User Guide - Outbreak preparedness and initial local response in remote Aboriginal communities

This guide (and associated documents and resources) has been developed to support local services and community leaders in the preparation for **the first 48 hours** of a COVID-19 outbreak response in a remote Aboriginal community. The documents and resources have been created to complement, and not replace, existing plans and aim to provide further guidance for the **initial local response only.**

Note: the initial response period may vary between 24-72 hours.

Role of community leaders and local services

The wealth and depth of the local knowledge and existing relationships that community leaders and local services have within their communities is critical to ensuring a safe, culturally appropriate, organised and effective response to a COVID-19 outbreak in a remote Aboriginal community.

Community leaders and local service providers can use this guide and associated resources to:
- discuss with, and prepare their communities for a possible outbreak;
- assign and coordinate critical roles and responsibilities; and
- communicate with community members and external COVID Response Team in the event of an outbreak.

*Note: The **COVID Response Team** are a group of people who will be officially working in, or supporting, a remote Aboriginal community with a COVID-19 outbreak. The COVID Response Team may include workers from the Department of Health, Western Australian Country Health Service, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, Western Australia Police Force, Department of Communities or other support agencies, as needed.*

Appendix 1 – COVID-19 Outbreak in a remote Aboriginal community – guide for community leaders and local services for the first 48 hours

This guide informs you:
- what you can do NOW to prepare for a COVID-19 outbreak.
- what you will need to do as part of the first 48 hours of the response to an outbreak, including the delivery and support of key messages to community members.
- this is a guide for the **FIRST 48 HOURS ONLY**. It is designed to help community leaders.

Key Actions NOW:
1. Discuss this guide with key people in the community.
2. Use the action table (Table 1) and add required information/details now, **BEFORE** there is COVID-19 in the community (e.g. provide contact names and phone numbers that the COVID Response Team will use to get in touch with key people in the community during in the first 48 hours of an outbreak).
3. Details of who / how the community will complete the listed actions in Table 1 should be retained by the community for their reference. Details can also be attached and / or incorporated into the local community's Pandemic Plan with updates sent to SWICCPlanning@communities.wa.gov.au . The local Operational Area Support Group (OASG) may also request a copy.
4. Preparedness – start implementing all the things you can now (**BEFORE** there is COVID-19 in the community).

Appendix 2 - COVID-19 Key messages for remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia

These are pre-approved messages to ensure that timely and consistent messages are provided to the community.

Messages are provided for different phases of COVID-19 transmission:
- PHASE A - preparing for WA borders to open;
- PHASE B - no or very low community transmission in WA;
- PHASE C - community transmission in a different region of the state;
- PHASE D - community transmission in the same region of your Aboriginal community;
- PHASE E - case of COVID-19 in your Aboriginal community.

Each outbreak will be different, so local services and community leaders will need to communicate any changes to key messages to community members as a matter of urgency if there is a change in the COVID-19 transmission situation. Any change in the level of messaging (e.g. from Phase D to Phase E) must be initiated by the COVID Response Team.

Key Actions NOW:
1. Become familiar with the key messages and the different Phases.
2. Start promoting the key messages associated with the current Phase.
3. Plan (and test) how you will communicate with community members rapidly, effectively and safely in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.
4. Ensure that your means of communication will be functional for the entire duration of the outbreak and plan for redundancy.

Appendix 3 – Community preparedness COVID-19 factsheet: "What to do if COVID is in my community"

This two-page fact sheet can be given to community members to guide them in how they can prepare and what will happen, if COVID-19 gets into their community.

Key Actions NOW:
1. Share the preparedness fact sheet with community members as a matter of priority.
2. Encourage community members to get their COVID-19 vaccinations. This is the single most important way to protect themselves from getting very sick from COVID-19.
3. Reassure community members that if COVID-19 gets into their community, there is a plan and help will come, but that help may take 48 hours to arrive.
4. Explain that in the first 48 hours, the community should have their own preparedness plans and measures.
5. Explain to community members how important it will be to stay home and stay in community, if there is a COVID-19 outbreak. This is the best way to keep everyone safe and to limit the duration of the outbreak.
6. Encourage community members to ask questions and follow TRUE advice from their community leaders or the COVID Response Team.

