



Aboriginal Sector Communication Update

Tuesday 25 August 2020 14:00 Hours

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

The aim of providing culturally-appropriate communications is to increase awareness and reduce anxiety and fear in our communities. As the Aboriginal health sector, we need to take leadership in this area and ensure consistent, accurate and timely communication based on the official public health messages and health information issued by the Chief Health Officer from the Department of Health.

COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **25 August 2020**, there are **653** confirmed cases, **30** historical cases and **9** active case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **635** people have recovered from COVID-19 in WA. There have been **9** deaths from COVID-19 in WA.
- To date **307,797** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

National COVID-19 Aboriginal epidemiological profile

- **0.8% (99 cases)** of all COVID-19 positive (confirmed) cases **12,636** notified in the Australian *National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System* (NNDSS) were recorded as Aboriginal people – an increase of **30** cases from the previous update (**29 July**).
- WA recorded **one** Aboriginal case linked to overseas travel.
- There were no deaths reported among Aboriginal positive cases.
- Of the total **99** Aboriginal COVID-19 positive cases, **68% (67 persons)** acquired their infection locally, while **32% (31 persons)** internationally acquired their infections, and **one** case had unknown source of infection.
- Of the total **67** Aboriginal persons who domestically acquired their infections, **52% (51 persons)** acquired their infection in the major cities, **8% (8 persons)** acquired the infection in the inner regional area, **7% (7 persons)** acquired the infection in the outer regional area, and **1% (1 person)** acquired infection in the remote area.
- **11% (11 persons)** of Aboriginal positive cases were admitted to hospital, compared to **12% (1,572 persons)** of all Australian positive cases.
- **No deaths** have been recorded among Aboriginal positive cases.
- The median age of Aboriginal positive cases reduced to **30** years compared to **39** years for all Australian positive cases (a decrease of **3** and **5** years, respectively, from the last update).
- The completeness of Aboriginal identification fields in the NNDSS reduced from **91%** in the last update to **86%**.
- There has been some promising news on the development of the COVID-19 Vaccines in Australia i.e. the University of Queensland's vaccine or "[UQ's Vaccine](#)".

Latest updates

Aboriginal campaign

The Mary G TV commercials that focus on [good hygiene](#) and [physical distancing](#) are being re-run on Goolarri media for the next 3 weeks.

Phase 1 campaign refresh

'Protect yourself' messaging continues to be a foremost priority of our COVID-19 response here in WA. Physical distancing, good personal hygiene and staying at home if you're unwell remain our best defence against the virus. The [COVID-19 public information campaign](#) is currently active on TV, in the press, on radio and on social media.

Phase 5 date postponed

The date for Phase 5 has been postponed until Saturday, 24 October. Phase 5 would see remaining restrictions removed, except WA's hard border and access to remote Aboriginal communities. See the [WA Roadmap](#)

Regular testing of interstate freight drivers

Any truck driver entering Western Australia now needs to show evidence of having received a negative COVID-19 test result in the last 5 days or they will be directed at the WA border to present for a COVID-19 test within 48 hours. They will also be required to present for testing every 7 days while in WA (up until they have been in WA for 14 days). For more information see our [Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions FAQs](#).

Presentation for testing Directions (NO 4)

All interstate arrivals are now subject to a requirement to present for testing on Day 11 after arrival in WA. This is in addition to any testing requirements in place for interstate arrivals from Victoria or NSW. For more information see our [factsheet on the Presentation for Testing Directions](#).

Perth Royal Show cancelled for 2020

On the advice from the Chief Health Officer and following the extension of [Phase 4 of WA's Roadmap until 24 October](#), the Perth Royal Show will not go ahead as planned in 2020.

Unfortunately, the Royal Show provides several unique challenges and poses too big a risk from a public health perspective.

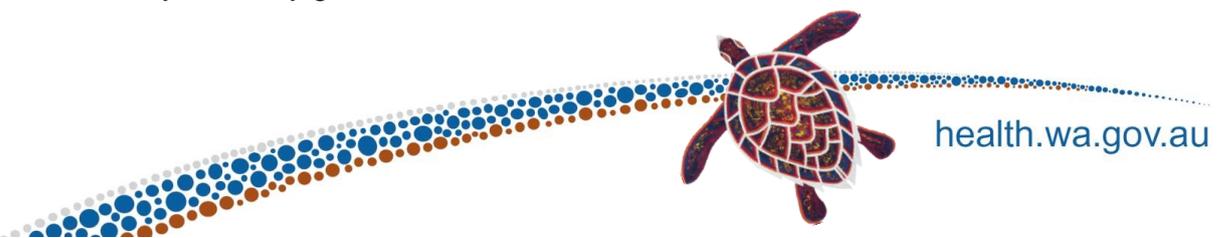
The WA Government will work closely with the Royal Agricultural Society to make sure they can deliver a vibrant Perth Royal Show in future years.

For more information visit the [Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia](#).

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:

- continue to physical distance where possible
- continue to 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 get the flu vaccine



- keep attending your regular health checks, especially for chronic illnesses
- download the [COVIDSafe app](#)
- it is important to look after your mental health and social emotional wellbeing during this time

Aboriginal COVID-19 resources

A suite of statewide Aboriginal tailored resources has been developed by the Department of Health WA for the community and health professionals to support both awareness and provide up-to-date COVID-19 information that is culturally safe.

