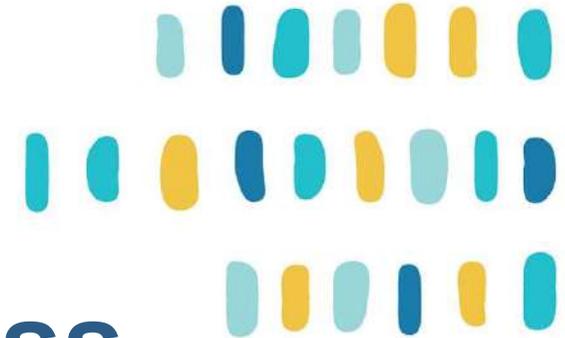Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

COVID-19 Preparedness – WA Border opening

Sector Briefing

21 January 2022

Speakers

- Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Communities

- Mark Burgess, Executive Director Strategy, Department of Communities

- Amanda Pickrell, Deputy Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

- Tudor Codreanu, Incident Controller and Kylie Mulcahy, Planning Lead, State Health Incident Control Centre (SHICC)

- Tami Maitre, Director Emergency Services, SWICC, Department of Communities

- Elaine Paterson, Executive Director Contracting, Department of Communities

- Rachel Siewert, WACOSS

**GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

WA's SAFE TRANSITION PLAN

PROOF OF VACCINATION

WA's Safe Transition Plan – Policy Overview

Masks are required in high risk indoor settings

Proof of vaccination requirements for certain venues

Get tested if you have symptoms or have been to a case location

Check in at businesses and venues

Visitors to wear masks at hospitals and aged care

Proof of vaccination

Travel (12+ years)

- Domestic and international arrivals into WA – excluding returning Australians directed to quarantine

Hospitality

- All hospitality venues, food and licensed venues including restaurants, dine-in fast food, cafés, bars, pubs, clubs, taverns:
    - excluding food and non-alcoholic beverage takeaway; food courts; roadhouses, and petrol stations
- Night clubs
- Crown Perth Complex
- Bottle shops (including drive through bottle shops)
- Major stadiums

Events

- Indoor events of over 500 patrons (as defined by EMA directions) and specified outdoor high risk events and outdoor music events. Does not include:
    - community sport; and
    - school events on school premises.

Proof of vaccination

Indoor Entertainment and Cultural venues

- Indoor entertainment and cultural venues (play centres, gaming and gambling, theatres, concert halls, cinemas, live music venues, including Perth Convention Centre) and the following cultural venues:
  - WA Art Gallery
  - Subiaco Arts Centre
  - Goldfields Arts Centre
  - Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
  - WA Museum Boola Bardip
  - WA Maritime Museum
  - Shipwrecks Museum (Fremantle)
  - Museum of the Great Southern
  - Museum of the Goldfields
  - Museum of Geraldton
  - Gwoonwardu Mia (Carnarvon)

Proof of vaccination

|	
Sport and Fitness	▪ Gyms, fitness studios and centres
Outdoor Entertainment	▪ Zoos and amusement parks
Hospitals and Aged Care	▪ Visitors to hospital and residential aged care
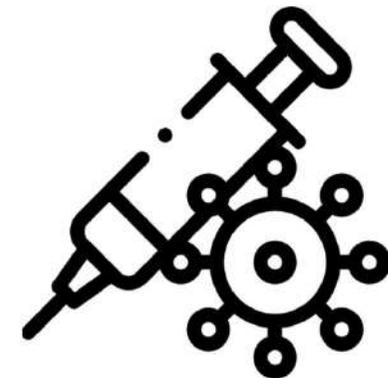
Proof of vaccination - acceptable forms

COVID-19 vaccination certificate, immunisation history statement, or medical contraindication statement that is:

- Stored in one of the following applications:
  - ServiceWA
  - Medicare Express
- Stored in a digital wallet, plus acceptable form of ID
- Paper copy, plus acceptable form of ID

Vaccination certificates accepted by the Commonwealth for travel into Australia will also be accepted at WA venues.
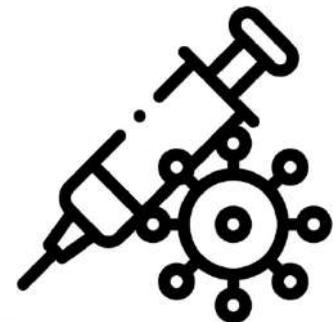
Obligations for individuals

Individuals must:

- Present valid proof of vaccination or medical exemption at point of entry (aged 12+) to WA and at in-scope events and venues (aged 16+);

- Present an acceptable form of ID where relevant alongside proof of vaccination status or exemption, as deemed necessary; and,

- Not provide false or inaccurate vaccination information to gain entry to in-scope premises.
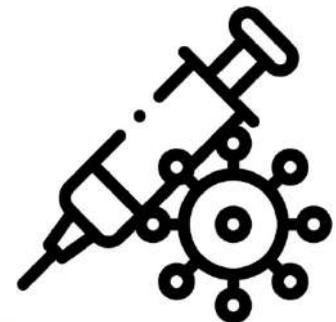
Obligations for businesses