Appendix 4 – Resources to support key messages:

Posters have been developed for each COVID-19 transmission scenario and matched with the key messages in Appendix 2 (for use online or for print).

- Community preparedness COVID-19 factsheet: "What to do if COVID is in my community" [Phase A]
- Poster 01 "COVID is at our border" [Phase A]
- Poster 02 "Protect yourself, your friends and your whole community" [Phase B]
- Posters 03 to 10 are optional posters available online.
- Poster 11 "Stop the spread – no big mobs, wear a mask when required" [Phase D]
- Poster 12 "COVID is here. Stay safe. Stop the spread" [Phase E]
- Social media posts will be generated collaboratively by SHICC and WACHS Communications
  - Social posts (released by SHICC / WACHS) can be used as a guide for local services to create their own. However, messaging MUST BE consistent with original post.
- Audio formats of key messages can be provided for use in community and local radio.

Key Action NOW:
1. Start using provided resources to promote key messages associated with the current Phase.

Appendix 1: COVID-19 Outbreak in a remote Aboriginal community: guide for community leaders and local services for the first 48 hours

Purpose

- In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in a remote Aboriginal community, a multi-agency COVID Response Team will be formed to support the community. This assistance may take time to coordinate and community leaders and local services will be required to conduct initial actions during this time.
- This document provides guidance to community leaders and local services in remote Aboriginal communities to respond in the **first 48 hours** of a COVID-19 outbreak (this may vary between 24-72 hours).
- Details of who/how the community will complete the listed actions in Table 1 should be retained by the community for their reference. Details can also be attached or incorporated into the community's Pandemic Plan with updates sent to SWICCPlanning@communities.wa.gov.au. The local Operational Area Support Group (OASG) may also request a copy.
- It is acknowledged that community leaders and local services possess extensive and relevant local knowledge and community relationships that are critical to the effectiveness of an outbreak response.

Broader outbreak management structure

- The WA Country Health Service (WACHS), Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) (where appropriate), the Department of Communities, WA Police, and other organisations who work with remote Aboriginal communities will provide support to the community throughout a COVID-19 outbreak.
    - They will be supported by the multi-agency regional OASG.
- Local leaders and service providers (such as an ACCHS health clinic, WACHS health clinic, or WA Police), will be the primary source of information, needs assessment, and logistical support in the first 48 hours after a confirmed or suspect case of COVID-19 is identified, until additional staff and resources can be deployed, as needed.
- The regional WACHS Public Health Unit (PHU), work under the direction of the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) Public Health Operations, will be a remote clinic's first point of contact.
- While key preparedness actions can be taken now, how plans will be operationalised in an outbreak situation will vary and be dependent on the specific situation. An outbreak risk assessment, undertaken as part of a comprehensive multiagency situational analysis, will guide decision-making throughout the outbreak.

Evacuation of Cases and Contacts

- Evacuation means moving community member(s) to an appropriate place outside of the community, by an appropriate mode of transport. This might occur for clinical (if a person is sick and needs extra care), infection control (to reduce the spread of the virus), and / or safety reasons.
- To help make decisions about whether to evacuate community members or not, the COVID Response Team will seek information from the local leaders, and other expert personnel so that they can undertake an initial risk assessment within the first 48 hours.
- The risk assessment will identify:
    - individual and community preferences about evacuation;
    - local health service advice about evacuation;
    - key local services (e.g. health, police and welfare service) capacity to respond to the outbreak as well as maintain essential services;
    - community vaccination rates;
    - accommodation options and isolation/quarantine capability in the community;
    - transport options and access to the community by road and air;
    - environmental health conditions (e.g. inadequate / poorly maintained housing; lack of suitable sewage facilities; inadequate and poor-quality water supplies, weather forecast etc.); and
    - other outbreaks that might be happening in WA.

- After the risk assessment, the COVID Response Team will consider the following options:
  1. A combination of people staying, with others being evacuated (this is most likely);
  2. All community members staying, case management and care provided in the community;
  3. All community members who are cases or close contacts evacuate.

Note: it is likely that evacuation will be advised for a first detected case in a remote community ifthere is minimal community transmission elsewhere in WA.

