



WA HEALTH COVID-19 BULLETIN #1

Friday 4 November 2022 14:00 Hours

This bulletin replaces the SHICC Public Health Bulletin and has been authorised by
Deputy Chief Health Officer – Incident Management
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **WA:** [Weekly statements](#), [vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National status](#) and Australia's [vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** WHO [Situation Reports](#) and [dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

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

- [Revocation of State of Emergency](#) – 26 October 2022

End of the State of Emergency

The State of Emergency in WA – in effect from 16 March 2020 – was [lifted](#) at 12.01am on Friday 4 November 2022.

Subsequently, all remaining Directions issued under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and the *Public Health Act 2016* have been revoked and no longer apply. This includes:

- Proof of vaccination
- Mandatory vaccination
- Face mask use in high-risk settings
- Visitors to residential aged care facilities (including requirement for influenza vaccination)
- Use of Fire and Emergency Service staff for St John Ambulance surge conditions.

The ongoing management of COVID-19 in Western Australia will be underpinned by continuous monitoring of the amount of virus circulating in the community via various surveillance methods.

The pandemic is not over, and we cannot be complacent – COVID-19 is here to stay as part of our new normal.

Strong public health social measures are encouraged to keep those most at risk of severe illness safe, including:

- Stay home if unwell and get [tested](#) if COVID-like symptoms develop
- Register positive RAT results at [HealthyWA](#)
- Stay up to date with [vaccinations](#)
- Wear a [mask](#) if social distancing isn't possible
- Wash or sanitise hands regularly.

The State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) has been stood down.

Updated IPC Guidelines

The System Alert and Response (SAR) Blue framework governing public hospitals and healthcare services has been revoked and replaced by the *COVID-19 Infection prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities* (the Guidelines).

Cases and close contacts:

- The requirements for public hospital health care workers who are close contacts or test positive to COVID-19 remain unchanged.
- Check with your employer for the full requirements at your workplace.

Mask requirements:

- Mask wearing requirements will be managed by hospitals under their local policies for infection prevention and control (IPC), as they manage other respiratory illnesses.
- At a minimum, surgical masks will still be required for public healthcare staff who have direct interaction with patients, with increased personal protective equipment (PPE) measures required for high-risk areas of the hospital and when dealing with more vulnerable patients.

Private healthcare facilities, including primary care and allied health services, should determine their own IPC policies to manage the transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. The Guidelines may be used by the private sector when developing their IPC guidelines.

The Guidelines are available at the “COVID-19 information for health professionals” page of the Department of Health [website](#) (under “Infection prevention and control and PPE” tab and “Hospitals and healthcare settings” subheading). Refer to COVID-19 [Clinician Alert #90](#) for information.

Hospital visitors

The *COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines for WA Public Hospitals and Health Services* have been rescinded, and health services should manage their own visitor policies.

Different rules may apply for entry to hospitals, and for people visiting high-risk areas of a hospital or vulnerable patients. Visitors are advised to check the hospital’s requirements before attending.

Visitors should not visit healthcare facilities if unwell.

Vaccination requirements

Mandatory vaccination requirements for healthcare workers (HCWs), primary healthcare workers, residential aged care facility workers and disability support accommodation workers have been removed with the revocation of the relevant Directions.

Proof of vaccination requirements for visitors to hospital and residential aged care facilities have been removed, including requirements for visitors to residential aged care facilities to be vaccinated for influenza.

Long COVID research

The Department of Health’s Communicable Disease Control Directorate is conducting [research](#) into the impacts of long COVID. Participants are people who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and have agreed to participate in future research.

The study will help inform plans for managing long COVID.

Post-COVID-19 Clinic

The Department of Health's East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) has commenced a Post-COVID-19 Clinic for a 6-month trial period. The service will offer patients further assessment and management of their symptoms.

This clinic is based at Bentley Health Service for patients in the EMHS catchment area who are:

- over 16 years of age
- have had a COVID diagnosis that has been confirmed by a RAT or PCR test
- are at least 12 weeks post-diagnosis
- are experiencing significant, ongoing but non-urgent symptoms
- have objective physical findings which have failed to resolve with primary care and that cannot be attributed to other obvious causes or cognitive/psychological issues.