Businesses are responsible for:

- **sighting acceptable proof of vaccination** or medical exemption on entry or employment, where reasonable;

- taking **reasonable steps** to deny entry to patrons who cannot present a certificate; and,

- **reporting suspected false documents** to the appropriate public authority.
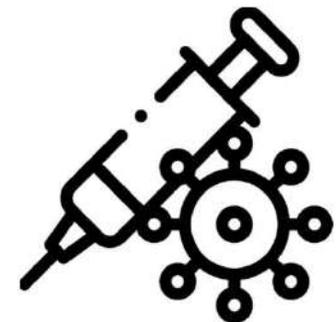
Proof of vaccination – reasonable steps

In-scope businesses and venues are required to take reasonable steps to prevent unvaccinated people entering the premises, including:

- **Signage** at physical premises to inform patrons that proof of vaccination is required for entry.

- **Information and reminders** on business websites, social media, and ticketing or booking sites that proof of vaccination required.

- **Informing workers** of their obligations to check proof of COVID-19 vaccination status/valid medical exemption) and what to do if someone refuses or is not vaccinated.

- **Using existing security measures** to do random checks of patrons.

- Where there is **existing managed entry i.e. nightclub**, adequate resourcing at entry points to ensure proof of vaccination is checked.

- Where there is **no existing managed entry i.e. café or pub**, vaccination certification is checked as soon as reasonable for example at the point of service.

Proof of vaccination – stakeholder assets

A number of stakeholder assets are available to support business/establishments:

- **How to guides** for employers and staff asking for proof of vaccination - print and digital

- **Posters** for businesses to display in windows for customers to view

- **Social media** assets to use across your own channels to communicate the proof of vaccination requirement

- **Digital screen** assets for use at venues to raise awareness to visitors about the app

- **eDM banner** for electronic newsletters
- **Web banner** for business websites

Proof of vaccination – stakeholder assets

We're all in this *together.*

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

State Health Incident Coordination Centre

Dr Tudor Codreanu, Incident Controller
Kylie Mulcahy, Planning Cell Lead
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones, Deputy Incident Controller

health.wa.gov.au

Testing

Testing
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is the gold standard test for diagnosis. The Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) will play a greater role in diagnosis as community spread increases.
- Over time RAT will become accepted for confirmation of COVID-19.
- The Chief Health Officer is finalising guidelines for the use of RAT tests.

Access to RATs
- Prohibition restrictions were lifted on 10 January 2022. Businesses can source and purchase.
- From 24 January eligible Commonwealth concession card holders can access up to 10 RATS over a three month period form participating community pharmacies.
- More information to be published shortly

NOTE: If a client that lives in shared supported accommodation goes for a PCR test, please let the person collecting the test know the living arrangement.

Tracing

Tracing
- Significant resources currently dedicated to identifying and managing all individuals who were potentially exposed to a case whilst infectious.
- When borders restrictions are lifted, cases in the community will increase.
- It will no longer be reasonable, nor sustainable, to operate in this way.
- Resources will be directed to activities with the highest public health benefit.

At a date to be determined; contacts will be defined and managed as per the Communicable Disease Network Australia COVID-19 National Guidelines:

Close contacts
- Those who reside with a case, or had more than 4 hours of cumulative contact with a COVID-19 case in a residential setting. 7 days quarantine.

Other contacts
- Those who have been exposed to a COVID-19 case but do not meet the definition of a close contact. Not required to quarantine.

Outbreak Response

- Expectation all stakeholders should have developed and tested their own COVID-19 response plans, in line with the emergency management principles of a proportional, graduated and scalable response.
    - This will define the process/procedures your particular setting will follow in the event of a person testing positive
    - WA Health will advise the person testing positive what they need to do from a public health perspective
    - Welfare supports are accessed through SWICC as required

- Public guidance on SHICC's role in assisting with management of outbreaks post 4 February will be provided in the next few days and will be published on HealthyWA website.
- Follows graduated tiers of support on risk-based approach:
    - Self/local management guided by SHICC
    - SHICC support for ad-hoc issues – phone advice; stakeholder meeting
    - SHICC Outbreak Management Team

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE can be accessed through different pathways depending on the organisation:

- Disability service providers: email the Commonwealth on **NDISCOVIDPPE@health.gov.au** demonstrating evidence of need.

- WA Health contracted partners (e.g. Silver Chain) email PPE request to Health Support Services via **hsscsdccovidresponse@health.wa.gov.au**

- Other government agencies and third party providers: email PPE request to the Department of Finance at **PDWSalesReports@finance.wa.gov.au** to establish an ordering process.

Cleaning is the responsibility of the facility. Advice on the best way to do this (following exposure, and environmental cleaning in the home and workplace) is available online at HealthyWA.