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
- Ensure consistent, accurate and timely communication based on the official public health messages and health information issued by the Chief Health Officer from the Department of Health

Refer to the Department of Health COVID-9 website for up-to-date information

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

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

New resources for the Aboriginal Sector

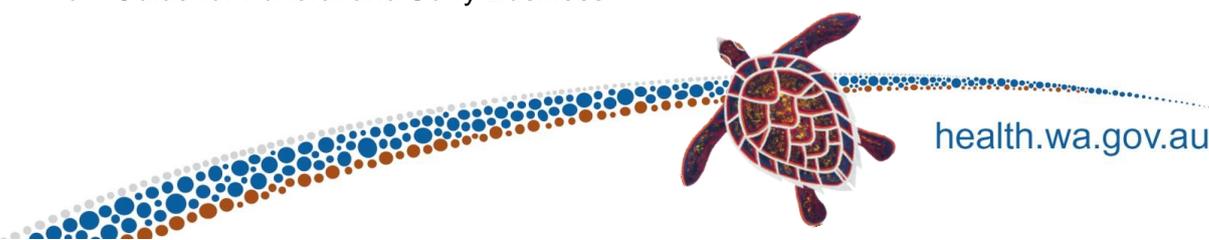
Published

- **Self-isolation information after testing for COVID-19**
This new COVID-19 resource for the Aboriginal community provides easy to read instructional information for self-isolation after testing for COVID-19. This resource explains how to self-isolate safely, including contact details if community members require accommodation to self-isolate.

All resources for the Aboriginal sector

[WA Department of Health – Aboriginal sector](#)

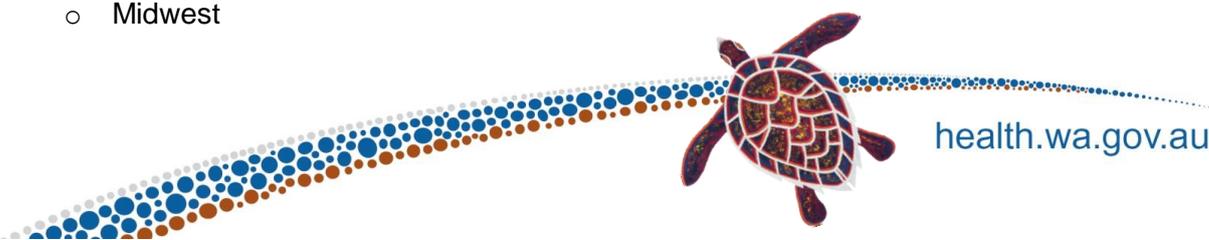
- **Aboriginal sector communication updates**
 - Communication update #1
 - Communication update #2
 - Communication update #3
 - Communication update #4
 - Communication update #5
 - **Communication update #6**
- **Aboriginal health professionals**
 - Aboriginal ethical position statement
 - Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses
 - Guide for Aboriginal health staff
 - Guide for Funeral and Sorry Business



- How to identify Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients
- Information for Aboriginal people (HealthyWA)
- **External stakeholder resources**
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities
 - COVID-19 resource toolkit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professional (NATSIHWA)
- **Remote and rural planning**
 - COVID-19 resource toolkit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professional (NATSIHWA)
 - Remote Aboriginal communities – restrictions on entering (WA Government)
 - Remote Aboriginal communities – safety and support measures (WA Government)
 - Checklist for remote clinics in Aboriginal communities (WACHS)
 - Health guidance for remote Aboriginal communities of Western Australia (DoH)

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

- **Fact sheets**
 - Information flyer for Aboriginal people – what you need to know
 - Information for a confirmed case
 - Information for a close contact of a confirmed case
 - Information for low risk contacts of a confirmed case
 - Information for your quarantine stay
 - **Self-isolation information after testing for COVID-19**
- **Posters**
 - Poster – Essential tips for travellers
 - Poster – Personal hygiene
 - Poster – Physical distancing
 - Poster – Stay strong when you are sick
 - Poster – Staying well on my travels
 - Poster – Symptoms and what to do if unwell
 - Poster – Visit your doctor
- **Video/radio messages**
 - TV commercial – Good hygiene with Mary G
 - TV commercial – Social distancing with Mary G
 - Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses
 - Radio – Protect yourself and other with good hygiene
 - Video - Mary G telehealth and regular checkups
 - Radio – Physical distancing – let's work together to protect our mob
 - Radio – Stay at home if you are sick
- **Other resources available**
 - Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA)
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities (Australian Government)
- **GPs and other support phone lists**
 - Goldfields
 - Great Southern
 - Kimberley
 - Midwest



- Perth
- Pilbara
- South West
- Wheatbelt

Other resources of interest to Aboriginal health sector

COVID-19 information and guidelines that may be relevant to the Aboriginal Health Sector working with vulnerable sub-groups can be found at [WA Department of Health – Information for aged care and community care providers](#).

Available guidance for vulnerable populations includes residential aged care facilities FAQs; advice for people with disability; COVID-19 guidelines for Western Australian community-based care; and COVID-19 guidelines for Western Australian homelessness sector.

Information on infection control in these setting can also be found including advice for use of PPE for workers in community settings; advice on how to access personal protective equipment; FAQs for PPE use workers in community settings.

Management of mental health patients in hostels and supported accommodation diagnosed with or suspected to have COVID-19 during periods of low community transmission can also be found.

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.

Last updated **25 August 2020**

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

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