



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# COVID-19 in Western Australia

Dr Andrew Robertson  
Chief Health Officer

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021



# 2020

## Expectation

### vs

## Reality



No Year 13, 2 more deaths, 10 new cases

**Help stop the spread of COVID-19**

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE HEALTHY HYGIENE HABITS:



Wash your hands regularly  
for at least 20 seconds using  
soap & water or alcohol-based gel



Cover your mouth/nose  
when you cough/sneeze  
using a tissue or based elbow



Avoid close contact with others.  
If you, or they, have cold or flu like  
symptoms keep at least 1 metre apart



Stay home if you are sick  
Stay in your room or isolated  
if you have symptoms

**IF YOU'VE BEEN ASKED TO SELF-ISOLATE**

Anyone who is instructed to self-isolate must take the request seriously, stay home and not put others at risk.  
That means: **DON'T** leave your property **DON'T** go to work/school **DON'T** go on outings **DON'T** have visitors  
The only time to leave that house is to seek medical attention.

**CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION HOTLINE: 1800 020 080**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES: [www.wa.gov.au/covid19](http://www.wa.gov.au/covid19)**



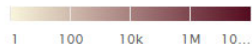
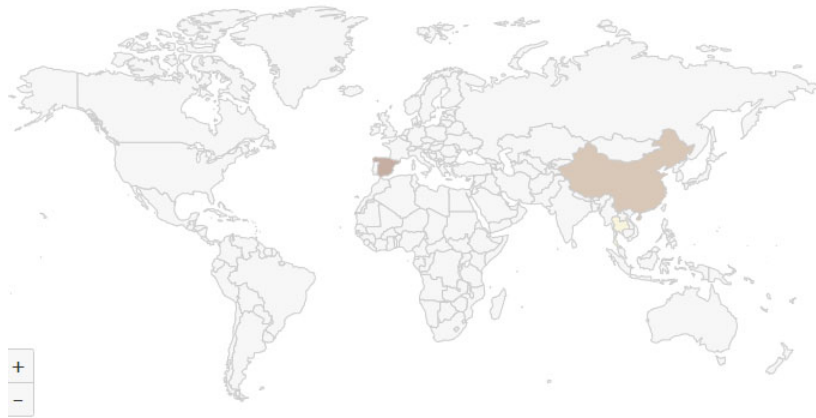
Climate Health WA Inquiry:  
Final Report

Dr Tazun Moayamanteh

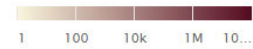
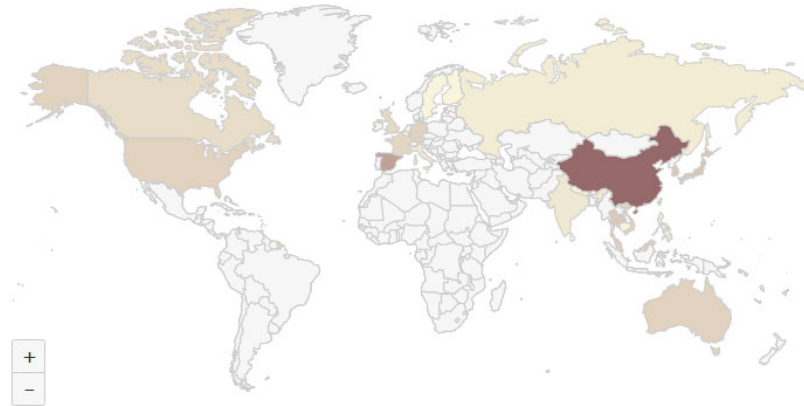
November 2018



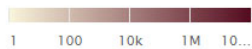
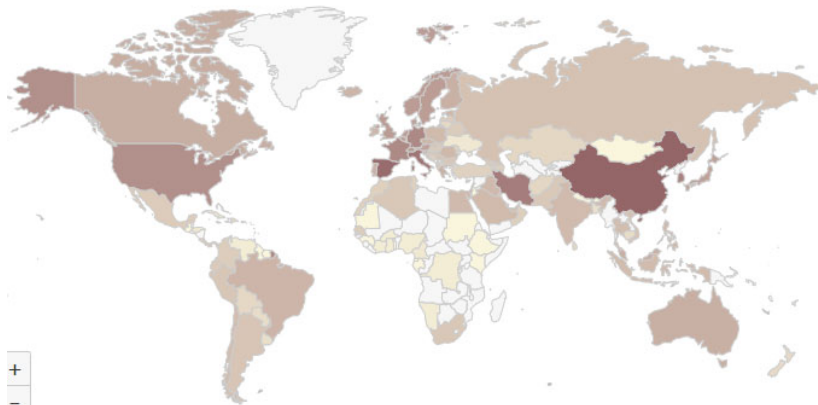
# Spread of COVID-19



