



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #29

Wednesday 27 October 2021 14:00 Hours

COVID-19 is a continually changing situation, please check the latest information and updates to find the most current public health advice, please go to the [WA government website](#) and [HealthyWA](#)

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

COVID-19 Case numbers

As of **27 October 2021**, there are **1,112** confirmed cases, **109** historical cases and **1** active case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Western Australia (WA). **1,102** people have recovered from COVID-19 in WA. There have been **9** deaths from COVID-19 in WA.

To date **1,855,889** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.

WA: [Daily snapshot](#) & [Vaccination dashboard](#)

National: [Current National Status](#) & [Australia's vaccine rollout](#)

Worldwide: [WHO Situation Reports](#) & [WHO Dashboard](#)

National COVID-19 Aboriginal epidemiological profile

Since the last update, Australia's COVID-19 epidemiology profile has been significantly impacted by the current outbreaks in NSW and Victoria. Below is the summary of key insights. Please note, some of the data in this update is preliminary and it is subject to adjustments and changes.

Vaccinations against COVID-19

As at **24 October 2021**, across Australia around **50%** of Aboriginal people aged 12 years and over have been partially vaccinated (at least one dose), while **39%** are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. About **31%** of Aboriginal Western Australians aged 12 years and over had at least one dose and around **20%** had both doses of vaccines against COVID-19. ACT has the highest percentage of Aboriginal people aged 12 years and over who have been partially and fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines, **73%** and **62%**, respectively.

1 January 2020 to 26 September 2021:

- Since the beginning of the pandemic to **26 September 2021**, **3%** (**3,108**) of the **99,027** positive cases notified in the Australian National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) were identified as Aboriginal people (an increase of **1,346 cases** since the last update).
- Around **18%** (**559 cases**) of confirmed cases amongst Aboriginal people required hospital admission, while **82%** (**2,546 cases**) required quarantine/isolation. **Seven** deaths were recorded amongst Aboriginal positive cases.
- The COVID-19 crude fatality rate (CFR) for Aboriginal people is around **0.2%**, compared

to 1.3% for all reported cases in Australia.

- The median age of locally acquired Aboriginal COVID-19 positive cases is around 23 years old. Of the total cases whose sex was known 51% of the cases were females and 49% were males.
- The completeness of Aboriginal status identification fields in the NNDSS was around 77%.
- From 1 January 2021 to 26 September 2021, there have been around 2,960 confirmed cases (with 7 deaths) recorded as Aboriginal people in the NNDSS. This represents around 4% of all confirmed cases in Australia (70,616 persons) for this year.
- Of the total 2,960 COVID-19 positive cases reported amongst Aboriginal people, around 97% (2,873 cases) were from NSW, 2% (42 Cases) were from ACT, 1% (38 cases) were from Vic, and less than 1% (6 cases) were from other jurisdictions including one confirmed overseas acquired case in Western Australia.

NSW Outbreak

- Specific data from NSW Health shows that in NSW as of 9 October 2021, there have been around 4,023 locally acquired COVID-19 confirmed cases amongst Aboriginal people. These cases are associated with the outbreaks in NSW, which started in early June 2021. The locally acquired cases among Aboriginal people represents about 6% of all locally acquired cases in NSW.
 - The data showed that around 2.5% of COVID-19 confirmed cases amongst Aboriginal people in NSW have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - The peak of the outbreak of COVID-19 amongst Aboriginal people in NSW showed the highest number of weekly reported cases in the week ending 25 September and 2 October 2021 (when the case numbers were recorded around 649 and 651 cases, respectively), then the number of weekly reported cases reduced to around 533 cases in the week ending 9 October 2021.

Latest updates

COVID-safe Halloween

The Department of Health has released updated [advice](#) for COVID-safe Halloween activities. The resource provides tips and tricks for safe trick or treating while maintaining COVID-safe practices.

New vaccination clinics across WA

On 24 October 2021, the State Government announced a partnership with Wesfarmers to increase vaccinations across WA. Pop-up Bunnings clinics will each provide up to 250 vaccinations per day, for people to drop in without an appointment.

Carramar: Carramar Village Shopping Centre, 7 Cheriton Drive, Carramar. Opening times are 9am to 4pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 9am to 7pm on Thursday; and 11am to 4pm on Sunday. The vaccination clinic will initially provide around 2,000 vaccinations each week but will increase depending on demand.