Role of community leaders and local services in the first 48 hours

An outbreak of COVID-19 in a remote Aboriginal community will be declared by the Deputy Chief Health Officer, Public Health.

Once you receive formal advice that an outbreak has occurred, such as by the WACHS Public Health Unit or SHICC Public Health Operations, the actions outlined in Table 1 should be undertaken.

Please note that many preparedness activities can be undertaken now. These actions will reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the community and help to ensure the safety of community members in the critical initial stages of an outbreak while additional support from the COVID Response Team is being coordinated.

The more you prepare now, the less impact the outbreak will have on the community.

TABLE 1 - Actions to be undertaken by community leaders and local services (where available) for the <u>first 48 hours</u> of an outbreak, and preparedness activities to take now.

Actions may require a coordinated and joint response from community leaders and local services. It isrecognised that many communities do not have all the listed local services or may have other agencies/services that can assist community leaders. Details relating to who/how the recommended actions will be completed should be retained by the community for their reference and can be attached or incorporated into the community's Pandemic Plan.

Updates can be sent to SWICCPlanning@communities.wa.gov.au and the local Operational AreaSupport Group (OASG) may request a copy.

Suggested local services and community leaders (tick if they are available and allocate an action)	Action: What to do when there is a positive case in your community	Details / comments of how these actions will be completed *NOTE: if these actions have already been detailed in an existing plan or document please refer to that plan*	Preparedness: What you can do now	Details / comments on the status of preparedness actions *NOTE: if these actions have already been detailed in an existing plan or document please refer to that plan*
1	**Initial health response (for health clinic only)**			
☐ Local Clinic	• Isolate case. • Follow Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) protocols including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use. • Urgently contact local WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Public Health Unit (PHU) or state-wide on call after hours 9328 0553. • Evacuate case if clinically indicated or advised. • Begin initial contact tracing in partnership with PHU to identify household and close-contacts. • Facilitate testing of contacts/community as instructed by PHU. • Assist with daily monitoring of cases as instructed by PHU. • Liaise with COVID Response Team • Support community testing and vaccination as instructed by PHU.	**Note**: *If actions are outlined in a clinic plan please refer to that.*	• Staff IPC training. • Stock adequate PPE. • Collect key contact information for PHU, after hours public health physician and other services e.g. Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).	**Note**: *If actions are outlined in a clinic plan please refer to that.*
2	**Communication**			
☐ Community Council ☐ Community Leaders ☐ Local Clinic ☐ WA Police ☐ Department of Communities (DOC) ☐ Department of Education (DOE) ☐ Other	• Nominate key people to be a point of contact for community members and the COVID Response Team. • Raise any issues and concerns with the COVID Response Team. • Provide initial key messages to community members safely (refer to Phase E of "COVID-19 Key messages for remote Aboriginal Communities in Western Australia" – Appendix 2 of this communication package).		• Identify and nominate community leader(s) to liaise with the COVID Response Team in the event of an outbreak. • Promote key messages (appropriate phase). • Plan for how key messages Phase E, "COVID-19 Key messages for remote Aboriginal Communities in Western Australia" will be communicated to community members, safely and quickly, in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. • Discuss key messages and actions with community members in advance (use the community preparedness poster "What to do if COVID is in your community" – Appendix 4 of the communication package).	

Table 1 (continued)

	Suggested local services and community leaders (tick if they are available and allocate an action)	Action: What to do when there is a positive case in your community	Details / comments of how these actions will be completed NOTE: if these actions have already been detailed in an existing plan or document please refer to that plan	Preparedness: What you can do now	Details / comments on the status of preparedness actions NOTE: if these actions have already been detailed in an existing plan or document please refer to that plan
3	**Identify and protect vulnerable community members**				
	☐ Local clinic ☐ DOC ☐ CommunityCouncil ☐ CommunityLeaders ☐ Other	• Identify elderly people and community members who are medically vulnerable and ensure they are safe and have minimal contact with others, especially if they are not vaccinated.		• Identify community members that will be medically vulnerable in a COVID-19 outbreak.	
4	**Welfare support**				
	☐ DOC ☐ CommunityCouncil ☐ CommunityLeader ☐ WA Police ☐ Local Clinic ☐ Other	• Provide PPE to households where required e.g. masks, hand sanitiser. • Assess and provide welfare support (food, essential items) to households where required, prioritising those who PHU have directed to isolate/quarantine. • Support/arrange for alternative accommodation to be made if any safety concerns are identified for individuals within a household that is required to isolate/quarantine. • Report welfare needs to DOC.		• Ensure stock of masks are available. • Plan for food and other essential items to be rapidly and safely (e.g. with appropriate PPE for people making deliveries) supplied to homes for people who are required to stay at home and/or if store closes.	
5	**Community safety and adherence to directions**				
	☐ WA Police ☐ CommunityLeaders	• Respond to any unrest associated with outbreak declaration • Support adherence to quarantine/isolation requirements			

