



COVID 19 Member Support Team

Fortnightly Communique #14

Wednesday 1st July 2020 5pm



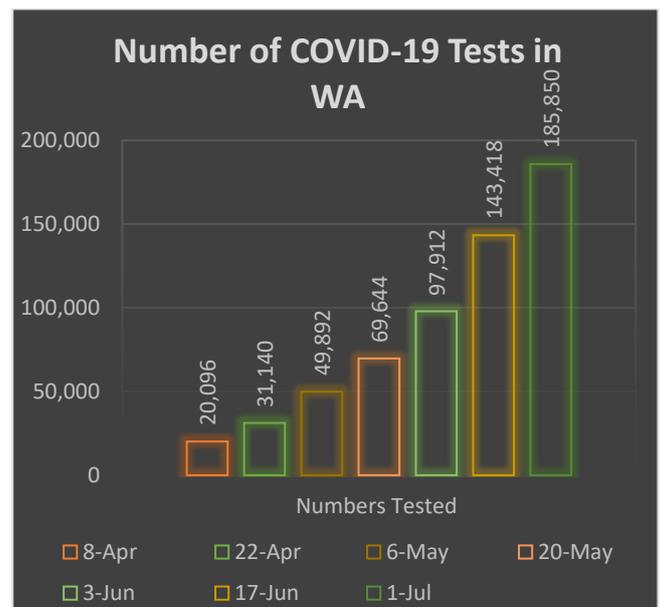
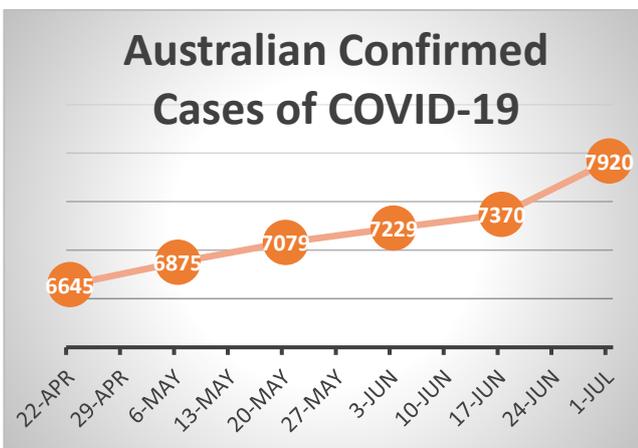
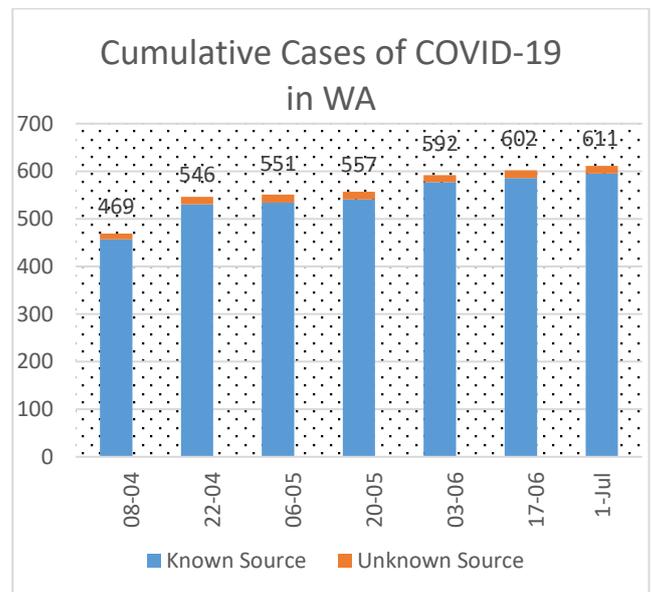
Daily Status, 5pm

There are **7920** cases of COVID-19 in Australia.
550 new cases in the past 14 days.

Western Australia has had **611** cases – **9** new case in the past 14 days. There is currently 4 active cases and **598** people have recovered.

