



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #14

Wednesday, 2 March 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Wednesday, 2 March**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **12,198** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **5,209** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,557,189** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#) and [Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

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

- [Transition to Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 28 February 2022
- [Advice on Liquor Stores and Bottle Shops](#) — 22 February 2022

Public health and social measures

Level 2 [PHSM](#) will apply state-wide from 12:01am Thursday, 3 March 2022.

Refer to the [WA.gov.au website](#) for further information.

Resources for cases and contacts

Resources for confirmed COVID-19 cases and close contacts are available on the [HealthyWA](#) 'quarantine and isolation' page. The factsheets provide instructions to cases and close contacts to assist them to appropriately isolate or quarantine and understand their testing and post isolation and quarantine requirements.

Information about [COVID-19 positive children](#) is available.

Refer to the [HealthyWA](#) website regularly to access the most up to date advice.

SAR and hospital visitor guidelines

The *WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response* (SAR) provides overarching guidance for public hospitals to manage and mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 transmission. Non-government health care organisations, including private hospitals, may find the guidance useful when determining their own strategies to mitigate risks to patients and service delivery associated with COVID-19. Currently the State is at AMBER. **All regions will complete the transition to RED risk rating by 5:00pm Thursday, 3 March 2022.**

In line with this change, the *COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines for WA Public Hospital and Health services* have been [updated](#) and come into effect from 12.01am on Thursday, 3 March 2022. From this time, only essential visitors, as defined by this guideline and individual Health Service Providers, are permitted to visit.

The guidelines are a minimum requirement for public hospital and community services, however non-public hospital and community-based services may wish to apply the guidance.

Refer to the [SAR document](#) and [webpage](#) and the [visitor guidelines](#) on the Department of Health website for further information.

Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine (TTIQ) Plan

As WA transitions to living with COVID-19, and caseloads are higher in the community – businesses, facilities and service providers will be required to play a more active role in managing COVID-19 related communications in their workplaces.

The [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan](#) provides guidance and [resources](#) for businesses, facilities, and service providers to assist with this transition.

These resources provide information on how to notify close contacts in the workplace of a COVID-19 positive case, and the testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine (TTIQ) requirements in different settings – including businesses, schools and aged care facilities.

COVID-19 medicines available

The Commonwealth Department of Health has authorised a limited number of COVID-19 medications, available through the National Medical Stockpile, to treat WA patients who meet specific criteria.

Commencing 1 March 2022 Lagevrio® (Molnupiravir) will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Section 85 program as an Authority Required (Streamlined) benefit for patients with mild-moderate COVID 19 who have a high risk for developing severe disease, reducing the need for admission to hospital. Additional information can be found in a fact sheet on the PBS [website](#).

Governance documents, patient information sheets and consent forms are available on the Department of Health [webpage](#) in the 'Clinical guidelines' accordion.

Community healthcare practice guidelines

The *COVID-19 Guidelines for Healthcare Practices in the Community in a High and Very High Caseload Environment* will assist healthcare practices in assessing the risk following a COVID-19 exposure. Healthcare settings are considered different to general workplace settings due to the potential susceptibility of patients and the duty of care related to providing health services. The guidelines will ensure that healthcare practices in the community can risk-assess COVID-19 exposure and ensure continuity of critical services, particularly in remote and rural WA, and that healthcare practitioners are better positioned to support patients in their ongoing health needs.

Refer to the '[Community healthcare practice guideline](#)' accordion on the Department of Health [website](#) for information.

Healthcare worker furloughing guidelines

The *WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines* have been [published](#), replacing the interim advice. Visit the 'Transition policies and resources for healthcare workers' [page](#) on the Department of Health website for further information.

Critical worker furlough registration

The WA Government launched the online critical worker furloughing registration [system](#), required during a very high caseload environment, to ensure critical supply chains and services continue. WA

is not currently in a very high caseload environment however, businesses are encouraged to assess the criteria and register relevant critical workers as part of their COVID-19 preparedness strategy.

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

Updated COVID-19 modelling

The WA Department of Health released updated COVID-19 modelling to reflect the recent emergence of the Omicron variant.

Refer to WA.gov.au for more information.

Border update

Based on the latest health advice, the updated Safe Transition Plan will be in place from Thursday, 3 March 2022. This will allow for safe travel into WA from interstate and overseas, with vaccination and testing requirements on arrival.

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

Community

COVID-19 Business Assistance Package

The WA Government announced [Level 1](#) and [Level 2](#) COVID-19 Business Assistance Packages to support businesses adversely affected by increasing cases and the necessary implementation of Public Health Social Measures. The announcements include a Small Business Rental Relief Package, an Outdoor Dining and Entertainment Support Package, the Small Business Hardship Grants Program and COVID-19 Commercial Sporting Franchises Support Program.

Refer to WA.gov.au for further information.

Tourism industry support

Tourism's businesses can now apply for the WA Tourism Deposit Refund Program and the WA Tourism Support Program. Applications will soon be open for the Travel Agent Support Fund.

Refer to the Tourism WA [website](#) for information.

Tourism giveaway for Perth arrivals

Free tourism vouchers will be provided to interstate and international arrivals at Perth Airport to encourage visitors to support local tours and experiences while in WA.

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

WA free RAT program

Every household in WA can register online to receive five free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RAT) and have them delivered to their home address. [Register online](#). People who cannot register online or who need assistance can phone 13 COVID (13 26843).

