



PHEOC BULLETIN #77

Wednesday 1 September 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 **Wednesday 1 September**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **1,086** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 101 historical cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,059** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **1,660,247** 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](#).

- [Controlled border - New South Wales - 20 August 2021](#)
- [Controlled border - New Zealand - 18 August 2021](#)

Truck drivers

Two truck drivers from New South Wales (NSW) were placed into hotel quarantine in Western Australia (WA) after testing positive to COVID-19. They were tested in NSW for routine Freight Drivers COVID-19 screening on 25 August. The drivers travelled together via Victoria and South Australia.

A list of [exposure sites](#) relating to the NSW truck drivers has been published. Please continue to check the site in case more exposure sites are added.

Anyone who visited the exposure sites listed on HealthyWA at the specified times and dates must:

- quarantine immediately for 14 days and get tested within 48 hours and on day 12
- contact 13 COVID (13 26843).

Regional testing is available at:

- Norseman Hospital – 8am to 6pm
- Southern Cross – 24/7 – phone ahead on 9081 2222
- Kalgoorlie Health Campus, 8am to 6pm.

Metropolitan testing locations are available on [HealthyWA](#).

Twenty-five contacts of the two truck drivers have been identified from exposure sites within WA. All have returned negative tests and are in home quarantine.

Refer to the [initial](#) and [latest](#) media release for further information.

Guidelines for HCF and RACF visits while in quarantine

A new document titled *Visits to Health Care Facilities and Residential Aged Care Facilities by People in Quarantine – General Principles* has been published to assist facilities manage visits from people under a quarantine direction. The guideline provides advice on infection prevention and control and the use of personal protective equipment, and a template letter of support for use if appropriate.

For further information refer to the [document](#) on the corporate Department of Health website.

Graduate nurses in COVID-19 response roles

The WA government announced the deployment of 170 graduate nurses in COVID-19 roles. This includes 130 graduates in State-run vaccination clinics and 40 in the contact tracing team.

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

New Zealand reclassified

In line with all other Australian jurisdictions, travel from New Zealand is now classified by WA as travel from an international location. Approved travellers are required to enter 14 days of hotel quarantine on arrival. This is due to the evolving COVID-19 situation in New Zealand.

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

New South Wales to be elevated to an ‘extreme risk’ jurisdiction

Based on the latest public health advice, New South Wales (NSW) **transitioned** to an ‘extreme risk’ jurisdiction at 12:01am Thursday, 26 August 2021, under the WA’s [controlled border](#) arrangements.

Under the ‘extreme risk’ category travel from NSW to WA will not be permitted and the exemptions for approved travellers will be further restricted to Commonwealth and State officials, Members of Parliament, Diplomats and specialist or extraordinary circumstances determined by the State Emergency Coordinator or the Chief Health Officer. These approved travellers are subject to the following conditions, unless otherwise advised:

- undertake mandatory hotel quarantine at a State quarantine facility for 14 days at their own expense
- undergo COVID-19 testing on days 1, 5 and 13
- must have returned a negative COVID-19 PCR test in the past 72 hours
- have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible.

Under the extreme risk setting, if a Western Australian returning from overseas falls into one of the above categories, is approved to enter WA, and has completed 14 days of supervised quarantine in NSW they will be required to undergo a further 14 days of self-quarantine in WA in a suitable premises.

The trigger for review which guides the implementation of an ‘extreme risk’ classification is a 500-case rolling average over five or 14 days, which has been met.

The Chief Health Officer will continue to monitor the situation and provide advice on border controls.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [Media Statement](#) for full details.

Queensland to ‘low risk’

Queensland **transitioned** from ‘medium risk’ to ‘low risk’ from 12.01am, Thursday 26 August.

Under the low risk category, all travellers who have been in Queensland or travelled through Queensland can enter WA subject to the following strict conditions:

- complete a G2G PASS stating they do not have COVID-19 symptoms, and which jurisdictions they have been in over the previous 14 days
- undergo a health screening upon arrival in WA
- self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premises

- present for COVID-19 testing within 48 hours of arrival and on day 12
- wear a mask when transiting to quarantine premises and when presenting for COVID-19 testing.