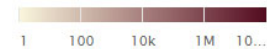
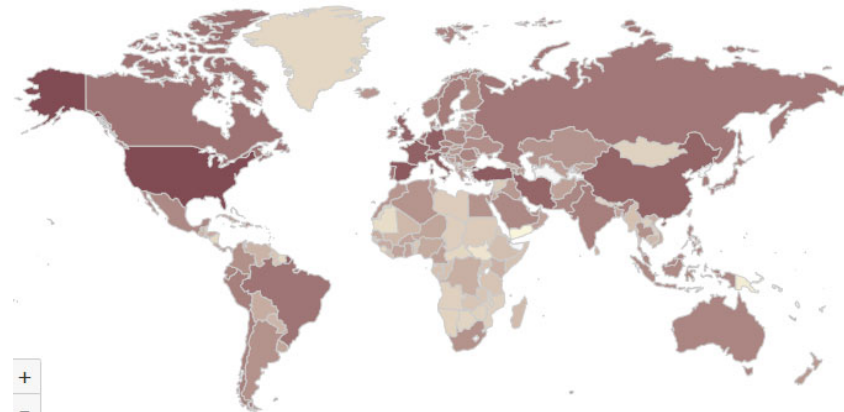
14 Jan 2020



14 Feb 2020



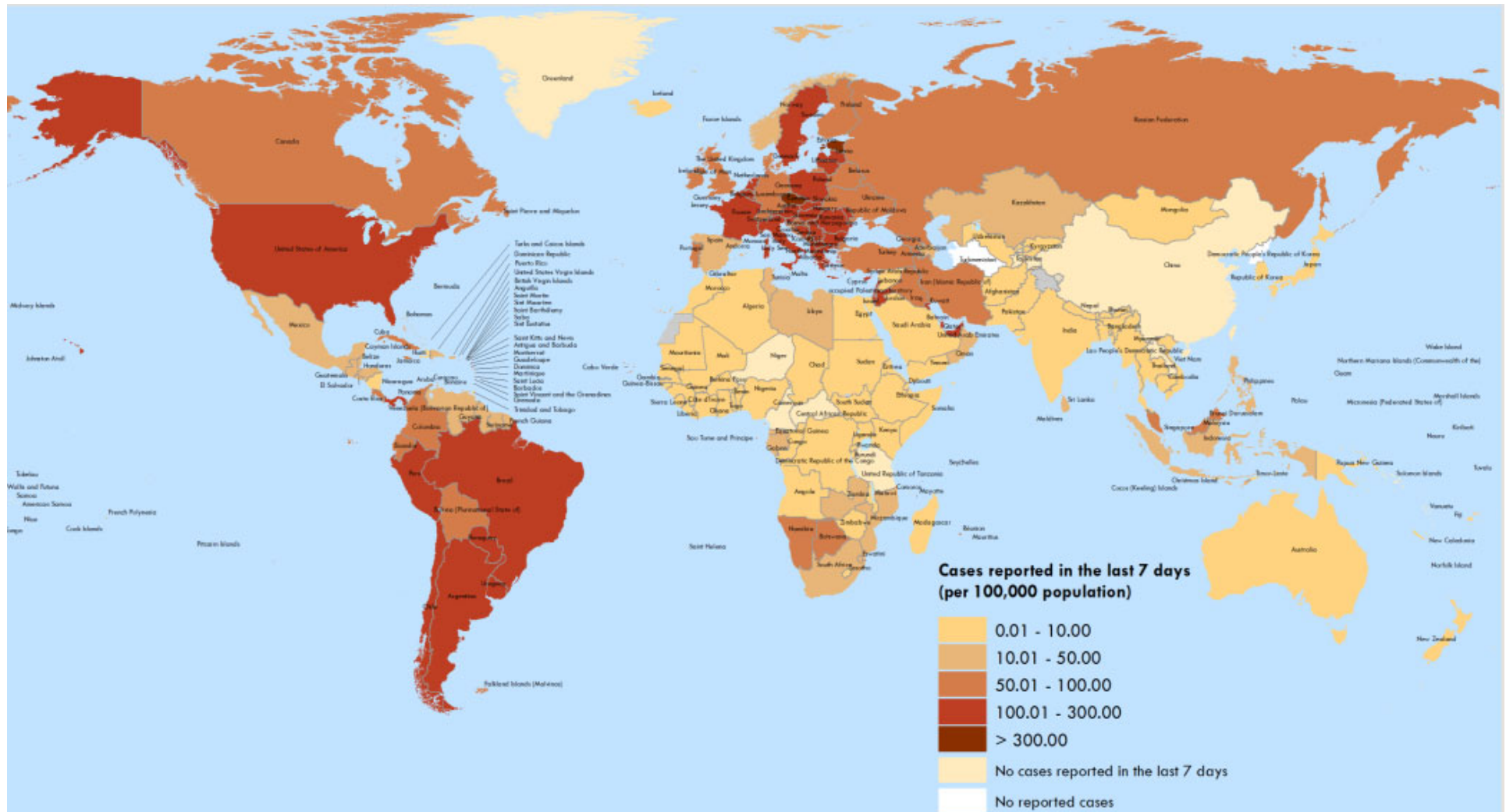
14 Mar 2020



14 Apr 2020