Appendix 2: COVID-19 Key messages for remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia

The following key messages have been developed for use by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS), WA Police, the Department of Communities and other responding agencies, in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak or community transmission in remote Aboriginal communities to provide timely, accurate, consistent, and culturally appropriate information and advice.

The messages have been developed by the Remote Aboriginal Communities Preparedness Working Group with representation from the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) – Public Information and Planning Cells (includes Preparedness and Intelligence and Public Health Advice and Biosecurity), Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate, WA Country Health Service (WACHS) and Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA).

In the event of community transmission of COVID-19 in Western Australia (WA) or an outbreak in a WA region or remote Aboriginal community, and under the direction of the relevant Regional Emergency Operations Centre, these messages can be utilised.

There are messages prepared for five phases:

PHASE A	PHASE B	PHASE C	PHASE D	PHASE E
preparing for WA borders to open	no or very low community transmission in WA	community transmission in a different region of the state	community transmission in the same region of your Aboriginal community	case of COVID-19 in your Aboriginal community

Situation/criteria	Advice for community leaders	Appropriate resources
PHASE A Preparing for WA borders to open	**To keep your community safe:** **The risk:** • COVID has spread across many parts of Australia, Aboriginal people have got sick from it and some have died. Most people who have been vaccinated do not get very sick. • Encourage your community to get the COVID vaccine. It is the best way to protect your community from the COVID virus, especially when the WA borders open. • If people are worried about the COVID vaccine you can get true information from the health clinic and from the attached **COVID-19 Vaccines MythBusters** factsheet. **Community restrictions:** • Continue to control who comes into your community using the Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions. • From **1st December 2021** healthcare staff will not be allowed into your community unless they have had <u>2 doses</u> of the COVID vaccine. • From **31st December 2021** people cannot work in remote Aboriginal communities unless they have had <u>at least 1 dose</u> of the COVID vaccine. • From **31st January 2022** people cannot work in remote Aboriginal communities unless they have had <u>2 doses</u> of the COVID vaccine. • A <u>3rd dose</u> of a COVID vaccine will be mandatory for all workers once they are eligible. • Further information about mandatory vaccinations can be found at WA Mandatory COVID19 vaccination industries. *NOTE:* **'Work'** *includes volunteers, people who live in community and people who travel in to community to work.* **Preparing community members if COVID gets in to the community:** • If COVID gets into your community help will come to your community, things like food,supplies and evacuating sick people. • Ask everyone in your community to pick a friend or relative that doctors can update if they are evacuated for treatment, and someone who can take care of their children if they are sickand taken to hospital. • Make sure your community has enough food to last a day or two if they must stay in theirhouses or community. • Tell your community members not to leave the community, as it is not safe (see Phase E).	Primary resources • Community preparedness COVID-19 factsheet: "What to do if COVID is in my community" • **Poster 01** - COVID is at our border