Refer to the [announcement](#) and WA.gov.au for further information.

Kids and COVID-19

The Telethon Kids Institute has developed a variety of resources about COVID-19 and children. Refer to the Telethon Kids Institute [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) for information. [Information about COVID-19 positive children](#) is also available on HealthyWA.

COVID-19 vaccination program

ATAGI recommendations for Moderna vaccine for 6 to 11-year-old children

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has made [recommendations](#) for the use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 6 to 11 years.

ATAGI recommends Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine can be used for primary vaccination in children aged 6 to 11 years, as an alternative option to the Pfizer vaccine for this age group. Pfizer remains the only vaccination available for children who are 5 years old.

There are currently no vaccines licensed for children aged 4 years and under.

ATAGI recommends vigilance to avoid potential dosing errors with the Moderna vaccine for children, given there is no paediatric-specific formulation for the Moderna vaccine. The Moderna dose for 6 to 11 years is half the dose used for the primary course for people 12 years and older; and the same as the booster dose (50µg per dose; 0.25mL) for adults.

The recommended schedule for Moderna vaccination in children 6 to 11 years is 2 doses (50µg per dose; 0.25mL), provided 8 weeks apart. The interval can be shortened to 4 weeks for children at risk of moderate to severe COVID-19, in [special circumstances](#).

A third COVID-19 vaccine dose is recommended for children aged 5 and older who are [severely immunocompromised](#). An mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (either Moderna or Pfizer) is recommended for this third dose (either Pfizer for children 5 years and older or Moderna for children 6 years and older). This dose is recommended to be administered from 2 months after the second dose.

Novavax available for eligible Western Australians

Selected State-run clinics commenced vaccinating clients with the Novavax vaccine from 21 February 2022. Bookings are preferred for Novavax and offered on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (Sunday). Bookings are available via the [VaccinateWA](#) and [Roll up for WA](#) websites. Novavax is available in the Goldfields-Esperance region at all State-run clinics and selected clinics in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

ATAGI advice on seasonal influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines

ATAGI has developed advice for immunisation providers regarding the administration of [2022 seasonal influenza vaccines](#). This includes information about co-administration with COVID-19 vaccines.

ATAGI advises that all COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered (given on the same day) with an influenza vaccine.

Commonwealth Vaccination Hub continues this week

The Australian Government pop-up vaccination hub for individuals working in disability, aged care, childcare, food, freight and pharmaceutical distribution industries **will continue this week at the locations detailed below**. People with disability, their families and carers are also eligible to attend. **The hub has** wheelchair access, walk-in appointments, dedicated time slots for people with disabilities and in-car vaccination availability.

Address	Hours	Bookings
Scarborough Library 173 Gildercliffe St, Scarborough	28 February to 4 March 2022, 9.00am to 4.00pm.	bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph:1300 662 328

	Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	
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COVID-19 vaccination clinic locations

Find the nearest metropolitan or regional COVID-19 vaccination location by visiting the [Roll up for WA website](#).

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Nuvaxovid (Novavax) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- 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 (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- [Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government [Easy Read resources](#)

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [COVID Transition \(Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions](#)
- [Professional Sportspersons Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Authorisation of Authorised PHEOC Officers](#)
- [COVID Border Opening \(Consequential Revocations\) Directions](#)
- [COVID Border Opening \(Release from Quarantine and Testing\) Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Interstate and International Border\) Directions](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 7\)](#)
- [Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Transiting Aircraft Passengers Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Air Travel \(Face Covering\) Directions](#)
- [Authorisation by the Chief Health Officer](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Healthcare Critical Worker\) Directions](#)
- [Community Care Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Critical Government Regulator \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Education Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Ministerial Staff Member \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Resources Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Bidayanga Community COVID-19 Lockdown Directions](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Jameson Community Immediate Lockdown Directions \(No 3\)](#)

- [COVID Safe \(Phase 5\) Directions \(No 2\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Critical Worker\) Directions](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.9\)](#)
- [Parliamentary Employees \(Restrictions on Access\) Direction](#)

Updated factsheets

- [COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines for WA Public Hospital and Health services \(Version 8.3\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response \(SAR\) Version 5](#)
- [Infection prevention and control advice on cleaning and disinfection in the workplace \(Version 1.1\)](#)
- [What to do if you are a COVID-19 close contact \(Version 2\)](#)
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 \(Version 3\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Maternity Services \(Version 4\)](#)
- [Residential Strata Properties Frequently Asked Questions \(new\)](#)
- [PPE for Non-Healthcare Workers in Community Settings \(Version 7\)](#)
- [Clinician Alert #81 – All Clinicians](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control for Airports \(new\)](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities \(Version 13\)](#)
- [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan \(new\)](#)
- [WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines \(new\)](#)
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace \(new\)](#)
- [Release of Cases from Isolation: Information for Clinicians](#)
- [Medicines for COVID-19 in Residential Care Facilities and Aboriginal Health Services \(new\)](#)
- [Dialysis and COVID-19: Risks and Information \(new\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Renal Dialysis Version 2](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35* is available on the Department of Health [website](#).

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 **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

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 (**standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed**).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results must be registered on the Department of Health [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 26843).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 2 March 2022. Key updates include changes to the reinfection definition, release from isolation criteria and management of contacts.

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- [Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Proof of vaccination](#) [Directions](#), [information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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 Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **8 March 2022**.

Last updated 2 March 2022

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

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