Supporting guidelines

- WA Health has developed a range of supporting guidelines for community care providers available on the Department of Health WA website:

  - COVID-19 preparation and response guidelines for congregate living settings – **summary of key information for service providers**

  - First 24 hours of an outbreak in a congregate living facility – **checklist of actions for facility staff**

  - COVID-19 Congregate Living Documents required for submission to Department of Health in event of an outbreak - **list of documents**

  - Management of mental health patients in hostels and supported accommodation diagnosed with or suspected to have COVID-19 during periods of low community transmission – **flow chart for service providers**

Additional information

- HealthyWA.wa.gov.au

- 13 COVID (13 26843) wide range of information and supports.

- Information to come
  - Managing COVID at home
  - Guidelines for RAT use

DON'T FORGET! Vaccination (including boosters) – State vaccination clinics accept walk-ins for health, aged care and disability care workforce and persons with disability, including for boosters. Please inform security on arrival, and take your work identification, or a letter indicating you are soon to be employed in an aged or disability care organisation.
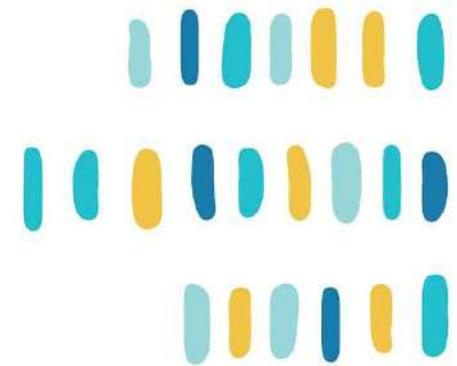
Community Sector
COVID-19 Preparedness

State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre
21 January 2022

Communities role in emergency management

Under the Emergency Management Act 2005, Department of Communities is the support agency responsible for coordinating emergency welfare services in respect of 28 hazards for 8 hazard management agencies.

DFES — Department of Fire & Emergency Services
- Collapse
- Cyclone
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Flood
- Chemical
- Radiological
- Storm
- Tsunami

WA POLICE
- Air Crash
- Hostile Act
- Land Search
- Marine Search
- Nuclear warships
- Road crash
- Space debris
- Terrorism

Government of Western Australia Department of Health
- Heatwave
- HAZMAT Bio
- Pandemic

Government of Western Australia Department of Transport
- Marine emergency
- Oil spill

arc infrastructure — WAPOL or DFES by agreement
- Rail crash freight

Public Transport Authority — WAPOL or DFES by agreement
- Rail crash passenger

Government of Western Australia Energy Policy WA
- Fuel disruption
- Gas disruption
- Power disruption

Government of Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Bio security

Emergency welfare services

There are 6 emergency welfare domains:

- Emergency accommodation
- Emergency food
- Personal requisites
- Personal support services
- Financial assistance
- Registration and reunification.

COVID-19 State of Emergency Pandemic

- The Department of Health is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) responsible for managing the response to the pandemic.

- Department of Communities was activated in February 2020 to support Health in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- On 4 April 2020, the State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre (SWICC) was set up to coordinate emergency welfare services across the six welfare domains.

- SWICC operates under the direction of the HMA.

- SWICC supports the HMA with preparedness planning.

- 13COVID – Communities COVID Support Line (9 – 5pm 7 days a week and on-call)

- Subject to eligibility criteria:
  - Emergency accommodation for people who do not have suitable premises to self-isolate – as determined by IC&P
  - Food, clothing and other personal requisites for people in self-isolation with no other natural supports
  - Personal support services for people who are unable to access support through their usual support providers

- Hotel Quarantine Fee Exemptions

- Test Isolation Payment Scheme

# Contracting - Support for Community Organisations

Contracting supports for Communities funded service providers during significant outbreak/s of COVID-19

Communities will work with service providers to support **service continuity**

This may include:

- Business Continuity Plans – discussions with your Contract Managers have already started.

- Payment schedules will continue to be met - this is prioritised in Communities Business Continuity planning.

- Flexibility in managing and monitoring compliance eg due dates for reporting.

Issues will be assessed on a case by case basis – please contact your Contract Manager with any concerns as early as possible.
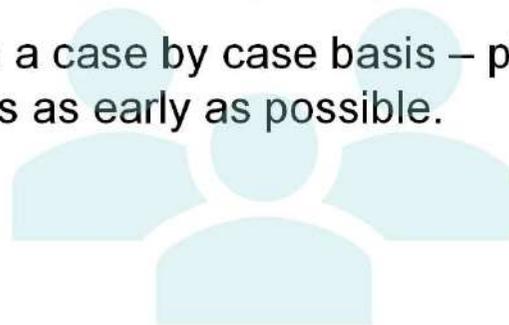
Q and A Panel

- Mark Burgess

- Amanda Pickrell

- Tudor Codreanu

- Kylie Mulcahy

- Tami Maitre

- Natalia Gemmell, Project Manager SWICC

- Elaine Paterson

- Rachel Siewert

Thank You!

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus

If you have any other questions please email:

sectorsupport@communities.wa.gov.au