Situation/criteria	Community messages	Advice for community leaders	Appropriate resources
PHASE B When there is **no, or very low, community transmission** in WA.	**General advice** **Keep you and your family safe:** • Get the COVID vaccine, it will protect you, your family and your community from getting very sick from the COVID virus. • If you are sick or have any symptoms call your doctor or health worker at the clinic and get tested. • Keep your hands clean, wash with soap or use sanitiser every 2 hours or so. • The virus can spread from people to people if you are too close to each other. • Stay two big steps away from other people and try not to touch anyone. • Sneeze or cough into a tissue or your elbow. • Put tissues in the bin straight away, then wash your hands • Don't share food or drinks or smokes.	**To keep your community safe:** • Encourage all community members to get the COVID vaccine. It is the best way to protect your community from the COVID virus. • From **31st December 2021** - don't let workers into your community unless they have had <u>at least 1 dose</u> of the COVID vaccine. • From **31st January 2022** - don't let workers into your community unless they have had <u>2 doses</u> of the COVID vaccine. • Continue to control who comes into your community using the Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions. • Make sure visitors to your community are not sick with COVID symptoms such as a fever, cough, shortness of breath, tiredness or loss of taste or smell. If they are, advise them to call the local health clinic as they may need a test. • Make sure visitors to your community have not had close contact with anyone with the COVID virus. If they have, tell them to call 13 268 43 (13 COVID). • Make sure your community is thinking about what to do if COVID comes to the community. Guides like the *COVID-19 Outbreak in a remote Aboriginal community: guide for community leaders and local services for the first 48 hours* can help you.	Primary resource • **Poster 02** -Protect yourself, your friends and your whole community (Combination of public health messages) Optional resources (available online) • **Poster 03 -** Get vaccinated • **Poster 04 -** If you're sick, get tested and call your doctor or clinic • **Poster 05 -** Keep your distance • **Poster 06 -** Wash hands often • **Poster 07 -** Cover coughs and sneezes • **Poster 08 -** Clean surfaces you share • **Poster 09 -** Stop the spread of COVID - Don't share some things • **Poster 10 -** Stay strong stay healthy

Situation/criteria	Community messages	Advice for community leaders	Appropriate resources
PHASE C There is **community transmission in a different region** of the State.	*The coronavirus is in [**insert name of region**] – stay safe; don't go visiting there.* **Keep you and your family safe:** • Get the COVID vaccine, it will protect you, your family and your community from getting very sick from the COVID virus. • If you are sick or have any symptoms call your doctor or health worker at the clinic and get tested. • Continue to follow the general advice to keep healthy. • Don't visit [*insert name of region*] unless it's for very important business like a medical appointment. • If you have visited [*insert name of region*], there may be some rules in place, like wearing a mask or staying in a place on your own for some time. • Tell visitors from [*insert name of region*] to stay away until the virus has gone from that region.	**To keep your community safe:** • Check the latest COVID update and advice regularly by speaking to the health clinic and by looking up: https://www.wa.gov.au/covid-19-latest-updates • Tell all community members to get the COVID vaccine. It is the best way to protect your community from the COVID virus. • From **31st December 2021** - don't let workers into your community unless they have had <u>at least 1 dose</u> of the COVID vaccine • From **31st January 2022** - don't let workers into your community unless they have had <u>2 doses</u> of the COVID vaccine. • Ask people living in your community not to go to places with coronavirus infections unless they really have to, or to get the COVID vaccine first. • Continue to control who comes into your community using the Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions. • Make sure people coming to your community are not sick with COVID symptoms such as a fever, cough, shortness of breath, tiredness or loss of taste or smell. If they are, tell them to call the local health clinic as they may need a test. • Tell anyone coming to your community from a place that has COVID to follow the health advice like wearing a mask and to quarantine and get tested. • Make sure visitors to your community have not had contact with anyone with COVID. If they have, tell them to call 13 268 43 (13 COVID) for advice. • Make sure your community is thinking about what to do if COVID comes to the community. Guides like the *COVID-19 Outbreak in a remote Aboriginal community: guide for community leaders and local services for the first 48 hours* can help you.	• **Poster 02 to 10** can be used in PHASE C also • **Poster 02** -Protect yourself, your friends and your whole community (Combination of public health messages) • **Poster 03 -** Get vaccinated • **Poster 04 -** If you're sick, get tested and call your doctor or clinic • **Poster 05 -** Keep your distance • **Poster 06 -** Wash hands often • **Poster 07 -** Cover coughs and sneezes • **Poster 08 -** Clean surfaces you share • **Poster 09 -** Stop the spread of COVID - Don't share some things **Poster 10 -** Stay strong stay healthy