A GP referral is required to attend the clinic.

More information and referral criteria are available on the EMHS [website](#).

COVID clinics

Joondalup Hospital COVID Clinic will close from 4pm Friday 11 November 2022. The Rockingham and Royal Perth Hospital COVID Clinics have closed.

If a PCR test was taken at a public COVID clinic or a regional hospital and SMS results have not been received after 48 hours, phone PathWest on 13 PATH (13 7284), from 8am to 4pm, Monday - Friday.

Visit [HealthyWA](#) for COVID-19 testing information.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Booster dose for children aged 5 to 11 years

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recently [advised](#) that children aged 5 to 11 years who are at an increased risk of severe disease may receive a booster dose.

This includes the following children aged 5 to 11 years who have completed a primary course of vaccination 3 or more months ago:

- those who are [severely immunocompromised](#)
- those who have a disability with significant or complex health needs
- those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

ATAGI does not recommend that a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine be given to all children aged 5 to 11 years due to insufficient evidence of severe disease in otherwise healthy children in this age group who have already received two primary doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Guidance on myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccines

Vaccination remains the best way to protect against COVID-19 and its related complications. ATAGI reiterate that the overwhelming benefits of vaccination in protecting against COVID-19 greatly outweigh the rare risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis.

Following the recent [guide update](#) from ATAGI on myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccines, WA Health issued a [Clinician Alert](#) with important advice for all vaccine providers to consider the potential risk of myocarditis and pericarditis when selecting a COVID-19 vaccine brand and dose interval, considering the individual's age, gender, preferences, and any precautions in relation to specific vaccine brands.

State-run vaccination clinics update

State-run vaccination clinics across Western Australia are scaling down, with pop up clinics to continue for at-risk priority groups. The final two Perth metropolitan vaccination clinics at Mirrabooka and Kwinana will close on 6 November 2022.

Vaccines are still available from some regional state-run clinics, and participating GPs and pharmacies for those requiring vaccinations. Visit [Roll up for WA](#) or [VaccinateWA](#) for provider locations and booking details.

Resources

WA Health website content and resources have been updated in response to the end of the State of Emergency.

Refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites and the [WA Government](#) website regularly for the most up-to-date COVID-19 information.

Recently updated guidelines and factsheets

- [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [Clinician Alert #90](#)
- [WA Testing Guidelines for COVID-19 and other Respiratory Viruses](#)
- [Public Health Management of COVID-19 on Vessels](#)
- [COVID-19 Care Plan for Adults](#)
- [COVID-19 Care Plan for Parents or Carers and Children](#)
- [COVID-19 Care Plan for Person with a Disability](#)
- [COVID-19 Inpatient Diabetes and Hyperglycaemia Management Guidelines](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Maternity Services](#)
- [COVID-19 and Breastfeeding](#)
- [COVID-19 in Pregnancy and Birth](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Neonatal Services](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Renal Dialysis](#)
- [Dialysis and COVID-19: Risks and Information](#)

Recently updated webpages

- Department of Health – [COVID-19 information for business, industry and local government](#)
- Department of Health – [COVID-19 information for health professionals](#)
- Department of Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 cases and contacts](#)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 testing](#)
- HealthyWA – [Staying safe](#)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) translated resources](#)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine FAQs](#)

Additional resources

- Department of Health website – [Media releases](#) and [news](#)
- Department of Health – [YouTube](#) channel
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) page, including [FAQs](#)
- WA Government – [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses
- Australian Government – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)
- Australian Government – [Recommended COVID-19 doses infographic](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccination clinical considerations](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccine translated information](#)
- Australian Health Council of WA – [COVID-19 Aboriginal vaccination resources](#)
- World Health Organisation (WHO) – [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- PathWest pathology results: 13 7284 (13 PATH - Not for GP referred or private pathology tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #41](#) came into effect from 14 October 2022.

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 14 October 2022.

Legislation

Visit the State of Emergency [Declarations](#) page of the WA Government website for legislation updates.

The Direction revocations relating to the cessation of the State of Emergency are available on the WA Government [website](#).

Last updated 4 November 2022

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

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