



# WA Health

## COVID-19 Bulletin #3

**Friday 16 December 2022 11:30 Hours**

This bulletin has been authorised by Deputy Chief Health Officer – Health Protection  
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

### COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **WA:** [Weekly statements](#) and [weekly surveillance report](#)
- **National:** [Current national status](#) and Australia's [vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** WHO [Situation Reports](#) and [dashboard](#)

### Living with COVID

#### COVID-safe holiday period gatherings

This holiday period, protect yourself and others when entertaining guests, attending events and travelling.

COVID-safe [behaviours](#) are an important way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect community members most at-risk of severe illness.

Stay at home if you're unwell to avoid further transmission. When leaving the home or travelling, consider carrying rapid antigen tests, masks and hand sanitiser for use when required.

The Australian Department of Health released [COVID-safe advice](#) for the general community.

Businesses, event managers and local government should follow all event-related policies, including the [Guidelines for Concerts, Events and Organised Gatherings 2022](#).

#### Evidence of being a confirmed case

People who test [positive](#) for COVID-19 may be asked to provide evidence of their positive test. If evidence is required, businesses and employers are encouraged to accept:

- a dated photograph of the positive rapid antigen test (RAT)
- the PCR test result from [My Health Record](#)
- the PCR test result text message
- the text message received from WA Health after registering the positive RAT result on [HealthyWA](#) or testing positive via PCR test.

People who test positive to COVID-19 via RAT are not required to have a PCR to confirm the result. Information for [employers and businesses](#) is available at the Department of Health website.

## **SCGH post-COVID syndrome referrals**

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) is now accepting referrals for the management of post-COVID syndrome (long-COVID). The service is coordinated by Respiratory Medicine where a multidisciplinary team provides care.

Referral criteria includes:

- multisystem symptoms or deficits
- present for more than 12 weeks after confirmed COVID-19 infection
- living within the [SCGH Catchment Area](#).

Individuals are encouraged to talk to their GP or medical service to determine appropriate post-COVID symptom management, including referral to the above (or similar) service.

## **EMHS post-COVID syndrome referrals**

Bentley Health Service provides a post-COVID syndrome service through the East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) Post COVID-19 Clinic. The service is led by a Senior Physiotherapist.

Referral criteria includes:

- those over 16 years of age living within the [EMHS Catchment Area](#)
- being at least 12-weeks post diagnosis
- people experiencing significant, ongoing but non-urgent symptoms
- having objective physical findings which have failed to resolve with primary care and that cannot be attributed to other obvious causes or cognitive/psychological issues.

Individuals are encouraged to talk to their GP or medical service to determine appropriate post-COVID symptom management, including referral to the above (or similar) service.

Full referral requirements and additional information is available at the EMHS [website](#).

## **National strategic framework announced**

On 9 December 2022, National Cabinet announced a strategic [framework](#) for transitioning to a new normal..

## Testing

### Holiday period COVID Clinic hours

The Murdoch Drive-through public COVID clinic has the following holiday-period adjusted opening hours.

| Date                                  | Opening hours |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve)  | 8am - 1pm     |
| Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day)    | Closed        |
| Monday 26 December (Boxing Day)       | 8am-1pm       |
| Tuesday 27 December                   | 8am-1pm       |
| Saturday 31 December (New Year's Eve) | 8am-1pm       |
| Sunday 1 January (New Year's Day)     | 8am-1pm       |
| Monday 2 January                      | 8am-1pm       |

Murdoch COVID Clinic provides PCR tests without a referral for people with COVID-like symptoms or asymptomatic close contacts. Find regional PCR testing options via the [Pathwest](#) website.

Refer to [HealthyWA](#) for to most up-to-date opening hours and additional testing options.

### Testing criteria

General population [testing criteria](#) are available at the Department of Health website.

The [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #41](#) came into effect on 14 October 2022.

The Australian Department of Health published a [statement](#) on access to PCR testing from 1 January 2023.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations.

COVID-19 vaccinations are still available at participating GPs and pharmacies. Visit the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) for provider locations and booking details.

## Resources

Refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites and the [WA Government](#) website regularly for the most up-to-date COVID-19 information.

### Recently updated webpages and resources

- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Western Australian Residential Care Facilities](#)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 cases and contacts \(anti-viral treatments\)](#)

## Additional resources

- Department of Health – [Media releases](#) and [news](#)
- Department of Health – [Chief Health Officer](#) advice
- Department of Health – [YouTube](#) channel
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) page
- WA Government – [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses
- Australian Government – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)
- Australian Government – [Recommended COVID-19 doses infographic](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccination clinical considerations](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccine translated information](#)
- Aboriginal Health Council of WA – [COVID-19 Aboriginal vaccination resources](#)
- World Health Organization (WHO) – [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- PathWest pathology results: 13 7284 (13 PATH – Not for GP referred or private pathology tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)

## Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 14 October 2022.

## Legislation

The Direction revocations relating to the cessation of the State of Emergency are available on the WA Government [website](#).

**Last updated 16 December 2022**

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

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