Situation/criteria	Community messages	Advice for community leaders	Appropriate resources
PHASE D There is **community transmission in the region** of your Aboriginal community. **IMPORTANT:** Only use if an official from the Government or health service, confirms that there is COVID transmission in your region, and/or it is announced on the WA Government's COVID latest updates website (see link in messages for community leaders).	*The COVID virus is in [insert name of your region] – stay safe; don't travel around.* **Keep you and your family safe:** • Get the COVID vaccine, it will protect you, your family and your community from getting very sick from the COVID virus. • If you are sick or have any symptoms call your doctor or health worker at the clinic and get tested. • Keep following the general advice to keep healthy. • Say no to visitors, especially those who are not vaccinated against COVID. • Stay away from big groups and people from other places. • Don't go to another town or community unless you need to for an important reason such as getting essential supplies, medical treatments, or if you have been told to so that you can get the COVID vaccine.	**To keep your community safe:** • Check the latest COVID update and advice regularly by speaking to the health clinic and by looking up: https://www.wa.gov.au/covid-19-latest-updates • Tell all community members to get the COVID vaccine. It is the best way to protect your community from the COVID virus. Residents may be allowed to leave to get the COVID vaccine or a vaccination team will come to our community. • Only people who need to, should come into your community, like police, health workers and teachers. • From **31st December 2021** - don't let workers into your community unless they have had <u>at least 1 dose</u> of the COVID vaccine. • From **31st January 2022** - don't let workers into your community unless they have had <u>2 doses</u> of the COVID vaccine. • No sports games or any other meet ups with people from other communities should happen until the COVID virus is gone. • Community members should not travel to other towns unless they really need to for an important reason like getting essential supplies, medical treatments or to get a COVID vaccine. • Community meetings should be outside so everyone can stay two big steps apart from one another. • Tell anyone who is coming to your community from an area that has COVID infections, has had contact with someone with the COVID virus or has COVID symptoms to call the local health clinic or 13 26843 (13 COVID) for advice. • Make sure your community is thinking about what to do if COVID comes to the community. Guides like the *COVID-19 Outbreak in a remote Aboriginal community: guide for community leaders and local services for the first 48 hours* can help you.	Primary resource • **Poster 11 –** Stop the spread – no big mobs, wear a mask when required Optional resources • **Poster 02 -** Protect yourself, your friends and your whole community (Combination of public health messages) • **Poster 03 -** Get vaccinated • **Poster 04 -** If you're sick, get tested and call your doctor or clinic • **Poster 05 –** Keep your distance • **Poster 06 -** Wash hands often • **Poster 07 -** Cover coughs and sneezes • **Poster 08 -** Clean surfaces you share • **Poster 09 -** Stop the spread of COVID - Don't share some things • **Poster 10 -** Stay strong stay healthy

Situation/criteria	Community messages	Advice for community leaders	Appropriate resources
PHASE E **There is a case of COVID-19 in your Aboriginal community** <u>**IMPORTANT:**</u> Only use these messages when advised to by the local health clinic or a COVID response official.	*Sub-heading: The COVID virus is in our community – stay in the community and stay safe.* ***Health workers will come to the community.*** **Keep you and your family safe:** • If you are sick or have any symptoms call your doctor or health worker at the clinic and get tested. • Continue to follow the general advice to keephealthy. • Don't leave the community, stay in a safe place. • Don't visit other houses. • If you don't move around and see other people, less people will get sick and restrictions can end faster. • Even if you don't feel sick, you might have the COVID virus so don't leave the community. • You and your family might need to have a COVID test. • Tell your family from other communities to stay away until the COVID virus has gone. • Listen to the advice from your community leaders and health workers. • If you feel unsafe at home, go somewhere safe and tell your community leaders and the police.	**To keep your community safe:** **What community members should do:** • Tell people not to go visiting other communities or go bush. • All community members should stay in a safe place in the community,with their household and away from others. • Tell people that if they don't move around and see others, fewer people will get sick and restrictions can end faster. • Tell community members to be very careful staying two big steps apart and make sure they are washing hands and not sharing food or smokes (see General Advice in PHASE B). **Who will be coming to help:** • A COVID Response Team (health workers, police and others) will come to your community as soon as possible to help. • Some of these people might be wearing strange looking clothes or equipment over their clothes. This is called PPE and it's to keep themselves and the community safe and stop the stop the spread of COVID. • Pick leaders from your community who can speak to the COVID response team for your community. • Make sure your community listens to what the COVID Response Team tell you, including about vaccination. • Police are there to support health workers and help keep the community safe. • Everyone in the community might have to have a COVID test. This is to help stop the spread and better help those who might get sick. • Health workers will keep the community updated about what to do to stay safe. **Protecting the vulnerable:** • If people need things like emergency food, supplies, help or medicine, tell the COVID Response Team. • Don't let visitors come into your community, from other places. • Tell the police and make different plans for anyone who isn't safe staying home. • Tell your elderly and medically vulnerable people to stay a safe distance from others so they don't catch COVID, especially if they are not vaccinated.	Primary resource • **Poster 12 –** COVIDis here. Stay safe. Stop the spread **THIS IS NOT CURRENLTY ONLINE (SEE NEXT PAGE)** Optional resources (available online) • [Community preparedness COVID-19 factsheet: "What to do if COVID is in my community"](#) can be used in PHASE E also • **Posters 02 to 11** can be used in PHASE E also

