



Aboriginal Sector Communication Update

Thursday, 25 June 2020 14:00 Hours

This regular statewide communication update is to keep health professionals abreast of the state-wide resources that have been developed by the Department of Health for the Aboriginal community and health professionals for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **25 June** 2020, there are **608** cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **595** people have recovered.
- To date **171,195** 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

- **60** cases (**0.8%**) of all **7,277** Australian positive cases notified in the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) were Aboriginal people (an increase of **one (1)** case from the previous update on **9 June** 2020).
- **12%** (**7** cases) of Aboriginal positive cases were admitted into hospitals, compared to **15%** (**1,092** persons) of all positive cases.
- To date there have been no Aboriginal positive cases reported in remote and very remote areas.
- No COVID-19 deaths have been reported among Aboriginal cases.
- **50%** (**30** persons) of Aboriginal positive cases acquired their infection overseas, **50%** (**30** persons) were infected in Australia.
- The completeness of Aboriginal identification fields in the NNDSS remained at **95%**.
- The median age of Aboriginal positive cases remained at **33** years compared to **46** years for all Australia positive cases.
- Work continues across the world to develop a COVID-19 vaccine continues and experts estimate that the vaccine could be available in late 2021.
- Total of **13 candidate vaccines** are already progressed into **phase I, II or III** of clinical trials, while **129 other candidate vaccines** are in pre-clinical evaluation stages.

Latest Updates

Detect Snapshot

From Thursday, May 28 to Wednesday, June 10, 2020, healthcare workers, WA Police staff, school staff, meat workers, retail, hospitality, transport and tourism industry employees not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 were invited to undergo a swab test for the virus.

The two-week COVID-19 testing blitz across Western Australia has resulted in no positive cases detected. The opportunity for people from identified groups to be tested for COVID-19 produced further evidence that there are no undetected cases of COVID-19 in the community.

For further information, please see:

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/06/Picture-of-wellness-captured-in-DETECT-Snapshot.aspx>

COVID-19 Clinical Alert #28

The latest Clinical alert #28 has been published by the Department of Health and is effective from 21 June 2020. Alert #28 provides an update on:

- New information on COVID-19
- Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 #7
- Release from isolation factsheet.

For current and past Clinical alerts visit:

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-health-professionals

COVID-19 WA roadmap Phase 4 to start on Saturday, 27 June 2020

On Monday 22 June 2020 the Premier announced Phase 4 for Western Australia.

Western Australia's COVID-19 restrictions will be relaxed even further, as WA's roadmap is updated to complete the removal of all restrictions.

Western Australians must continue to keep up physical distancing where possible and maintain good personal hygiene to better protect themselves and the general health of our community.

Due to the relaxing of restrictions the Department will update the following COVID-19 Aboriginal resources:

- Guide for Funerals and Sorry Business
- Information flyer for Aboriginal people– what you need to know
- Poster – Symptoms and what to do if unwell
- Poster – Physical distancing

GP Respiratory Clinics

The Australian Government is rapidly establishing GP Respiratory Clinics around the country to clinically assess people with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.

Recently opened Respiratory Clinics at Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services Mirrabooka and Maddington called Moorditj Kwopa Malyan (strong, good lungs) will provide local communities, including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, access to assessment and testing for COVID-19.

COVID Care Assistance Resource Suite

A suite of resources have been developed by the Special Populations COVID Care Assistance Team for *confirmed cases*, *close contacts* and *low-risk contacts*. Designed for accessible readability, the suite of resources align to COVID-19 information and isolation instructions outlined in Public Health Operations letters to *confirmed cases*, *close contacts* and *low-risk contacts*. While culturally relevant for Aboriginal readers, the silhouette style info-graphics are adaptable for use amongst Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups.

An accompanying *GP and other COVID support* phone list resource has been developed for community members required to self-isolate. Regional specific versions of the *GP and other COVID support* phone list have been developed for use in each of Western Australian regions by WACHS.

In partnership with the Aboriginal Health Directorate, the graphics have been reproduced from original artworks featured in the *Beating the Bugs, Colds and Virus* video.

Aboriginal COVID-19 Resources

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

The aim of providing culturally-appropriate communications is to also 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”
- Reinforce and encourage people to ‘stay vigilant’ and ‘don’t get complacent’
- Use positive strength-based messaging and language
- Ensure consistent, accurate and timely communication 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-9 website for up-to-date information

Health services are welcome to localise Department of Health resources to meet community needs. Please reference the Department of Health WA and contact **PHEOC (pheoc@health.wa.gov.au) for further information.**

New resources

- **Essential Health Tips for Travellers**
 - Preparing for travels
 - Staying well on my travels

Updated resources

- **Guide for Funerals and Sorry Business**
- **Information flyer for Aboriginal people– what you need to know**
- **Poster – Symptoms and what to do if unwell**
- **Poster – Social distancing**
- **Poster – Personal hygiene**

Resources for more information

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

- **Aboriginal sector communication updates**
 - **Communication update #1**
 - **Communication update #2**
- **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
 - Information for Aboriginal people (HealthyWA)
- **External stakeholder resources**
 - Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities
 - COVID-19 resource toolkit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals (NATSIHWA)

- **Remote and rural planning**
 - 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**
 - Information flyer for Aboriginal people – what you need to know
- **Posters**
 - Good hygiene
 - Social distancing
 - Symptoms and what to do if unwell
 - Stay strong when you are sick
 - Visit your doctor
- **Video/radio messages**
 - TV commercial – Good hygiene with Mary G
 - TV commercial – Social distancing with Mary G
 - Video - Beating the bugs, colds and viruses
 - Radio – Protect yourself and other with good hygiene
 - Animation 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)

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 **25 June 2020**

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

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