# Global Situation



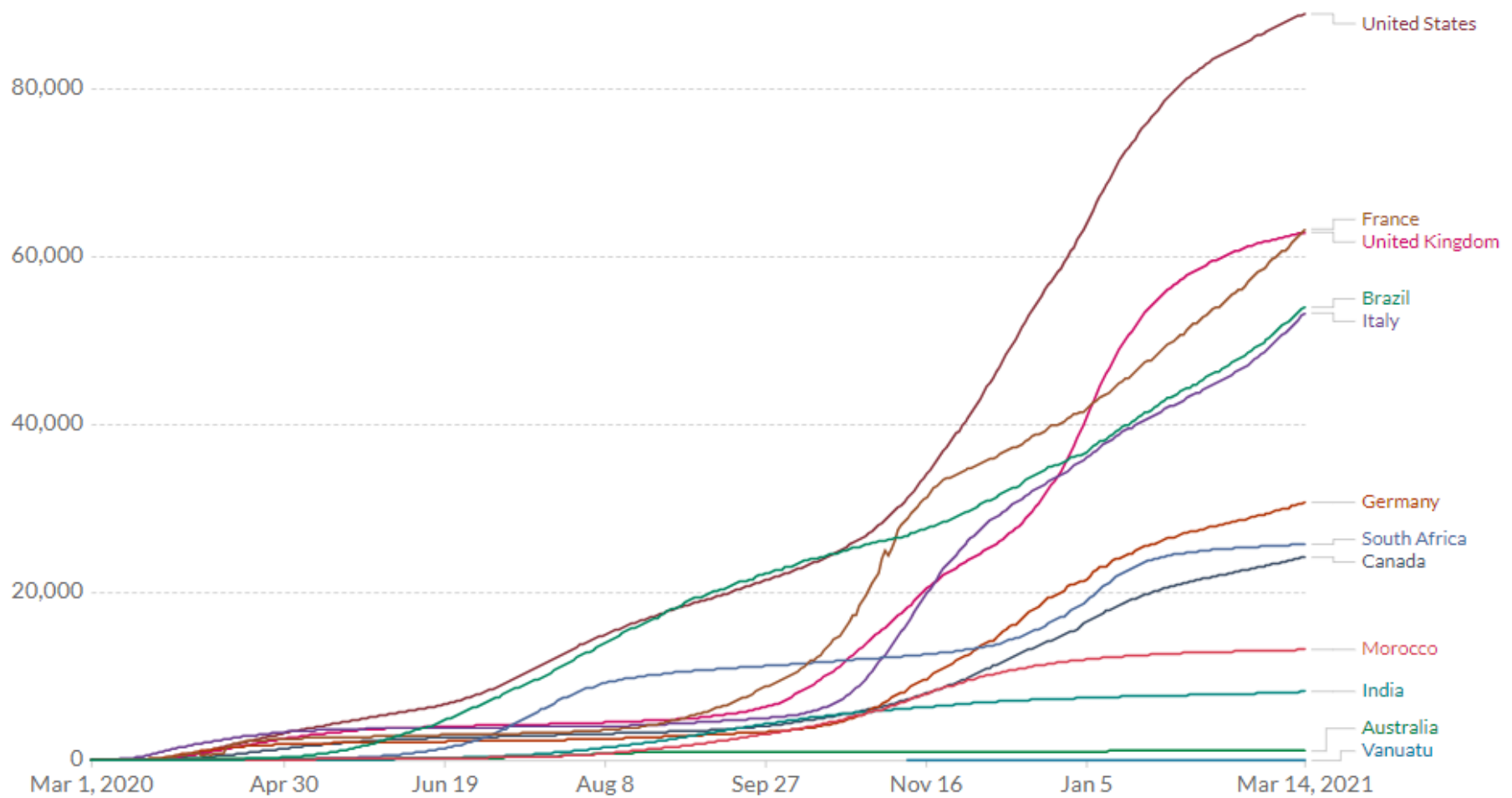
# Global Situation

## Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



LINEAR LOG



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 15 March, 06:02 (London time)