Armadale: Armadale Central Shopping Centre, 10 Orchard Avenue, Armadale. Opening times are 10am to 4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10am to 7pm on Thursday; and 11am to 4.30pm on Sunday.

An Aboriginal Family Day was held at the Armadale clinic on Saturday, 23 October, where all Aboriginal people aged 12 years and above were welcomed to the clinic with a Welcome to Country, food and other activities.

Mirrabooka: The Square Mirrabooka, 43 Yirrigan Drive, Mirrabooka. Opening times are 9am to 4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am to 7pm on Thursday and 11am to 4.30pm on Sunday. While bookings are preferred, individuals are welcome to attend the clinic without an appointment.

A second pop-up clinic is open at the Herb Graham Recreation Centre, 38 Ashbury Crescent, Mirrabooka. Opening times are 10am to 3.30pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. Interpreters are available at this vaccination clinic.

Additional vaccination clinics are being planned for Mandurah, Ellenbrook and Canning Vale and are expected to open from early November.

Derbarl Yerrigan COVID-19 Vaxathon

Derbal Yerrigan Health Service is offering free COVID-19 vaccinations for all Aboriginal people aged 12 years and over at their East Perth Clinic this week. The clinic commenced on Tuesday 26th and is running until Saturday 30th October between 9:30am and 4:00pm. No appointment is required. There is a free BBQ lunch and giveaways each day. For more information go to their [website](#).

Third dose for severely immunocompromised

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recently released new [recommendations](#) on the use of a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised. Individuals are encouraged to discuss the need for a third dose with a GP or treating specialist who best understands your health history.

Eligible people wanting to receive a third dose at a State-run community vaccination clinic will need to provide proof of eligibility (i.e. the immunocompromised condition). For more information about how to show evidence of eligibility visit the Australian Government [website](#).

At this point in time it is not possible to book via VaccinateWA or 13COVID for your third dose. As such, please attend the clinic without an appointment and staff will ensure eligible people are able to receive their third dose vaccination. Individuals who wish to receive a third dose of Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine will need to have it administered at a [participating community pharmacy](#), however it is recommended that a third dose is discussed with their GP or health provider in the first instance.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Vaccination is the best way to protect our community from COVID-19.

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 12 and over are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

People can book in to receive the COVID-19 vaccine that is appropriate for them at their local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) OR at a state-run COVID-19 vaccination community clinic or at a regional public hospital-based vaccination clinic. Alternatively, participating AMS or GP clinics can be found by using the Vaccine Eligibility Checker [here](#).

All State-run community vaccination clinics are now open for people to attend without an appointment. Some regional clinics also offer the opportunity to be vaccinated without appointments. Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women, and those planning to become pregnant are now recommended to have the Pfizer vaccine. Read the full statement from the Australian Government Department of Health [here](#) and the updated COVID-19 vaccination – shared decision making guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy [here](#).

Community clinics

There will be numerous regional pop-up clinics available for walk-ins in the coming weeks. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times.

The Aboriginal Family vaccination days in the metro area have been supported by Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service and Moorditj Koort staff. The planning of these clinics has also had valuable input from community people, local government and Elders.

Existing Community vaccination clinics in WA include Midland, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine is now being rolled out to, and administered by, GPs in WA. Approved pharmacies can also now administer the Spikevax (Moderna) and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Alternatively, you can contact your local Aboriginal Medical Service or General Practice to find out if they are offering COVID vaccinations. Anyone having difficulties booking on VaccinateWA can call 13 COVID (1326843) for assistance.

The WA COVID-19 Vaccine Myths and FAQ factsheet can be found [here](#).

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:

- get a COVID vaccine as soon as it is your turn
- physical distance where possible
- 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 quarantine 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 and use the free [SafeWA app for your phone](#)
- look after your mental health and social emotional wellbeing during this time

COVID-19 resources for Aboriginal people

Statewide Aboriginal resources

A suite of statewide Aboriginal tailored resources has been developed by the Department of Health WA. 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
- ensuring 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.

To access previous Aboriginal Communication Updates and other information specific to people working in the Aboriginal Sector, please visit [WA Department of Health – Aboriginal Sector](#).

To access general resources for your community (including factsheets, posters and video/radio messages) relating to COVID-19 and vaccination, please visit [HealthyWA - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for Aboriginal People](#). GP and other support phone lists are also provided on this site.

Health services are welcome to tailor WA 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.

