



PHEOC BULLETIN #44

Tuesday 12 January 2021 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **12 January 2021**, there have been **878** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **48** historical cases. **855** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **670,126** positive and negative COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Daily saliva tests for quarantine workers

Daily saliva tests for all workers in WA's quarantine settings will start as soon as possible in addition to the mandatory, rolling, weekly COVID-19 PCR tests for higher risk quarantine workers and the DETECT testing programs already in place. This is a new protective measure introduced to further limit the spread and risk associated with the new super-fast spreading UK variant of COVID-19. Please refer to the [media statement](#) for full details.

Bus drivers to hotel quarantine facilities to undertake testing

Transport workers (bus drivers) who support WA's quarantine settings will be included in the rolling, weekly mandatory COVID-19 testing program. These testing requirements bolster preventative measures, such as strict PPE protocols, in place to protect workers in WA's quarantine settings. Please refer to the [announcement](#) for full details.

The 2021 State general election

The Western Australian Electoral Commission have developed a COVIDSafe voting plan for the 2021 State general election. More information is available on [Western Australian Electoral Commission](#) website.

The Western Australian Electoral Commission will be implementing the QR Code system at all Polling Places and Early Voting Centres and will be encouraging all electors to have downloaded the Safe WA smartphone app. If electors are unable to download the app, a manual contact register system will be in place.

Wastewater testing in the community

The WA Department of Health has made available online responses to frequently asked questions related to WA's pilot wastewater testing program. See [COVID-19 wastewater testing](#) for more information.

Maritime industry

To help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from maritime arrivals in WA, resources for the maritime industry have been made available on the WA Health website. These include infection prevention and control fact sheets and flowcharts which clarify safe and appropriate medical and dental referral pathways for the maritime industry.

See [COVID-19 information for business, industry and local government](#) for more information.

Queensland travellers

Any person who entered Western Australia after 12.01am on 02 January 2021 but before 12.01am on 09 January 2021 and has been in Queensland after 12:01am on 02 January must:

- self-quarantine in suitable premises effective immediately as announced on 08 January 2021 and remain in self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival into WA;
- present for a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of entering self-quarantine (before 12:01am Tuesday 12 January);
- present for a COVID-19 test as soon as any symptoms develop;
- present for a test on Day 11 after arrival in WA (with Day 0 being the day of arrival in WA).

Any person who entered or wishes to enter Western Australia after 12.01am on 09 January 2021 and has been in Queensland:

- after 12.01am on 02 January 2021; and
- within the 14 days prior to the time the person enters WA,

will only be permitted to enter WA if they are an exempt traveller and, unless directed otherwise, must:

- self-quarantine in suitable premises for 14 days;
- present for a test for COVID-19 on arrival at Perth Airport or otherwise within 48 hours of their arrival;
- present for a further test on Day 11 after arrival in WA (with Day 0 being the day of arrival in WA).

Victorian travellers

Any person who entered Western Australia after 12.01am on 21 December 2020 but before 12.01am on 01 January 2021 and who had been in Victoria after 12:01am on 21 December must:

- self-quarantine in suitable premises for 14 days after arrival in WA, effective immediately as announced on 31 December 2020;
- present for a COVID-19 test as soon as any symptoms develop;
- present for a test on Day 11 after arrival in WA (with Day 0 being the day of arrival in WA).

Any person who enters Western Australia after 12.01am on 01 January 2021 and has been in Victoria:

- after 12.01am on 21 December 2020; and
- within the 14 days prior to the time the person enters WA,

will only be permitted to enter WA if they are an exempt traveller and, unless directed otherwise, must:

- self-quarantine in suitable premises for 14 days;
- present for a test for COVID-19 on arrival at Perth Airport or otherwise within 48 hours of their arrival;
- present for a further test on Day 11 after arrival in WA (with Day 0 being the day of arrival in WA).

Jurisdictions currently in the 'medium risk' category include New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

Jurisdictions currently in the 'very low risk' category include the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, South Australia and Tasmania.

SafeWA

A person authorised under the *Public Health Act 2016*, the *Food Act 2008* or, employed or engaged in the Department of Fire and Emergency Services under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* and designated as a Station Officer, is now authorised under the [Emergency Management Act 2005](#) to enter a place specified in Schedule 1 of the [Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Direction \(No. 10\)](#) and request or inspect COVID contact information / contact registers.

From a local government perspective, monitoring and compliance of contact registers is only expected to form an extension of routine inspections of premises/places specified in Schedule 1 that are already regulated by local government.

The SafeWA app will not work on a QR code which is obscured, distorted or damaged. Businesses must ensure the QR code is placed on a flat surface (not a surface which is curved). In addition, laminated QR codes can create a reflective surface which prevents the SafeWA app from registering the QR code. The SafeWA app will also not work on a QR code which is not part of the SafeWA system. The WA government is continuing to encourage all businesses to align with the SafeWA system.

The uptake of the SafeWA app by venues and individuals has been impressive – the task now is to ensure that the registers are used. Contact registers are an important part of contact tracing and crucial in controlling the spread of COVID-19 if an outbreak occurs. Contact registers do not remove the need for community commitment to being COVID-safe by physical distancing whenever and wherever possible, staying home when unwell (seek medical guidance and get tested), and practising appropriate cough etiquette and regular hand washing.

Community

Airports

As a result of the new super-fast spreading UK variant of COVID-19, new protective measures have been introduced to further limit the spread and risk of the virus. It is now also compulsory for masks to be worn on all international and domestic flights, including flights within WA and within airports. Please refer to the [media statement](#) for full details.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

The Australian Government released Australia's Epidemiology and COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australias-epidemiology-and-covid-19-vaccine-roadmap> on 7 January 2021. This document outlines the current COVID-19 disease trends and

identifies the national roll-out strategy, which includes details of the various priority populations and early vaccine clinic locations. The Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, and Minister for Health, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, held [a press conference](#) regarding the COVID-19 vaccine rollout indicating that first vaccinations are to be administered from mid to late February 2021.

WA Health has created a new '[go-to](#)' page for the latest updates on the WA Health COVID-19 vaccination program. The page currently includes sections about vaccine development and the WA Health response. **As the implementation approach is confirmed for the roll out of the vaccine in WA, these pages will provide the most up-to-date news, information and trusted links.**

Anyone interested in subscribing to receive WA or Australian Government COVID-19 Vaccine Updates by email can do so from the [WA Health site](#), and the [Australian Government site](#).

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:

[Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Drivers\) Directions](#)

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 13\)](#)

[Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)

[Victorian Outbreak Recently Arrived Travellers Self-Quarantine and Testing Directions](#)

[Victorian Outbreak Response Directions](#)

[Approval for Travellers under a Specified Arrangement in Response to the Victorian Outbreak](#)

Amended Directions:

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No 8\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing Amendment Directions](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Clinician Alert #42 – all clinicians](#)

[Fact sheet for travellers from Queensland \(NEW\)](#)

[Fact sheet for travellers from Victoria](#)

[Fact sheet for travellers from NSW](#)

[Testing Criteria](#)

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

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [Healthy WA](#).

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 12 January 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. **The AHPPC released three statements during the last week:**

- [8 January 2020](#) – Statement on Wearing Masks on Domestic Flights
- [8 January 2020](#) – Statement on Management of COVID-19 Variants
- [8 January 2020](#) – Statement on Safe Air Travel.

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.

Next advice - The PHEOC Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **Tuesday 19 January 2021**.

Last updated **12 January 2021**

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

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