CC BY

# Cases Around the World

Total Global Deaths

**2,642,826**

Total Confirmed Cases

**119,220,681**

Australian Deaths

**909**

Australian Cases

**29,117**

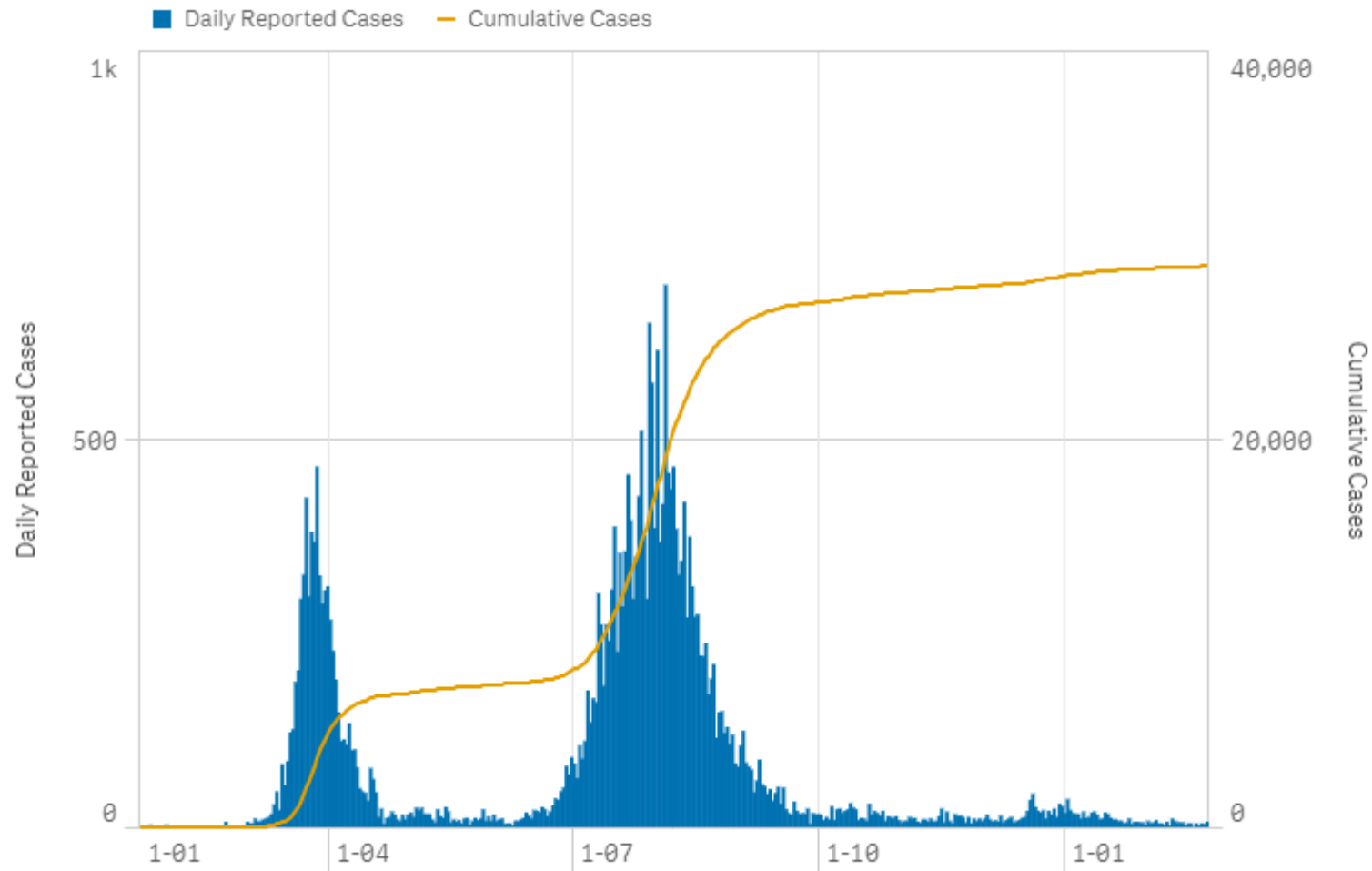
WA Deaths

**9**

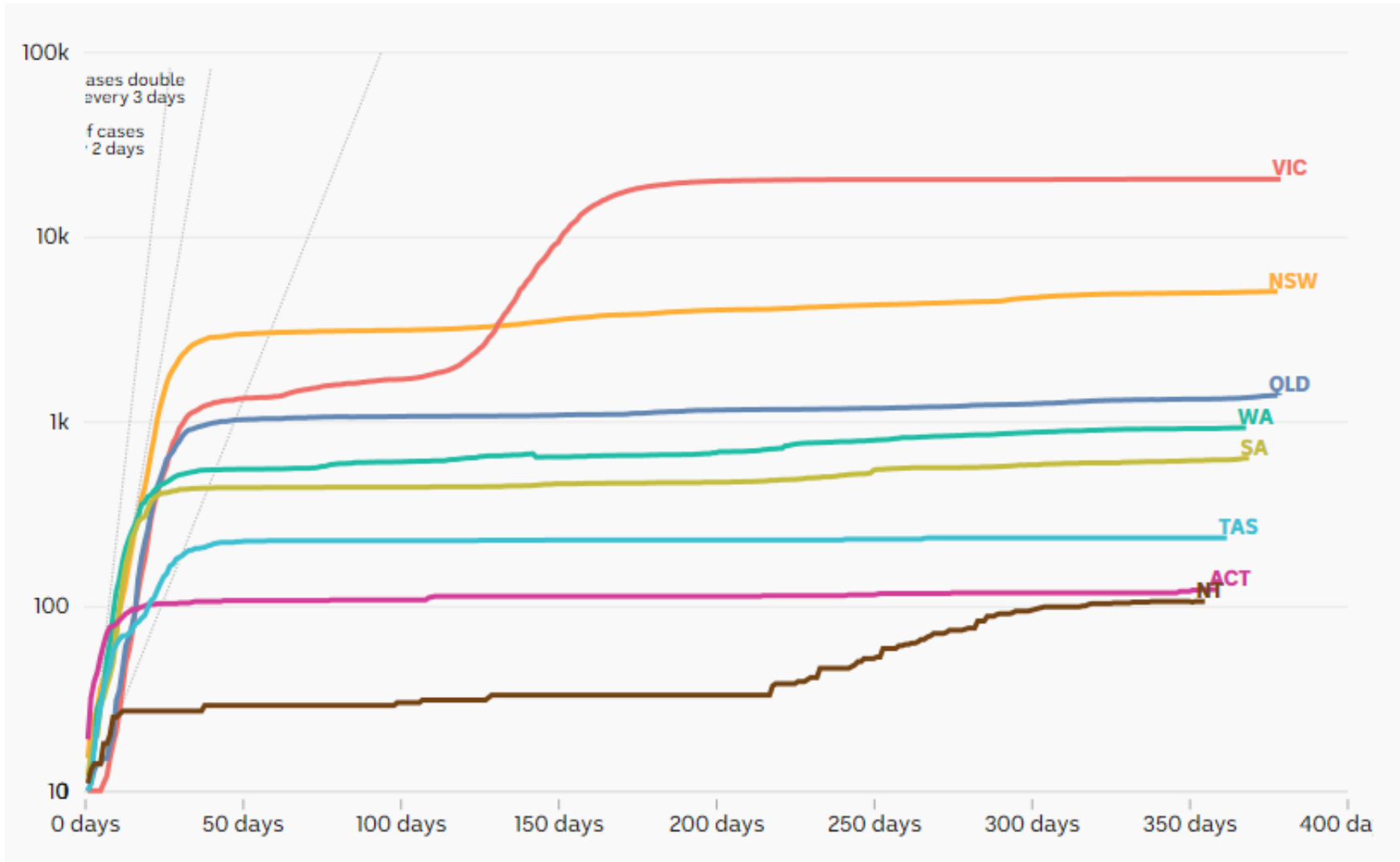
WA Cases

**924**

# COVID-19 in Australia

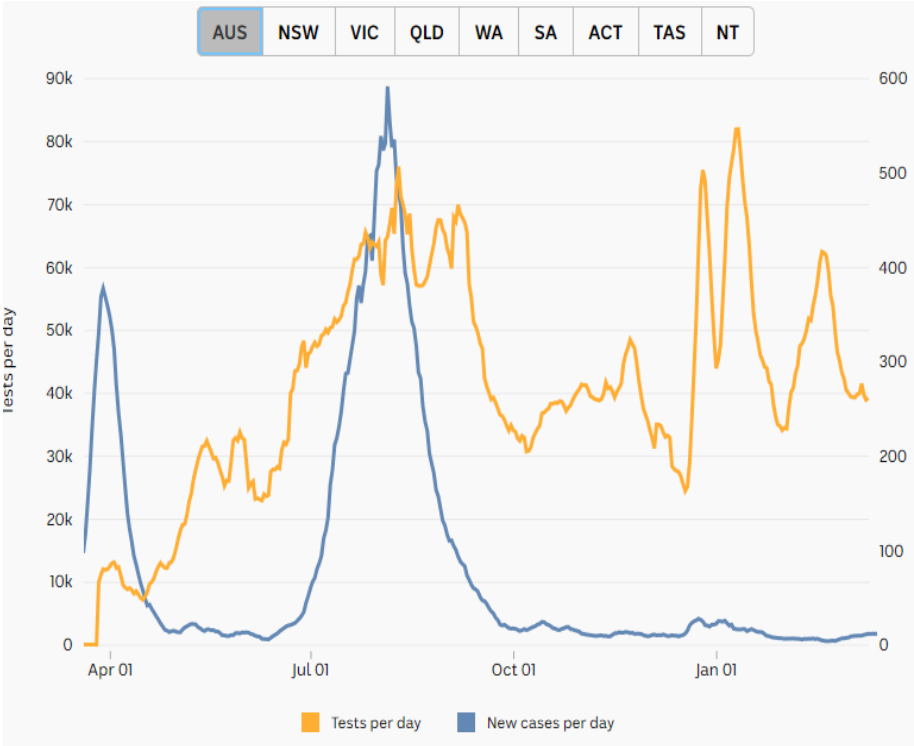