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

South Australia to 'very low risk'

South Australia (SA) **transitioned** to 'very low risk' from 12.01am, Thursday 26 August.

Travellers entering from or via SA will be permitted to enter WA without quarantine requirements, but **are** subject to the following strict conditions of entry:

- complete a G2G PASS declaration, which states they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and which jurisdictions they have been to in the previous 14 days
- undergo health screening upon arrival.

Any recent arrivals from South Australia who are serving their 14 days of self-quarantine will be permitted to end their period of quarantine on the same day that South Australia transitions to a 'very low risk' state, based on health advice.

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

Jurisdiction risk rating

New South Wales is considered 'extreme risk'. Victoria **and** Australian Capital Territory are considered 'medium risk'. Queensland is considered 'low risk'. South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania are considered 'very low risk'. **New Zealand is no longer a jurisdiction in WA's controlled border.** For more information on WA's border arrangement, see the WA Government's controlled border [webpage](#).

Vessel management

WA Health is currently monitoring the health of crew from the MV Ken Hou vessel, with every precaution being taken to ensure the safety of port workers and the WA Community.

Of the 22 crew members from the MV Ken Hou vessel, **15 are active cases of COVID-19.**

The Department of Health is working closely with the captain, shipping agent, vessel owner, WA Police, Fremantle Ports and Commonwealth agencies to manage the vessel and crew.

See the [media release](#) for more information.

Community

Donations to Afghan evacuees

The State Government is continuing to work with its community sector partners to support evacuees from Afghanistan who have recently arrived in Perth.

While many members of the Western Australian community are keen to show their support through the donation of goods and food, these donations are not needed at this time.

There are strict COVID safety restrictions at WA hotel quarantine facilities and it is important that people do not visit these locations, especially during quarantine periods.

The best way to can help is to make a financial donation through the Australian Red Cross [Afghanistan Crisis Appeal](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine approved for all 12-15 year olds

On the 27 August 2021 the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [recommended](#) that all individuals aged 12 years and over are vaccinated against COVID-19. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only vaccine currently approved for use in Australia in this age group and is recommended for all individuals aged 12-60 years. ATAGI has developed these recommendations following careful consideration of the benefits, risks, uncertainties and evidence on COVID-19 vaccinations for this age group. Bookings will be made available for 12-15 year olds in coming weeks.

COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme

The Australian Government has finalised details of a no fault COVID-19 Vaccine Claim Scheme which will be backdated to February 2021.

The scheme will provide compensation for people who have experienced a moderate or significant adverse reaction to a Therapeutic Goods Administration-approved COVID-19 vaccine. The scheme will cover the costs of injuries that are above \$5,000 because of a proven adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccination. Independent experts will assess claims and their recommendations will inform the compensation amount.

It is important to remember that serious or life-threatening side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine are very rare.

From 6 September 2021, you can register your intent to claim at [COVID-19 claims scheme](#).

New community clinics

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 [Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre](#), Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, 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:

[New Zealand Travel Arrangements Omnibus Amendment Directions](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 41\)](#)
[South Australia Quarantine, Isolation and Presentation for Testing Modification Directions](#)
[Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 6\)](#)
[Approval for Flight Crew Pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 5\)](#)
[Approval for Travellers Under a Specified Arrangement Pursuant to the Outbreak Outside of Western Australia Response Directions \(No 5\)](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 40\)](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 39\)](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 38\)](#)
[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 35\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #26](#)
[Clinician Alert #64](#)
[Presentation for Testing Fact Sheet](#)
[Visits to Health Care Facilities and Residential Aged Care Facilities by People in Quarantine – General Principles](#)
[Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #25](#)
[Risk for port workers – COVID-19 detected on a vessel](#)

Testing

Updated testing fact sheet released

The *Presentation for Testing Fact Sheet* has been published in response to a change of [Directions](#). This document is intended as a summary of the obligations arising from the Directions only.

Refer to the Department of Health [website](#) for further information.

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 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 7 September 2021**.

Last updated **1 September 2021**

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

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