



# PHEOC BULLETIN #63

**Thursday 27 May 2021 14:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Thursday 27 May**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **1,017** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **90** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **1,006** people recover from COVID-19
  - **1,165,910** COVID-19 tests conducted
  - **406,648** total vaccine doses administered, including **53,268** people who have received both doses and are now fully vaccinated.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#) & [Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

## Living with COVID

### Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [25 May 2021](#) – **Controlled border controls in Western Australia**
- [12 May 2021](#) – Easing of restrictions

### WA introduces hard border with Victoria

Western Australia has introduced a hard border with Victoria following the evolving COVID-19 situation and outbreak.

Based on the latest advice from the WA Chief Health Officer, Victoria has transitioned from 'very low risk' to 'medium risk' under WA's controlled interstate border, effective from 10.00am, Thursday, 27 May 2021.

Travel from Victoria into WA will no longer be permitted, with exemptions for the following:

- certain senior Government officials
- certain active military personnel
- a member of the Commonwealth Parliament
- a person carrying out functions under a law of the Commonwealth
- a person responsible for transport freight or logistics
- anyone who is given approval by the State Emergency Coordinator or an authorised officer.

The final category includes exemptions for compassionate reasons - including Western Australians who may have travelled to Victoria recently and need to return to WA. These people will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by WA Police and will be required to complete 14 days of self-quarantine and be tested for COVID-19 on arrival and on day 11.

The following applies:

Exempt travellers arriving into WA from 10.00am Thursday, 27 May 2021:

- Get a COVID-19 test upon arrival into WA and on day 11.
- Self-quarantine in a suitable premises for 14 days.

Anyone who has arrived from Victoria between Sunday, 16 May and 10.00am Thursday, 27 May:

- Get a COVID-19 test within 48 hours and self-quarantine until they return a negative test result.
- A mask must be worn when presenting for testing.

Arrivals who have visited Victorian [exposure sites](#) during relevant times, irrespective of whether the exposure site is considered Tier 1 or Tier 2 by Victoria Health:

- Get tested immediately for COVID-19 and self-quarantine for 14 days from date of exposure.
- Get a COVID-19 test on day two and day 11 of your 14-day self-quarantine.
- Masks must be worn when leaving self-quarantine premises to present for testing.

For anyone who has come into contact with someone who recently arrived from Victoria, self-quarantine is not necessary and COVID-19 testing is only required if symptoms develop.

The announcement is available [here](#).

## Jurisdiction risk rating

Victoria is now considered 'medium risk'. All other jurisdictions, including New Zealand, are considered 'very low risk'.

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

## Pre-lockdown life resumes for Perth and Peel regions

The Perth and Peel regions returned to pre-lockdown life from 12.01am Saturday 15 May, following the latest public health advice. For more information, see the [announcement](#) and [advice](#).

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### ATAGI Update

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and the Thrombosis and Haemostasis society of Australia and New Zealand (THANZ) have released a joint [statement](#) on Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) and the use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.

This advice highlights that the list of conditions for which [Comirnaty](#) (Pfizer) is the preferred vaccine has been expanded to include 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 Australian Department of Health has released new talking points on the AstraZeneca vaccine for health professionals – [Talking to patients](#) about AstraZeneca vaccine.

## Pfizer extended storage approved

WA Health welcomes the decision recently made by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regarding the changed storage conditions for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (COMIRNATY).

This change extends the approved storage period of the unopened thawed vial at 2-8°C (i.e. in a normal refrigerator after taking out of deep-freeze conditions) at the point of use, from five days up to one month (31 days).

These changed storage requirements for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will make a positive impact, particularly in the vaccine roll out across regional and remote Western Australia and will enable greater flexibility in terms of distribution of the vaccine across the State.

## New online COVID-19 vaccination booking system

A new online COVID-19 vaccination booking system opened for appointments from 25 May 2021. The VaccinateWA booking system can be accessed at [Roll up for WA](#), and provides a user-friendly process for booking and confirming vaccination appointments at WA Health run community and hospital-based vaccination clinics in WA. From 31 May, some clinics will be available for both Pfizer COMIRNATY and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

Adults with chronic medical conditions and people with disability are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and can book via [Roll up for WA](#). Eligible people aged under 50 years have access to the Pfizer vaccination, whilst those aged 50 years and over can access the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Adults aged 50 and over across both metropolitan and regional WA continue to be provided with a range of options to access the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination, with available clinics listed on the [HealthyWA website](#). Eligible people can call 13COVID (13 26843) to book an appointment at both metropolitan and regional locations.

Eligible people are also able to access COVID-19 vaccinations through participating GP, GP Respiratory Clinics or Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS). Visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#) to check on availability in your location.

## Trusted Sources

Please visit the trusted sources below for more information:

- **HealthyWA** - [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- **WA Health** - [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- **Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC)** - workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- **The Australian Government** - [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#)

## 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:

[Victorian \(May 2021\) Special Presentation for Testing and Isolation Directions](#)

[Victorian \(May 2021 Outbreak\) Directions for Drivers and Flight Crew](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 23\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Workers\) Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[New South Wales Limited Self-Quarantine and Presentation for Testing \(May 2021 Outbreak\)](#)

[Revocation Directions](#)

[Gatherings and Activities \(HBF Park\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)

[Gatherings and Activities \(HBF Stadium- Main Arena\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)  
[Gatherings and Activities \(Optus Stadium\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)  
[Gatherings and Activities \(RAC Arena\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Clinician Alert #58](#)

## 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** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste.

### Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

### 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 **26 May 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.

## 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.

[health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au)

**Next advice** - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 1 June 2021**.

Last updated **27 May 2021**

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

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