# COVID-19 in Australia

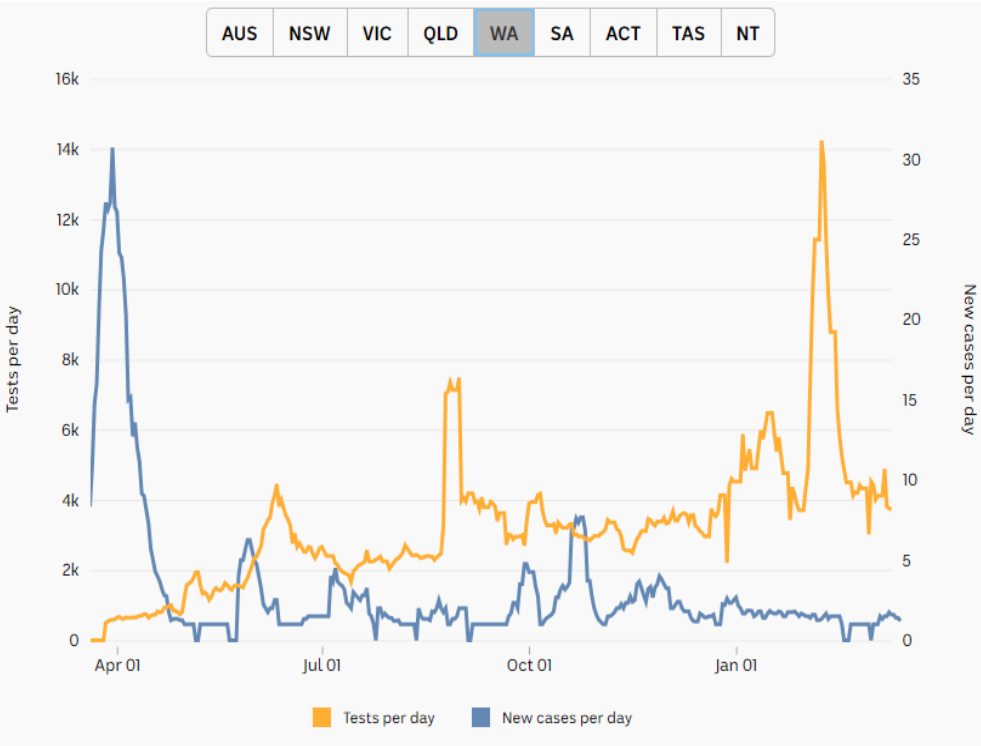




# COVID-19 Testing



Australia



Western Australia

# WA COVID-19 Response

Response activations:

23 January 2020 – Public Health Emergency Operations Centre stood up

11 March 2020 – WHO declare COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic

15 March 2020 – State of Emergency declared