There are currently **16** unknown sources. No new ACTIVE regional cases. There have been **69** regional cases in total and all have recovered. See chart below for regional breakdown.

Region	Active Cases	Cleared Cases	Total Cases
Kimberley	0	19	19
Pilbara	0	5	5
Mid-West	0	3	3
Goldfields	0	8	8
Wheatbelt	0	12	12
South West	0	13	13
Great Southern	0	9	9
	0	69	69



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Fortnightly Roundup

Another fortnight has passed with WA recording 9 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. We have recorded 3 cases in the past 7 days with 4 current active cases related to overseas travel.

On June 27th WA moved in to phase 4 of the 6 phase “roadmap to recovery” and regional boundaries have been lifted however, the [restrictions on entering remote Aboriginal Communities](#) remain in place.

Due to the world-leading response to COVID in WA, Phase 4 started on Saturday, 27 June and has resulted in:

- all existing gathering limits and the 100/300 rule removed
- gathering limits only determined by WA’s reduced 2 square metre rule
- the 2 square metre rule will only include staff at venues that hold more than 500 patrons
- removal of seated service requirements at food businesses and licensed premises
- no requirement to maintain patron register at food businesses and licensed premises
- alcohol can be served as part of unseated service arrangements
- all events permitted except for large scale, multi-stage music festivals

- unseated performances permitted at venues such as concert halls, live music venues, bars, pubs and nightclubs
- gyms operating unstaffed, but regular cleaning must be maintained
- Casino gaming floor reopening under agreed temporary restrictions.
- For WA’s major sport and entertainment venues, a 50 per cent capacity rule applies.

There is still pressure from the Commonwealth Government for Western Australia to open borders however, the Premier is standing firm on the decision that WA border will be reopened “when we get the health advice that says it’s the right time to do so”.



Current Developments

COVID-19 Response Bill to support health care workers

The McGowan Government will introduce [a bill to ease the burden on health care workers who contract COVID-19 and require access to workers' compensation entitlements](#).

Many essential health care workers are working in difficult circumstances and are at a higher risk of exposure to contracting COVID-19.



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Regulations will address health care workers suffering COVID-19 as a priority, this means workers will not be required to go through lengthy and costly claim investigations to prove they contracted COVID-19 at work.

WA to provide assistance to Victoria's COVID-19 response

Western Australia is providing support to Victoria as it tackles a concerning increase in COVID-19 cases, deploying one of the State's most experienced public health physicians, Professor Tarun Weeramanthri.

WA is able to support Victoria with the support of one of our most skilled experts due to being in the enviable position of having no evidence of community transmission, and being well positioned for future cases of COVID-19 in the State.

From today, Professor Weeramanthri has been seconded to Victoria's Health and Human Services for an initial four-week period, and it is anticipated that he will assist with the operational and strategic management of their public health response.

Western Australian Department of Health contact tracing teams are also remotely assisting Victoria in establishing key information about cases and identifying close contacts

Victoria battles COVID-19 Outbreak

[Ten Victorian Suburbs are back in lockdown](#) and international flights going in to Melbourne will be

diverted as Melbourne struggles to get on top of the latest COVID-19 outbreak and community transmission.

Border Closures impacted by Victorian Outbreak.

Renewed calls for NSW to close its borders to Victoria continues with Victoria's increasing numbers of COVID-19. Although the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian warned Victorian's not to travel to her state there has been no official border closure.

SA has abandoned its decision for a full domestic border reopening on July 20th and instead will consider reopening borders to the ACT and NSW but not Victoria. SA borders are currently open to WA, NT, QLD and Tasmania.

QLD has announced borders will reopen on July 10th to all states and territories other than Victoria. Anyone who travels from Victoria and enters Qld from this Friday will have to quarantine at their own expense for 14 days.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community kit

This community kit contains radio commercials, videos, posters and a range of other [resources to help you share important ongoing messages about Coronavirus](#) with your community. You can add in your own locally relevant messages, images or contact details to keep your community safe.



