



# PHEOC BULLETIN #75

**Tuesday 17 August 2021 14:00 Hours**

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

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday 17 August**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **1,061** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **101** historical cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **1,049** people recover from COVID-19
  - **1,591,555** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **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](#).

- [Western Australia's controlled border arrangement - 16 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - Australian Capital Territory - 13 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - South Australia - 5 August 2021](#)

### New South Wales to 'high risk'

Based on the latest public health advice, New South Wales (NSW) became a 'high risk' jurisdiction from 12.01am Tuesday, 17 August 2021.

Anyone entering from NSW, or who has travelled through NSW in the past 14 days, must:

- provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the 72 hours prior to departure
- prove receipt of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, where eligible
- use the G2G Now app on arrival in WA
- present for a COVID-19 tests on day two and day 12 of quarantine.

Other occupants of the premises where a person from a 'high risk' jurisdiction (like NSW), is in quarantine **must** also follow certain requirements. For instance, other occupants must:

- complete 14 days quarantine from the date the person from NSW entered the premises
- present for testing on day 12
- ring 13COVID and provide their contact details
- use the [G2G Now](#) application, where possible.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and Controlled Border [FAQs](#) for full details.

## Northern Territory

As of 16 August 2021, all persons arriving from NT are required to get tested immediately (within 48 hours) and isolate until they have received a negative result.

Anyone who has been at the listed NT [exposure sites](#) on the dates and time specified are required to self-quarantine for 14 days and be tested immediately (within 48 hours) and at day 11. Continue to monitor the listed [exposure sites](#) in case additional locations are added.

Recent arrivals who did **not** visit the NT exposure locations and arrived between 12-16 August should get tested if COVID-19 related symptoms develop.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for further information.

## Australian Capital Territory to 'medium risk'

As of 14 August 2021, Australian Capital Territory (ACT) transitioned to a 'medium risk' territory under the WA's [controlled border](#) arrangements.

Travellers arriving in WA after 12:01am, Saturday August 14 2021 must:

- have approval via a [G2G Pass](#) to enter WA
- self-quarantine in a suitable premises for 14 days
- present for a COVID-19 test within 48 hours of arrival, on day 12 and if symptoms develop.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for additional information.

## South Australia to 'low risk'

South Australia (SA) transitioned from a 'medium risk' jurisdiction to a 'low risk' jurisdiction under the WA's [controlled border](#) arrangements.

Travellers arriving in WA after 12:01am, Saturday 14 August 2021 must:

- have approval via a [G2G Pass](#) to enter WA
- complete a health screening on arrival
- self-quarantine in a suitable premises for 14 days
- present for a COVID-19 test within 48 hours of arrival, on day 12 and if symptoms develop.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for additional information.

## Updated Controlled Border classifications

Based on the latest health advice, the 'high risk' category has been upgraded and a new 'extreme risk' category has been added to WA's [controlled border](#) arrangements.

Since 14 November 2020 when the controlled interstate border was introduced, only the 'very low risk', 'low risk' and 'medium risk' categories have applied, but with growing concerns about transmission of the Delta variant in Australia, the Chief Health Officer has recommended a new, strengthened risk matrix.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for the requirements under each category.

## Jurisdiction risk rating

New South Wales is considered 'high risk'. Victoria, Queensland and ACT are considered 'medium risk'. South Australia is considered 'low risk'. Northern Territory, Tasmania and New Zealand are considered 'very low risk'. For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled interstate border [webpage](#).

## Community

### Vaccination requirement for residential aged care facility workers

The Chief Health Officer approved Directions to ensure that any person working at a Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) must have received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccination.

This advice aligns Western Australia with the Commonwealth position agreed by the National Cabinet and is based on advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

This requirement applies to any person working at the facility including facility workers, administrative staff, ancillary staff, all visiting health care workers (including doctors, allied health and ambulance staff), students and volunteers. These workers must receive this first vaccine on or before 12.01am on 17 September 2021. Exemptions apply.

