



Aboriginal sector communication update #11

Wednesday 02 December 2020 15:00 Hours

This regular statewide communication update is to keep health professionals abreast of the state-wide public health messages and resources that have been developed by Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) for the Aboriginal community and health professionals for COVID-19.

In this update we provide a focus on the impact of COVID-19 on the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people, and highlight a range of resources available to support this age group.

COVID-19 case numbers

- As of **2 December** 2020, there are **823** confirmed cases, **40** historical cases and **19** active cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **795** people have recovered from COVID-19 in WA. There have been **9** deaths from COVID-19 in WA.
- To date **558,561** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

National COVID-19 Aboriginal epidemiological profile

Updates on COVID-19 among Aboriginal Australians, key insights **#12**, data as of **8th November** 2020:

- **0.5% (147 cases)** of all COVID-19 positive (confirmed) cases (**27,582**) notified in the Australian *National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System* (NNDSS) were recorded as Aboriginal people – (the cases remain unchanged from the last update with **one correction/adjustment**).
- Of the total **147** Aboriginal COVID-19 positive cases, **79% (115 persons)** acquired their infection locally, while **21% (31 persons)** acquired their infections overseas, and **one** case had an unknown source of infection.
- Of the total **115** Aboriginal persons who acquired their infections locally, **77% (89 persons)** acquired the infection in a major city, **13% (15 persons)** acquired the infection in an inner regional area, **5% (6 persons)** acquired the infection in an outer regional area, **4% (4 persons)** acquired the infection from interstate and **1% (1 persons)** acquired the infection in a remote area.
- Of the **31** Aboriginal people who acquired the infection overseas (including one case from WA), **45% (14 persons)** were linked to cruise ships.
- Since July 2020, there have not been any new overseas-acquired cases notified in the NNDSS, while no new locally-acquired cases recorded in the NNDSS after September 2020
- **11% (16 cases)** of Aboriginal cases required hospital admission, while **89% (131)** required quarantine/isolation. **No deaths** were recorded among Aboriginal positive cases.
- The median age of Aboriginal positive cases is **31** years; compared to **37** years for non-Aboriginal people.

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as at **3 November 2020** there are around **202** SARS-CoV2 or COVID-19 candidate vaccines (an increase of **9** candidate vaccines from the last update) being developed across the world with total of **47** candidate vaccines (an increase of **5** candidates from the last update) are already progressed into Phase 1, 2 or 3 of clinical trials.

Latest updates

Reintroduction of contact registers

Last week the state government announced that it will be mandatory for designated Western Australian businesses and venues (such as community centers, accommodation facilities and funeral parlours) to maintain a contact register of their staff and patrons, effective 5 December 2020. This will assist the WA Health Department with contact tracing, should it be required. More information on contact registers can be found [here](#). To assist in this rollout, the state government has released the free and easy SafeWA App as an alternative to paper-based registers. The app features QR codes for patrons to register attendance in an easier way. More information about the app can be found [here](#).

Festive season clinic closures

To ensure Western Australia keeps COVID-19 safe over this year's festive season, it is important that our community knows where to get tested should their local or visiting primary healthcare clinic be closed. If your local primary health clinic is planning to close during the festive period, please advise your patients and community and recommend where alternative locations are to seek medical help or get tested. For further information on who should be getting tested, please refer to [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #18](#) dated 30 November 2020. Information on where to get tested in regional and remote areas of WA is [here](#).

Controlled Interstate Border - update

On further public health advice, South Australia will now be determined as a 'medium risk' state and WA's border with South Australia has now been strengthened to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Anyone entering WA by air or by road, from South Australia or any 'low risk or 'very low risk' state or territory, must complete a mandatory travel exemption through [G2G PASS](#), and register and declare their movements in the past 14 days before entering the state. More information about WA's controlled interstate border and other useful information on travel requirements can be found [here](#).

Phase 1 campaign refresh

In response to the upcoming festive season, the Department of Health is re-releasing the phase 1 campaign to ensure that Aboriginal communities are continuing to receive COVID-19 prevention messages of good hygiene practices and physical distancing. This includes a suite of culturally-appropriate resources and trusted messages to encourage our community to stay COVID safe. These resources once finalised will be then be published on the Department of Health's website. The Phase 1 radio messages have now been completed and will be broadcasted across Indigenous radio stations.

Priority COVID-19 health messages for Aboriginal people

Aboriginal health professionals and sector representatives are encouraged to promote and reinforce the following key messages to Aboriginal clients and community. Remember to:

- continue to physical distance where possible
- continue to practise good hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- stay at home if unwell and rest to stay strong
- if unwell with flu-like symptoms, get tested (make sure to self-isolate until you receive your test result)

- make sure your family gets the flu vaccine
- keep attending your regular health checks, especially for chronic illnesses
- download the [COVIDSafe app](#)
- look after your mental health and social emotional wellbeing during this time.

Statewide Aboriginal resources

A suite of statewide Aboriginal tailored resources has been developed by the Department of Health WA for the community and health professionals, to promote awareness and provide up-to-date COVID-19 information that is culturally safe.