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Clinical Information

New National Immunisation Program Vaccination Schedule starts today.

From today, July 1st 2020 some significant changes to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and recommendations for pneumococcal, meningococcal and hepatitis A vaccination will take effect.

For changes related to Immunisation Schedule please see [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\) schedule changes for vaccination provider's website.](#)

The new Pneumococcal Vaccination Schedule which will take effect from today can be found [here](#).

The "clinical decision tree" helps to understand this new schedule and should be read in conjunction with the NIP pneumococcal vaccination schedule from 1 July 2020 clinical advice for vaccination providers and the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

It also provides an updated list of risk conditions for pneumococcal vaccine recommendations and their eligibility for funding under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).



Prophylactic Paracetamol for Meningococcal B vaccine

All the member services would have received an email from AHCWA's Immunisation Coordinator Stacey Burrows outlining the changes to the National Immunisation Schedule. One of these changes is the introduction of the Meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Children < 2 years of age are recommended to receive prophylactic paracetamol with every dose of Bexsero. It is advised paracetamol be given 30mins before or as soon as practicable after the vaccine, followed by 2 more doses given 6 hours apart.

Please be mindful that Paracetamol stock levels in your clinic may need to be increased to accommodate these changes.

Enhancing data quality of vaccination encounter records: tips and tricks

A new resource entitled "[Enhancing data quality of vaccination encounters recorded in practice software and on AIP - tips and tricks](#)" has been developed by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) to help immunisation providers minimise and identify errors in vaccination recording to ensure the information held on patient's records and on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is accurate.



Policy and Advocacy

The Policy Team at AHCWA has continued to work on the COVID response and recovery phase by:

- Promoting WA COVID-19 issues on a national platform through NACCHO;
- Continuing to convene regular meetings of the AHCWA CEO Network to discuss issues relating to the COVID-19 response and recovery;
- Preparing a submission to the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs' inquiry into and report on food prices and food security in remote Indigenous communities, an issue which was compounded during the COVID-19 response;
- Continuing to liaise with DPC on local outbreak response plans; and
- Working with the WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS) and the community services sector to influence the state's COVID-19 recovery plan as it relates to the social determinants of health.

Myth Buster

Can people wear masks while exercising?

People should NOT wear masks when exercising as masks may reduce the ability to breathe comfortably.

Sweat can make the mask become wet more quickly which makes it difficult to breathe and promotes the growth of microorganisms. The important preventive measure during exercise is to maintain physical distance of at least one meter from others.

16 June 2020 #Coronavirus #COVID19 



Deadly Progress: Tobacco use declines amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre has published a new [“Review of Tobacco Use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples”](#) that shows substantial progress has been made, with significant reductions in tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and that further reductions are achievable.

To accomplish this will require Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander guidance and leadership in legislation and policies; social marketing; comprehensive programs; and research and evaluation with self-determination and leadership critical to reducing tobacco use further.

Lead author Ms Emily Colonna says, “Substantial progress has been made in reducing tobacco use which will translate to substantial reductions in tobacco-related morbidity and mortality.

The AHCWA Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement Team are here to assist all Member Services. If you have any enquiries, or require further information and support please email Public.Health@ahcwa.org



AHCWA
Aboriginal Health Council
of Western Australia

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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Travel rules – Aboriginal communities



There are WA Government rules to keep remote Aboriginal communities safe from the coronavirus



These rules say only people who live or work in communities can go there



Most communities have these rules. Check with them before going there

**Travel into
Aboriginal
communities is
not allowed**



Essential workers like police, teachers and health workers can go there



Tourists and travellers are not allowed to enter



People who run some community activities like sport and ranger programs can go there

Last updated 29/6/2020



Biggest fine for breaking these rules, \$50,000

Visit wa.gov.au or call 13 COVID (13 268 43)