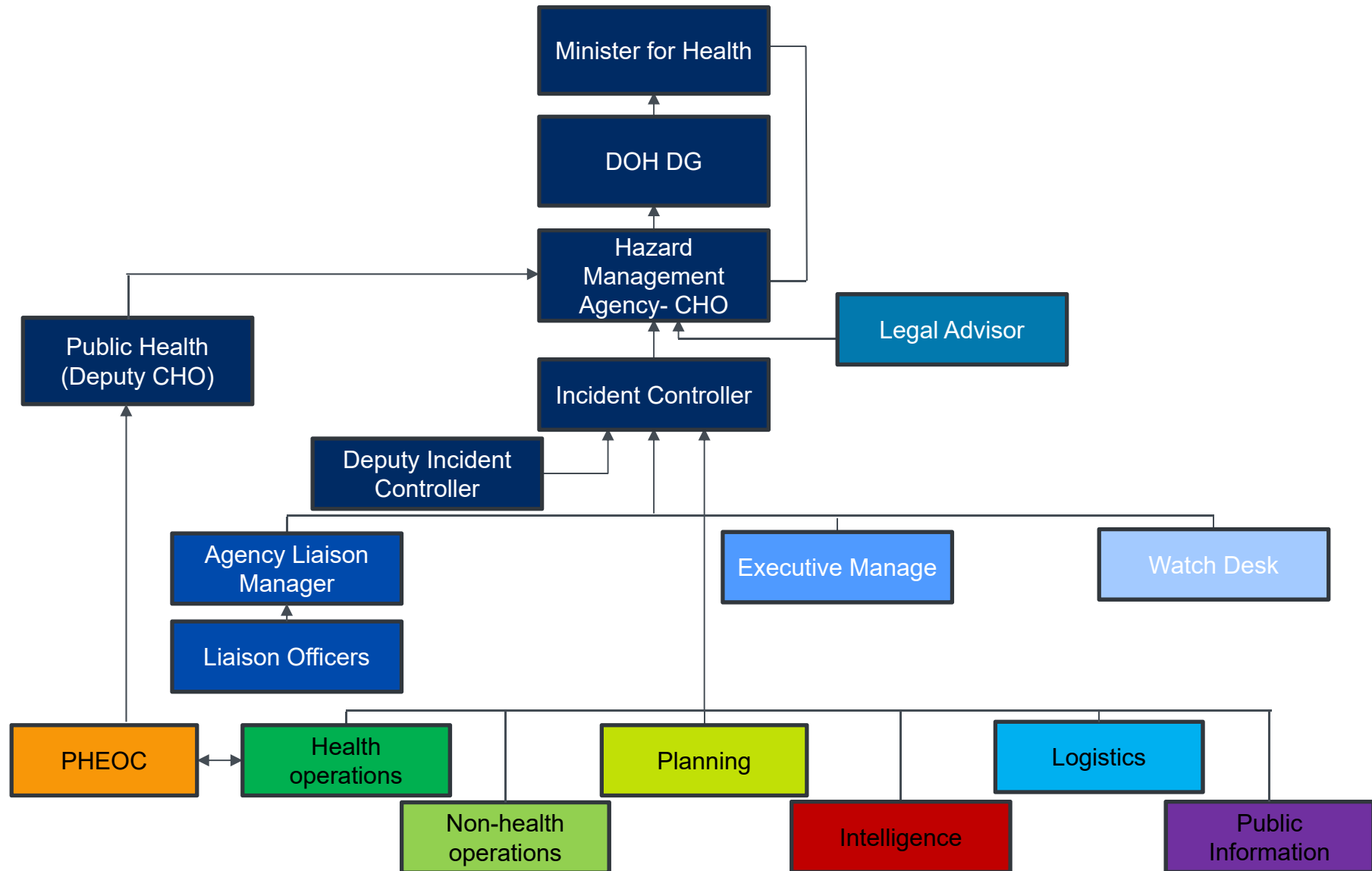
16 March 2020 – State Health Incident Coordination Centre stood up

23 March 2020 – Public Health State of Emergency declared

A dedicated Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) and State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) were activated to address the strategic management of the pandemic.