The aim of providing culturally-appropriate communications is to increase awareness and reduce anxiety and fear in our communities. We encourage Aboriginal health professionals to demonstrate leadership when working with the Aboriginal community by:

- Being “on message”
- Reinforcing and encouraging people to ‘stay vigilant’ and ‘don’t get complacent’
- Using positive strength-based messaging and language
- Ensure consistent, accurate and timely communication is provided, based on the official public health messages and health information issued by the Chief Health Officer from the Department of Health.

Refer to the Department of Health COVID-19 website for up-to-date information

Health services are welcome to tailor and localise Department of Health COVID-19 Aboriginal resources to meet community needs.

Please reference the Department of Health WA and contact **PHEOC (pheoc@health.wa.gov.au) for further information.**

In development

- Review and update of COVID-19 fact sheets and general information for Aboriginal people to stay safe
- Staying COVID Safe in Summer campaign

All resources for the Aboriginal sector

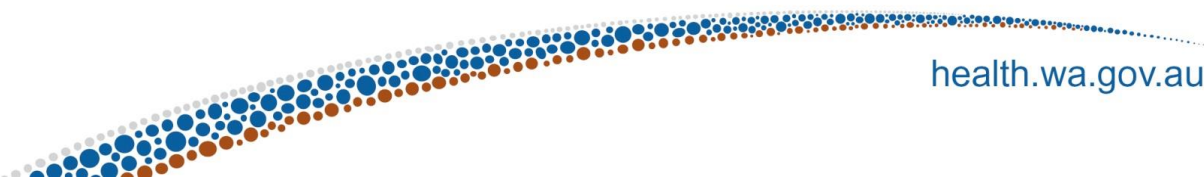
[WA Department of Health – Aboriginal sector](#)

- **Aboriginal sector communication updates**
 - Communication update #1
 - Communication update #2
 - Communication update #3
 - Communication update #4
 - Communication update #5
 - Communication update #6
 - Communication update #7
 - Communication update #8
 - Communication update #9
 - Communication update #10
 - **Communication update #11**
- **Aboriginal health professionals**
 - Aboriginal ethical position statement
 - Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses

- Guide for Aboriginal health staff
- Guide for Funeral and Sorry Business
- How to identify Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients
- **External stakeholder resources**
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities (Australian Government)
 - COVID-19 resource toolkit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professional (Indigenous Health *InfoNet*)
- **Remote and rural planning**
 - COVID-19 resource toolkit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professional (NATSIHWA)
 - Remote Aboriginal communities – restrictions on entering (WA Government)
 - Remote Aboriginal communities – safety and support measures (WA Government)
 - Checklist for remote clinics in Aboriginal communities (WACHS)
 - Health guidance for remote Aboriginal communities of Western Australia (DoH)

[HealthyWA - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for Aboriginal People](#)

- **Fact sheets**
 - General COVID information to stay safe
 - Information flyer for Aboriginal people – what you need to know
 - Information for a confirmed case
 - Information for a close contact of a confirmed case
 - Self-isolation information after testing for COVID-19
 - Where to get tested for COVID-19 in Regional and Remote WA
- **Posters**
 - Poster – Essential tips for travellers
 - Poster – Personal hygiene
 - Poster – Physical distancing
 - Poster – Stay strong when you are sick
 - Poster – Staying well on my travels
 - Poster – Symptoms and what to do if unwell
 - Poster – Visit your doctor
- **Video/radio messages**
 - Phase 4 update in English, Kriol, Martu, Ngaanyatjarra | Transcript (WA Government)
 - Radio – Physical distancing – let's work together to protect our mob
 - Radio – Protect yourself and other with good hygiene
 - Radio – Stay at home if you are sick
 - TV commercial – Good hygiene with Mary G
 - TV commercial – Social distancing with Mary G
 - Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses
 - Video - Mary G telehealth and regular checkups
- **Other resources available**
 - Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA)
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities (Australian Government)
- **GPs and other support phone lists**



- Goldfields
- Great Southern
- Kimberley
- Midwest
- Perth
- Pilbara
- South West
- Wheatbelt

Caring for people with chronic conditions during COVID-19

- **Stay Healthy with ARF and RHD**

The Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) have developed a bright and informative poster that focuses on ways to stay healthy during COVID-19, for those living with Acute Rheumatic fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease. It features key information for patients, parents and carers, as well as culturally appropriate infection prevention messages.

- [COVID-19 - Stay Healthy with ARF and RHD patients](#)

- **COVID-19 - Living with diabetes and other endocrine conditions**

This information sheet has been developed for patients living with diabetes and other endocrine conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The resource aims to provide people with diabetes key information about COVID-19 and its effect on diabetic patients.

- [COVID-19 - Living with diabetes and other endocrine conditions](#)

- **Got diabetes? Let's get your sugars sorted and fight COVID 19 together**

This poster, developed by Diabetes WA, provides information for people with diabetes during the pandemic.

- [Got diabetes? Let's get your sugars sorted and fight COVID 19 together](#)

Who to contact for more information

- **COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line:** [1800 313 223](tel:1800313223) (Note: **NOT** for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- **COVID-19 WA Public Information Line:** [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](tel:1326843)
- **COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application:** Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website or complete the [exemption application form](#)
 - **COVID-19 WA Police Line:** [131 444](tel:131444) to report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Last updated **02 December 2020**

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

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