



PHEOC BULLETIN #54

Tuesday 23 March 2021 14:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Clare Huppertz

COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **Tuesday 23 March**, there have been **931** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **60** historical cases. **912** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **923,448** 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.

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](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Western Australia continues to roll out COVID-19 vaccinations, prioritising those who are at highest risk of contracting COVID-19. These eligible workers have been invited, via their employers, to book in for a COVID-19 vaccination:

- Phase 1A eligible populations who have been invited for a COVID-19 vaccination include quarantine and border workers, frontline health care workers.
- Other health care workers, and groups of critical and high risk workers including police, fire and emergency staff, have already received an invitation to be vaccinated.

The vaccination rollout is affected by the availability of both imported and locally manufactured vaccines, however as more doses become available newly eligible groups will receive updated information about where they can receive their vaccine as part of the overall phased plan coordinated by the Australian Government. From Monday 22 March, the below groups can access the COVID-19 vaccine via general practices, Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services and GP-led respiratory clinics for people within Phase 1B:

- Adults aged 70 years and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 55
- Adults with an underlying medical condition, including those with a disability
- Other health care workers
- Critical and high risk workers

Within WA, a [number of GP clinics](#) are offering the COVID-19 vaccine to anyone currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. If you have not received an invitation to be vaccinated via your employer, and believe you are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination, please use the Australian Government's [COVID-19 vaccine eligibility checker](#) to check your eligibility and make an appointment or register your interest via the Australian Government's GP vaccination program.

If you employ staff in your business, you may be wondering about your and your employees' rights and responsibilities in relation to the vaccine. The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) have published workplace information about the COVID-19 vaccine [FAQs](#) on their website. These FAQs provide general information only. It is important that businesses and employees seek appropriate advice about their specific circumstances.

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:

[Prohibition on the use of Nebuliser Machines 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 30 March 2021**.

Last updated **23 March 2021**

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

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