# WA COVID-19 Response



# WA COVID-19 Response

## SHICC

- concentrate on logistics, planning, liaison, intelligence, non-health operations and public information to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in WA.
- coordinate duties such as rapid planning for quarantine in hospitals, enlisting hotels for quarantine and providing leadership and guidance.

## PHEOC

- focus on prevention via community information, resources, fact sheets, guidelines about travel, quarantine requirements and provide an information hotline.
- coordinate the WA health system's contact tracing functions to document people who may have been in contact with COVID-19 cases and may also be at risk.

# WA COVID-19 Response

- Strategic direction
  - goal of no community transmission.
- Multi-agency – State
- National – AHPPC, National Cabinet
- Public health measures
  - Border controls
  - Hotel quarantine
  - Test, contact and tracing, including wastewater testing
  - Vaccines
- Restrictions
  - Imposing
  - Easing
- Hospital preparations
- Community preparations





# WA COVID-19 Response

- Workforce surge plans
  - Staff changing roles to assist
  - Staff safety and wellbeing
- Legal Support
  - State of Emergency
  - Directions
  - Regulatory Amendments
- Development of outbreak management plans
- Communication and information sharing



Department of  
Health

GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Roll up for WA

**COVID-19 Vaccination**

## **COVID-19 vaccination program**

# Pfizer vs AstraZeneca



Differences	Pfizer BioNTech	Oxford/AstraZeneca
Vaccine Type	mRNA vaccine	Viral vector
Storage	-70°C ultra-low temperatures	4°C normal refrigeration
Effectiveness	~ 95%	~ 70%
Doses	2 doses given 3 weeks apart	2 doses given 4-12 weeks apart
Potential administering sites	Given at a hospital hub or where special fridges can store the vaccine	Given at a GP's office
Manufacturing	Only currently made in the USA and Europe	Can be made in Australia

## Australia

### Doses

# 175,506

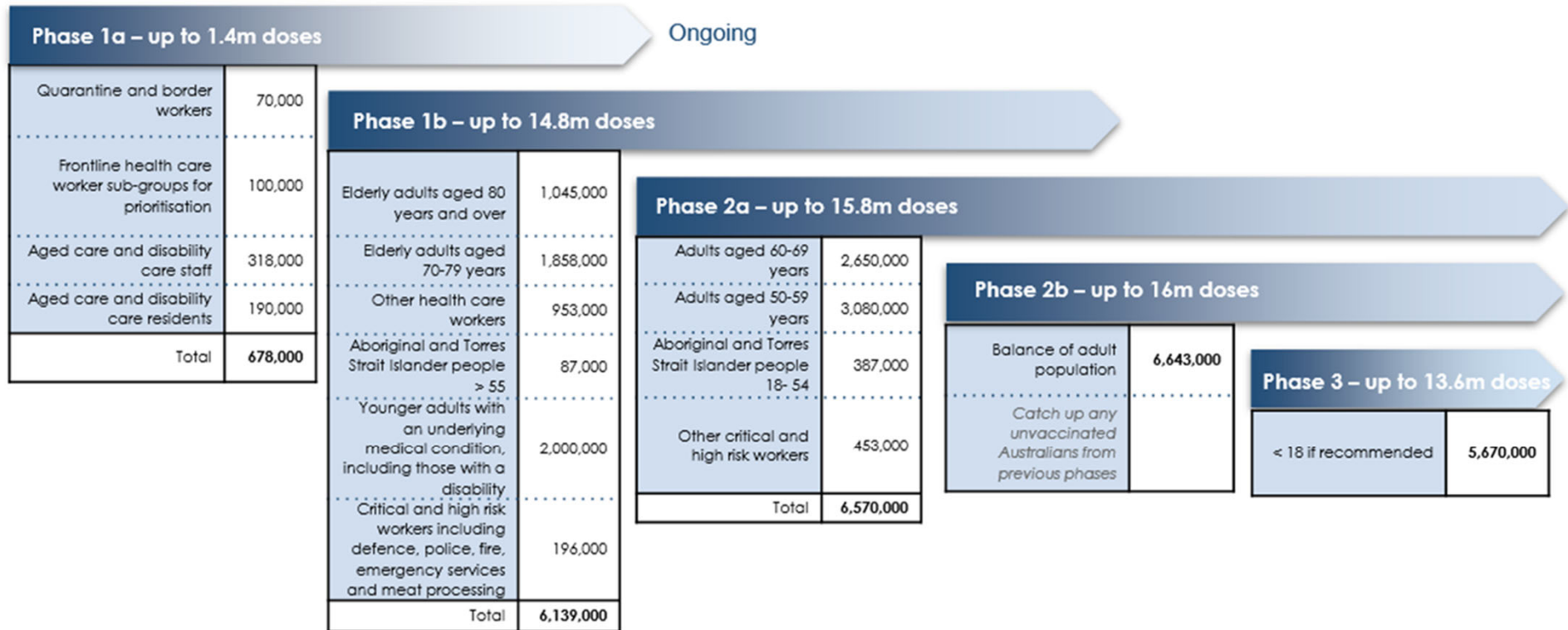
*Jurisdictions do not report on the same 24-hour period, so national figures may not equal the sum of the states and territories. Figures generally refer to the previous day's count. The federal government is responsible for aged care and disability vaccinations.*