COVID-19 Vaccination resources

- The WA COVID-19 Vaccine Myths and FAQ factsheet can be found [here](#).
- [Mary G interview with Dr Carapetis \(part 1\)](#)
- [Mary G interview with Dr Carapetis \(part 2\)](#)
- [Dr Dan McAullay: COVID-19 and flu vaccination](#)
- [Dr Dan McAullay: COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [Dr Sandra Eades: COVID-19 vaccination – young people can protect families and elders](#)
- [Dr Sandra Eades: COVID-19 vaccination – vaccination protects vulnerable people](#)
- [Dr Sandra Eades: COVID-19 vaccination – vaccination myths](#)
- [Dr Sandra Eades: COVID-19 vaccination – how it strengthens your immune system](#)
- [Dr Sandra Eades: COVID-19 vaccination – common side effects](#)
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS) Pfizer vaccination [animated video](#)
- KAMS - [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 - 30 sec video](#)
- KAMS - [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 – 60 sec video](#)
- KAMS - [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 - 15 sec video](#)
- [Roll up for WA – nostalgic moments - TV commercial](#)

Further resources can be sourced on the [WA Government website](#) including a variety of new posters that promote Roll up for WA for you to use. The posters include stories from people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine and information about how to book an appointment, what to expect at the community vaccination clinic and where to find more information.

Check the [stakeholder kit](#) regularly for updates. If you would like to receive a Roll up for WA poster pack, please send an email to COVID19Vaccines@dpc.wa.gov.au with:

- the best mailing address to contact you
- which posters you'd like, or to tell us a bit about your community so we can make a selection
- where you plan to put up the posters

National Aboriginal resources

The Australian Government has produced a collection of materials created for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander vaccine providers to download and print to utilise in their health clinics and practices. These materials include posters, social media resources, handouts and web banners. These are all available on their [website](#).

A collection of general COVID-19 resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities is also available [here](#).

New vaccination resources include:

- A [video animation](#) in plain English that could be sent to patients' emails or used in clinic waiting rooms explaining what to expect on vaccination day, side effects and the need for two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- A suite of [talking points](#) designed for healthcare workers, to help them have conversations with patients about COVID-19 vaccines.
- Updated [social resources](#) with suggested captions to use across social media.

Getting a COVID-19 test resources

- **WA Department of Health COVID-19 Resources for Aboriginal people**

The WA Health Department has developed a suite of culturally-appropriate resources to support the Aboriginal community and health services in being COVID-19 safe and informed. They are found here.

 - [COVID Clinics location in WA](#)
 - [Where to get tested for COVID-19 in regional and Remote WA](#)
 - [Self-isolation information after getting tested for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- **Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council**

QAIHC have been developing culturally appropriate resources to keep ACCHOs and their community informed and protected against COVID-19.

 - [How are you tested for COVID-19?](#)
- **Getting the COVID-19 test: Story books**

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency has developed two easy-to-understand story books to help children understand what a COVID-19 test is and what will happen during the process.

 - [Getting the COVID-19 test at the testing station or hospital](#)
- **AHMRC's COVID-19 Testing Resources.**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales has provided various resources on their website <https://www.ahmrc.org.au/coronavirus/> to support their member services across NSW during a COVID-19 outbreak and to minimise the impact on Aboriginal communities. Below are some resources on COVID-19 testing.

 - [Getting ready for a COVID-19 test](#)
 - [Do what's best. Get a COVID-19 test](#)
- **#swab4mob**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales has initiated the #swab4mob campaign to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to get tested and protect their families and communities by getting a COVID-19 test if they feel unwell. You can find a link to the video below.

 - [#swab4mob campaign](#)
 - [Symptom poster #swab4mob](#)

Crisis hotlines

- **Brother to Brother 24 hour crisis hotline** (1800 435 799) for Aboriginal men to provide extra support during the pandemic.
- **1800RESPECT** (1800 737 732) for advice concerning sexual, domestic or family violence.
- **Women's Domestic Violence Helpline** (1800 007 339) for support and referral for women experiencing domestic violence (incl referrals to women's refuges)
- **Crisis Care** (1800 199 008) if you require emergency accommodation.
- **National COVID-19 Older Persons Support Line** (1800 171 866)
- **Kids Helpline** (1800 55 1800)
- **Beyond Blue** (1300 224 636)
- **Lifeline** (13 11 14)
- **Suicide Call Back Service** (1300 659 467)

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-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

Last updated **27 October 2021**

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

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