Refer to the announcement or the FAQ document for further information.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### People aged 16 and over are now eligible to book in for their COVID-19 vaccine

Everyone aged 16 and over is now eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccination **at WA Health run vaccination clinics**. People aged 16- 59 are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and those aged 60 and over are eligible to receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccine eligibility for primary care providers (GPs, GP Respiratory Clinics, Aboriginal Medical Services and pharmacies) differs slightly in line with Australian Government eligibility criteria, which can be accessed here: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>.

A three-week vaccination 'blitz' is occurring from 16 August – 3 September. During the blitz, more than 250,000 vaccination appointments will be available at state run community clinics.

Western Australians are urged to book an appointment for a vaccination as soon as they are eligible, to help protect ourselves, our families and our communities from COVID-19.

You can register and book your appointment now at [VaccinateWA](#) or call 13COVID (13 268 43), if you require assistance.

### Reporting adverse events following immunisation

The WA Vaccine Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) on-line reporting system allows medical and nurse practitioners, other immunisation providers, parents and guardians and vaccinated individuals to report significant Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI).

WAVSS provides expert immunisation safety advice to people who report AEFI and can provide clinical guidance for children and adults who have experienced AEFI.

Immunisation providers are asked to be aware of the extended time-frame during which significant AEFI may occur following a COVID-19 vaccine; which includes serious outcomes that may occur up to 42 days following immunisation with a COVID-19 vaccine. Immunisation providers are also reminded that suspected AEFI are notifiable conditions in WA (*Public Health Regulations, 2017*) and must be reported to the WAVSS system within 72 hours of recognition of the event.

### TGA grant provisional approval for Moderna vaccine

On the 9 August 2021 the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced provisional approval to Moderna Australia Pty Ltd for its COVID-19 vaccine — Spikevax (elasomeran). The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is provisionally approved for individuals 18 years and older and will be distributed to and administered by primary care providers only.

## 12-15 year-olds with underlying medical conditions eligible for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Following the TGA [announcement](#) and approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) for 12-15 year-olds, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recently reviewed the available safety and efficacy data and recommends that the following groups of children aged 12–15 years be prioritised for vaccination using the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Those living in remote communities (as part of broader community outreach vaccination programs)
- Those people with specific medical conditions including: severe asthma; diabetes; obesity; cardiac and circulatory congenital anomalies; neuro developmental disorders; epilepsy; immuno-compromised or trisomy 21.

Please see the [ATAGI statement](#) for further information.

Book online through the Australian Government [Eligibility Checker](#), register and book online at [VaccinateWA](#) or call 13 COVID (13 268 43).

### New community clinics

**Perth CBD** Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road Perth, short walk from Elizabeth Quay train station.  
Operating from 16 August and offering Pfizer and open Monday - Saturday.

**Midland** Centrepoint Shopping Centre, 307 Great Eastern Highway Midland, short walk from Midland train station. (Replacing Redcliffe).  
Operating from 6 September and offering Pfizer and open 7 days a week.

Existing [Community clinics](#) in WA include Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, Redcliffe and Bunbury.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, General Practitioners (GPs) in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 Vaccine [Eligibility Checker](#).

### Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- Requests for [alternative COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- 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](#)
- [Rollup for WA](#) and [Rollup for WA posters](#)
- [KAMS - Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign](#)

## 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:

[Northern Territory Special Presentation for Testing and Isolation Directions](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 37\)](#)  
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 36\)](#)  
[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 4\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 32\)](#)  
[Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions](#)  
[Exposure Site \(Western Australia\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

## Updated fact sheets

[Mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers FAQ](#)  
[Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities version 11](#)

- Notable change: A PPE observer is to assist HCWs with donning and doffing procedures (donning and doffing checklists included).

[Aboriginal sector communication update #24](#)  
[Clinician Alert – Kimberley Region](#)

## 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 24 June 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

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [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
- [Contact register](#) information

## Who to contact for more information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred)

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

- 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
  - 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 24 Aug 2021**.

**Last updated 17 August 2021**

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

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