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

COVID-19

COVID-19 is here
Stay safe. Stop the spread.

Stay home.

Don't visit other houses. Tell friends and family to stay home too. If you feel unsafe at home, go somewhere safe. Tell your community leaders or police.

Stay in the community.

Don't leave to go bush or visit other communities.

Tell the COVID response team or clinic if you are sick.

Let them know so they can help. If you are very sick and need urgent care call 000.

If you need things like food, medicine or other supplies,

tell your community leader, COVID response team, or call 13 268 43 or _____ for help.

Listen to **true advice** from your community leaders and COVID response team. They are there to help and keep your community safe.

Stay calm. Stay home. Call for help.
Keep our community safe.

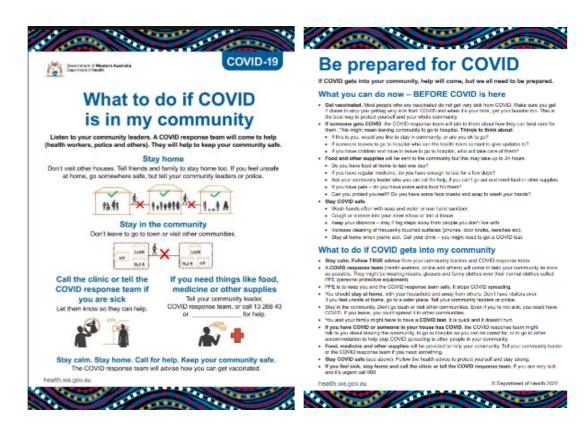Get your vaccination when it is available in the community.

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APPENDIX 3 - Community preparedness COVID-19 factsheet: "What to do if COVID is in my community"

Current version available online –

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/~/media/HWA/Documents/Health-conditions/COVID19/Remote-Aboriginal-communities/Aboriginal-Community-COVID-19-posters---Community-preparedness-COVID-19-fact-sheet.pdf

Appendix 4 – Resources to support key messages

The posters referred to in the key messages appropriate resources can be found on the HealthyWA website.
The links in the document take you to the right place.

The full list and weblinks are below:

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 01 COVID is at our border (PDF 644KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID19 posters – Poster 02 Protect yourself, your family and your whole community (PDF 1.06KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 03 Get vaccinated (PDF 730KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 04 If you're sick, get tested. Call your doctor or clinic (PDF 723KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 05 Keep your distance (PDF 615KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 06 Wash hands often (PDF 677KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 07 Cover coughs and sneezes (PDF 658KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 08 Clean surfaces you share (PDF 632KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID19 posters – Poster 09 Stop the spread of COVID. Don't share some things (PDF 630KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 10 Stay strong and healthy (PDF 626KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Poster 11 Stop the spread of COVID. No big mobs. Wear a mask when required (PDF KB)

- Aboriginal Community COVID-19 posters – Community preparedness COVID-19 fact sheet (PDF 644KB)