



PHEOC BULLETIN #2

Friday 17 April 2020 14:00 Hours

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of 17 April 2020, there are **541** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Western Australia (WA).
- To date **25,684** people who have been tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

Testing Criteria

Primary care providers are now able to **request COVID-19 testing** in people displaying **mild / moderate symptoms who meet the testing criteria.**

Asymptomatic patients are not to be tested and testing should not be performed for 'clearance', fit for work purposes or return to work purposes (except when ordered or approved by Public Health, e.g. COVID cases who are healthcare workers or other limited situations).

The patient must be referred for the specimen to be collected at either a COVID Clinic or a Chief Health Officer (CHO) approved private pathology COVID collection centre, or Commonwealth endorsed GP respiratory clinic. WA Testing criteria must be followed by persons requesting or conducting testing for COVID-19 (see [TESTING](#))

On 9 April 2020, COVID-19 testing criteria were expanded:

General population

Any person presenting with a fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ **OR** history of fever (e.g. sweats, chills) **OR** an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) can be considered for testing, where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely.

High-risk settings

Anyone working within a high-risk setting who presents with **EITHER** a fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ **OR** an acute respiratory infection will be tested. This includes healthcare workers, aged care and disability workers, and Western Australian Police Officers.

Testing will also be arranged for anyone from the following high-risk settings where two or more people are experiencing **EITHER** a fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ **OR** an acute respiratory infection:

- aged and residential care
- rural and remote Aboriginal communities

- detention centres
- correctional facilities
- boarding schools
- military barracks or equivalent
- geographically localised areas with increased risk of community transmission
- cruise ship passengers or returned travellers (international and domestic).
- For further guidance on testing, please see [Clinician Alerts](#)
- For testing locations see [COVID-19 CLINICS](#)

Summary of key information

- Series of National Guidelines [SoNGs](#) The SoNG was last updated on 6 April 2020, with a revised COVID-19 case definition.
- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- COVID-19 State of Emergency Declarations are now in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All declarations are available on the [Department of Premier and Cabinet website](#).
- [COVID-19 Community Advice](#) is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website summarising the COVID-19 related Directions that are in place in WA.
- On 1 April, under the *WA Public Health Act 2016*, the Chief Health Officer issued a Direction to prohibit a person from using a point-of-care (POC) serological (blood) test (including an assay or device) as a diagnostic tool for acute illness with COVID-19. [Point of care serology testing Direction](#)
- [New Emergency Management Powers](#) and increased penalties for COVID-19 related incidents passed through both houses of State Parliament on 2 April. The new laws enable authorities to:
 - issue \$1,000 on-the-spot fines for individuals and \$5,000 fines for businesses to act as a further deterrent against those in the community who do not follow new directions.
 - allow for a person to be subject to electronic monitoring while they are in self-isolation.
 - impose a penalty of 12 months' imprisonment or a fine of \$12,000 for people who do not comply with electronic monitoring requirements.
 - include powers to compel people to provide information about any recent travel undertaken by them, and information about people with whom they have been in close contact.
 - enable emergency management authorities to direct that any road, access route or areas of water in or leading to an emergency area be closed.
- Travel between regions in Western Australia was restricted from midnight 31 March 2020. Regional boundaries mirror those of the state's Regional Development Commissions. Further details can be found on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.
- WA Premier announced Stage 3 restrictions from 11:59pm Tuesday, 31 March 2020. The WA Government's strong guidance to all Western Australians is to stay home

unless for shopping, medical or health care needs, exercise (in compliance with guidelines), work and study (if is not possible to work or learn remotely). Exceptions to this include:

- people of the same household going out together
- funerals - a maximum of 10 people
- weddings - a maximum of 5 people.

More information

- Aboriginal Communities
 - [Checklist for Remote Clinics in Aboriginal Communities](#)
 - [Remote Aboriginal Communities Guidance](#)
 - [COVID-19 Information for Aboriginal Communities](#)
 - [Funerals and Sorry Business](#)
- Advice for Funeral Directors [COVID-19 Advice for Funeral Directors](#)
- Mining Sites and Remote Industry Guidelines [Preventing the spread of COVID-19 on remote industrial sites](#)
- Information for Hotels & Accommodation who have guests self-isolating as a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. [Hotels and Accommodation COVID-19 Confirmed or Suspected](#)
- [WA COVID-19 Press Conferences](#)
- International information and updates: [World Health Organization](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Rolling Updates](#)
- Various resources for employers, schools and higher education, health, aged care, childcare, transport, travel and hotel sectors are available at the following websites:
 - [WA Department of Health](#)
 - [HealthyWA](#)
 - [Australian Government Health Department](#)
 - [COVID-19 MythBusters](#) (WHO)
 - [Advice for the public](#) (WHO)

Who to contact for more information

- **National Coronavirus Health Information Line: [1800 020 080](#)**
- **COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](#)**
- **COVID-19 WA Police Line: [131 444](#)** - to report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice – The next PHEOC Bulletin will be issued on Tuesday 21 April 2020.

Last updated 17 April 2020

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

© Department of Health 2020

health.wa.gov.au