



PHEOC BULLETIN #57

Tuesday 13 April 2021 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **Tuesday 13 April**, there have been **957** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA) and **64** historical cases. **937** people have recovered.
- To date a total of **973,942** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Adjustment to controlled border criteria

The Chief Health Officer provided advice to the Western Australian Government following the completion of a controlled border classification review.

The review took into consideration analysis of outbreaks and periods of community transmission, as well as the successful use of border controls and requirement for people having to complete 14 days of self-quarantine from the day they leave a higher-risk location.

New advice now changes the requirements to move a 'low risk' jurisdiction to a 'very low risk' jurisdiction from at least 28 days to at least 14 days of no community cases of COVID-19.

The announcement is available [here](#).

WA Government welcomes quarantine-free travel from New Zealand

The Western Australian Government has announced plans to allow for safe and quarantine-free travel between WA and New Zealand.

New Zealand is set to join WA's safe and sensible controlled interstate border as a 'very low risk' jurisdiction from 12.01am, Monday 19 April, pending no further outbreaks.

This means travellers from New Zealand will be able to enter WA without having to quarantine, subject to strict conditions.

To prohibit border hopping from other countries outside of Australia and New Zealand, currently arrivals, outside of Australia, entering New Zealand must also complete 14 days of quarantine similar to arrangements in place for international arrivals into Australia.

Travellers entering WA from 'very low risk' jurisdictions must:

- Complete a mandatory G2G PASS registration and declaration prior to travel
- On arrival at Perth Airport, complete a health screening.
- Scan their G2G PASS to exit the airport.

The announcement is available [here](#).

WA Health advice for Queensland and New South Wales travellers

Queensland transitioned from 'very low risk' to 'low risk' at 12.01am Saturday, **March 27**, from 'low risk' to 'medium risk' at 12.01am Tuesday, **March 30** and from 'medium risk' to 'low risk' at 12.01am Wednesday, **April 7**.

Travellers from 'low risk' jurisdictions are permitted to enter WA without an exemption but subject to strict conditions including COVID-19 testing and self-quarantine. For more information, see the [announcement](#).

From 12.01am, Monday, 19 April, pending no further outbreaks, WA's border arrangement is set to be adjusted and Queensland will transition to 'very low risk' and people will be able to enter WA without having to quarantine, subject to strict conditions.

State-by-state risk rating

All jurisdictions except Queensland are considered 'very low risk' and arrivals from these jurisdictions are permitted to enter WA without COVID-19 testing or self-quarantine requirements.

They are still required to complete a G2G PASS declaration and undergo a health screening upon arrival into WA.

For more information, see the WA Government's controlled interstate border [webpage](#).

Independent review strengthens hotel quarantine regime

Findings of an independent review into WA's hotel quarantine arrangements have been handed to the Western Australian Government and endorsed by the State Disaster Council.

The independent review, conducted by Professor Tarun Weeramanthri, acknowledges WA's successful public health response to COVID-19 with more than 40,000 people safely quarantined in WA since the beginning of the pandemic and no community transmission of COVID-19 recorded for almost 12 months.

The review into hotel quarantine was prompted following a hotel quarantine worker, known as case 903, who contracted a highly transmissible variant of COVID-19.

Following case 903, parts of WA, including Perth, Peel and the South-West entered a snap five-day lockdown from 6pm, Sunday January 31, 2021 to 6pm, Friday, February 5, 2021.

A year into the pandemic, and with hotel quarantine likely to be needed for some time, the review makes 16 recommendations to strengthen and improve hotel quarantine arrangements in WA now, and into the future.

The Media Statement is available [here](#) and the full report is available [here](#).

Venue capacity update

Since 12.01am Saturday, 10 April 2021, certain indoor and outdoor venues with fixed seating can operate at 100 per cent capacity.

This allows more people into venues to enjoy seated entertainment and sporting events, connect with members of their community, and further support local businesses and jobs.

The following indoor and outdoor seated entertainment spaces can move to 100 per cent of the fixed seating capacity:

- auditoriums and amphitheatres
- theatres

- concert halls
- cinemas
- comedy lounges
- performing arts centres

WA's major venues such as Optus Stadium, RAC Arena, HBF Stadium – Main Arena, HBF Park will be able to have 100 per cent of the fixed seating capacity in the spectator seating and special seating spaces.

Places of worship will be able to have 100 per cent of capacity of a space being used for formal worship.

Seated hospitality venues, including restaurants, cafés, food courts and bars that provide seated service only, remain at 75 per cent capacity. This is based on the latest public health advice, due to their higher risk of increased mixing and face to face interactions.

The 2 square metre rule continues to apply to all other venues and facilities with a mixture of seating and standing, unfixed seating or standing alone.

SafeWA and contact registers remain mandatory.

For more information, see the [announcement](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Last week, following advice issued by the [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\)](#), the national COVID-19 vaccination rollout will be revised in light of concerns about AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine's possible links to an extremely rare clotting disorder. The advice from ATAGI states:

- ATAGI have recommended that Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for adults under 50 years of age.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca can be used in adults aged under 50 years where the benefits clearly outweigh the risk for that individual and the person has made an informed decision based on an understanding of the risks and benefits.
- People who have had the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca without any serious adverse effects can be given the second dose, including adults under 50 years.
- Both ATAGI and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The WA Department of Health's vaccination program is pausing use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for people under 50 out of an abundance of caution and are seeking to allocate the current limited supplies of the Pfizer vaccine to those people in the highest risk categories and those who do not have an alternative vaccine choice. For adults aged 50 years and above, the AstraZeneca vaccine is still considered safe and effective in preventing COVID-19 symptoms, disease and hospitalisation. All Western Australians are encouraged to get vaccinated when they are eligible. If you have any concerns about the vaccine and your own health conditions, please speak to your GP.

For the most up-to date information on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, please visit the trusted sources below:

- **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 FAQs](#) (general information for businesses and employers)
- **The Australian Government** - [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)

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:

[Gathering and Activities Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(Optus Stadium\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(HBF Park\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(HBF Stadium\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[Gathering and Activities \(RAC Arena\) Directions \(No.2\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing \(Airport Workers - International Arrivals\) Directions \(No. 4\)](#)

[Controlled Border for Western Australia Amendment Directions \(No. 20\)](#)

[Presentation for Testing Directions \(No. 21\)](#)

[Specification \(No. 3\) under the Queensland Limited Self-Quarantine and Presentation for Testing Directions \(No. 2\)](#)

[New South Wales and Queensland Limited Self-Quarantine and Presentation for Testing Revocation Directions](#)

[Queensland Outbreak Response \(No. 3\) Revocation Directions](#)

[Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Workers\) Directions \(No. 7\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

[Clinician Alert #54](#)

[Clinician Alert #53](#)

[Clinician Alert #52](#)

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 4 March 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 latest statement from AHPPC statement is:

- [3 February 2021](#) – Updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools

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 20 April 2021**.

Last updated **13 April 2021**

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

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