand between 18-21 June.

Anyone who has recently arrived into WA from New Zealand and has been to one of the [listed exposure sites](#) during the relevant times is required to:

- Get a COVID-19 test within 48 hours
- Self-quarantine for 14 days after date of exposure
- Present for a COVID-19 test on day 11.

Anyone who has arrived into WA from the Wellington area after 18 June but hasn't visited any exposure sites should:

- Monitor for symptoms
- Get tested for COVID-19 if symptoms develop.

The announcement is available [here](#).

## **Travel from Australia to New Zealand**

Due to the COVID-19 situation in Australia, all quarantine-free flights from Australia to New Zealand are temporarily paused. See the Australian Government [website](#) for more information.

## **Changes to legislative requirements for contact tracing data**

In line with the passing of the Protection of Information (Entry Registration Information Relating to COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases) Bill 2021 through the legislative Assembly 21 June 2021, the Contact Register Directions have been revoked and replaced with the [Contact Register Directions \(2\)](#).

## **COVID-19 capacity limits**

The following information does not apply to the Perth and Peel region until after the restrictions are reviewed:

WA transitioned to Phase 5 on Wednesday, June 23, ending the remainder of capacity and gathering limits for venues and events. The two square metre rule and the 75 per cent capacity limit for hospitality and entertainment venues have been removed. Major events of all kinds can resume with no limits on size or crowds. Maintaining good hygiene standards and COVID-safe principles, along with mandatory contact registers, COVID Safety Plans and COVID Event Plans will continue to be required.

Phase 6 includes the removal of WA's controlled interstate border, and travel restrictions currently in place for some remote Aboriginal communities. For more information, see the [Media Statement](#).

Updated COVID Safety Plans and Guidelines are available on the WA Government [website](#).

## **COVID-19 vaccination program**

Vaccination is the best way to protect our community from COVID-19.

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](#).

WA will continue to follow ATAGI advice, which states that based on best current evidence, the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is not recommended for people under 60, and the Pfizer vaccine is still the preferred option.

At this stage, WA Health **will not** be providing AstraZeneca vaccine through its community vaccination clinics to those under 60 years of age.

The Australian Government has announced that GPs can now vaccinate adults aged under 40 years with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine will be made available to a number of GPs from July onwards.

While not contraindicated, if people under 40 are thinking of getting the AstraZeneca vaccine, they are encouraged to discuss their options with their GP.

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

## **COVID-19 vaccination roll out**

Western Australians should only turn up to WA community clinics if they have already booked an appointment. Visit [Roll up for WA](#) and login to your VaccinateWA account to book an appointment.

More appointments will become available as vaccine supply increases from the Australian Government.

In line with the updated ATAGI advice the Premier and Minister for Health [announced](#) that as from 18 June 2021 people aged 50 to 59 years are able to get the Pfizer vaccine, through State-run clinics. People aged 50 to 59 who have already had their first dose of AstraZeneca should keep their booking and continue to get their second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

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.

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 and over are eligible to be vaccinated.

Eligible people can book an appointment at both metropolitan and regional locations by visiting [Rollup for WA](#) or calling 13 COVID (13 268 43).

### Pfizer for pregnant women

Pregnant women are now recommended to have the Pfizer vaccine. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and ATAGI advise no significant safety concerns have been identified through global surveillance data. Read the full statement from the Australian Government Department of Health [here](#) and the updated COVID-19 vaccination – shared decision making guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy [here](#).

### Community clinics

**Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service (East Perth)**, will be running a vaccine clinic Monday 5th July to Thursday 8th July where Pfizer will be available. They will continue to offer COVID vaccinations throughout July, but you will need to check with the clinic which vaccine is available. Bookings are essential:

Date: 5 – 8 July  
Time: 9am – 2pm each day  
Location: Derbarl Yerrigan, EAST PERTH  
Bookings: 9421 3888

**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** community vaccination clinic administers AstraZeneca Thursday to Friday and Pfizer Saturday to Wednesday with capacity to offer 1,500 appointments each day.

**Kwinana** community vaccination clinic administers AstraZeneca Mondays and Fridays and Pfizer Tuesdays to Thursdays with capacity to offer 2,000 appointments each day.

**Redcliffe** community vaccination clinic will commence administering both vaccines from **5 July**, offering 700 appointments a day.

**Bunbury** community vaccination 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 AstraZeneca on Mondays and Fridays, with capacity to offer more than 600 appointments each day.

### Requests for alternative COVID-19 vaccine

WA Health has established a process to allow individuals, 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](#) needs to be completed online.

## 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.

The flu shot does **not** protect you against COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine does **not** protect against the flu. People need to get both vaccinations, but it is recommended to wait at least 7 days between receiving your COVID-19 vaccine and the flu shot.

Our mob aged 6 months and older can receive the flu shot for free at your local GP or Aboriginal Medical Service.

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](#).

The Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS) has released a Pfizer vaccination [animated video](#) encouraging people to get vaccinated. This video can be shared to your networks through 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

### Vaccination resources

- The WA COVID-19 Vaccine Myths and FAQ factsheet has now been updated and can be found [here](#).
- Dr Dan McAulley - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQPWIKoXMp8>
- Dr Dan McAulley - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sXaXJwPQJo>
- Dr Sandra Eades - [HealthyWA – Posts | Facebook \(3\)](#)
- Dr Sandra Eades - [HealthyWA - Posts | Facebook \(2\)](#)
- Dr Sandra Eades - [HealthyWA - Posts | Facebook \(1\)](#)
- **Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS) Pfizer vaccination [animated video](#)**

[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](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.

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