# Current Status

Location	Number ▲ ▼	Per 100 ▲ ▼	Latest update
<b>Australia</b>	175,506	0.68	16 Mar.
<b>New South Wales</b>	37,553	0.46	16 Mar.
<b>Victoria</b>	35,282	0.53	16 Mar.
<b>Queensland</b>	21,861	0.42	16 Mar.
<b>Western Australia</b>	20,550	0.77	16 Mar.
<b>South Australia</b>	8,300	0.47	16 Mar.
<b>Tasmania</b>	4,616	0.85	16 Mar.
<b>Federal Government</b>	39,760	7.83	16 Mar.
<b>ACT</b>	3,869	0.9	16 Mar.
<b>Northern Territory</b>	3,715	1.51	16 Mar.



# Vaccination program



Population numbers are current estimates for each category.



# Phase 1a – WA service delivery



- Six Pfizer “hubs” proposed by WA Health:
  - Perth Children’s Hospital
  - Port Hedland
  - Geraldton
  - Albany
  - Kalgoorlie
  - Broome
- Program has commenced
- Ability to move vaccine beyond ‘hub’, noting long travel distances

# Who gets vaccinated first?

Under **Phase 1a** of the vaccination program:

- Quarantine hotel workers – WA Government vaccination program;
- Frontline health care workers - WA Government;
- Aged care and disability staff – Australian Government;
- Aged care and disability care residents – Australian Government.
- It is expected that everyone in Western Australia will have the opportunity to be vaccinated by the end of 2021.

# WA roll-out strategy Phase 1b

## Current WA Health scope 1b

Group	Sub Group	Responsibility
Critical and high-risk workers including defence, police fire, emergency services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law enforcement - WAPOL</li> <li>Fire and Emergency Services (Fire and Rescue Services, Bush Fire, Volunteer, SES) - Operation Roll Up at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre</li> </ul>	WA
Critical and high-risk workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambulatory/Paramedic services (St John Ambulance – not included in Phase 1a)</li> <li>Royal Flying Doctors Service (not included in Phase 1a). Will receive information from their employer about booking an appointment online Meat and Poultry Processing Staff</li> <li>Frontline (sea) Port workers</li> <li>Land border crossings and Domestic airport staff</li> </ul>	WA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law enforcement – Federal police</li> <li>Defence Force</li> </ul>	Cwlth
Elderly adults aged 80 years and over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community dwelling elderly</li> </ul>	Cwlth/WA
Elderly adults aged 70-79 years		
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People >55 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATSIC people</li> </ul>	Cwlth/WA working closely with state ACHHOs
Younger adults with underlying medical conditions including those with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younger adults with selected medical conditions (cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, other respiratory diseases)</li> <li>Disability – State funded participants</li> <li>Disability – NDIS participants (adults)</li> </ul>	Cwlth/WA

# Is the vaccine safe?

- The vaccine safety database is huge: > 53 million doses administered in the US alone.
- In Australia, the vaccine has been subject to the complete approval process by the TGA.
- The overall reporting rate is around 3 to 4 Yellow Cards per 1,000 doses administered.



# Effectiveness

Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines found to reduce Scotland hospital admissions by 85% and 94%

By Helen Johnson

Monday, 22nd February 2021, 11:24 am  
Updated: Monday, 22nd February 2021, 11:24 am



Health

**AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine more effective with longer dose gap, study suggests**



Countries hoping to broaden immunization by giving some protection to many through 1st dose

Thomson Reuters - Posted: Feb 19, 2021 2:55 PM ET | Last Updated: February 20





# Overall Strategy

- The Middle Game
  - Recovery
  - First 12 months
  - Release levers
- End Game
  - Herd Immunity
    - Vaccination
    - Immunity through infection
  - Endemic disease with effective treatment for serious disease



# Next Steps

- Maintain situational awareness nationally of COVID-19 transmission
- Monitor and manage ongoing public health measures
- Monitor and review the hotel quarantine management system and explore opportunities to improve current practices and procedures
- Monitor and review COVID-19 testing
- Continue to employ Infection Prevention & Control strategies to mitigate the COVID-19 risk to the community of Western Australia
- Maintain and exercise Outbreak Management Plans
- Manage any outbreak responses, including public health and border measures
- Deliver the COVID-19 Vaccination program to Western Australia
- Plan future steps towards a new 'normal'

# Question Time