



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

MANDATORY VACCINATION IN THE COMMUNITIES SECTOR IN WA

23 June, 2022

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Acknowledgement of country

- May I first acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional custodians of this land who are resilient in their custodianship
- Let us celebrate their culture today and every day, and note how privileged we are to share this country
- I pay my respects to elders: past, present and emerging

DAILY CASE UPDATE *as at 6pm 21 June 2022*

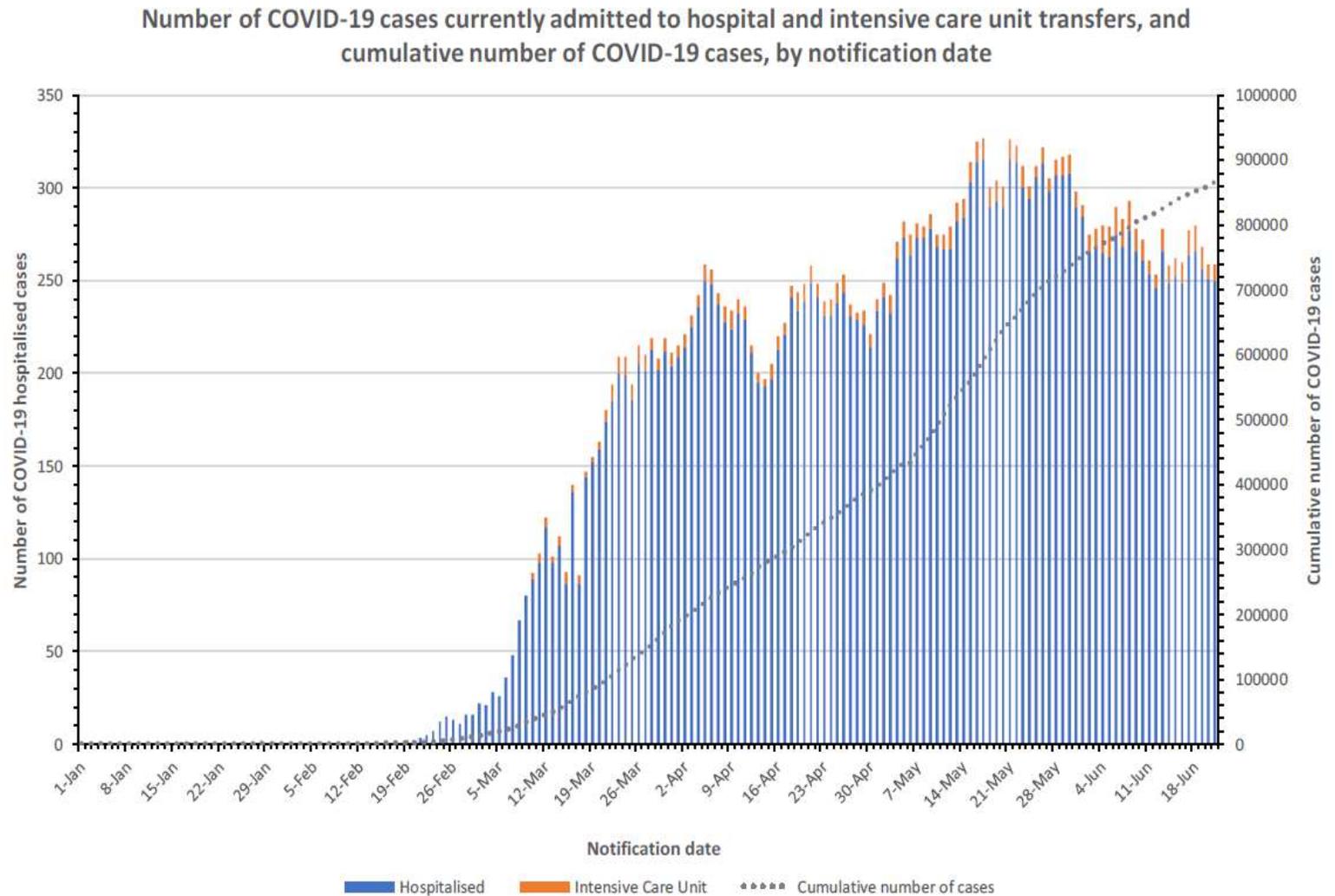
5,770
new cases

28,770
active cases

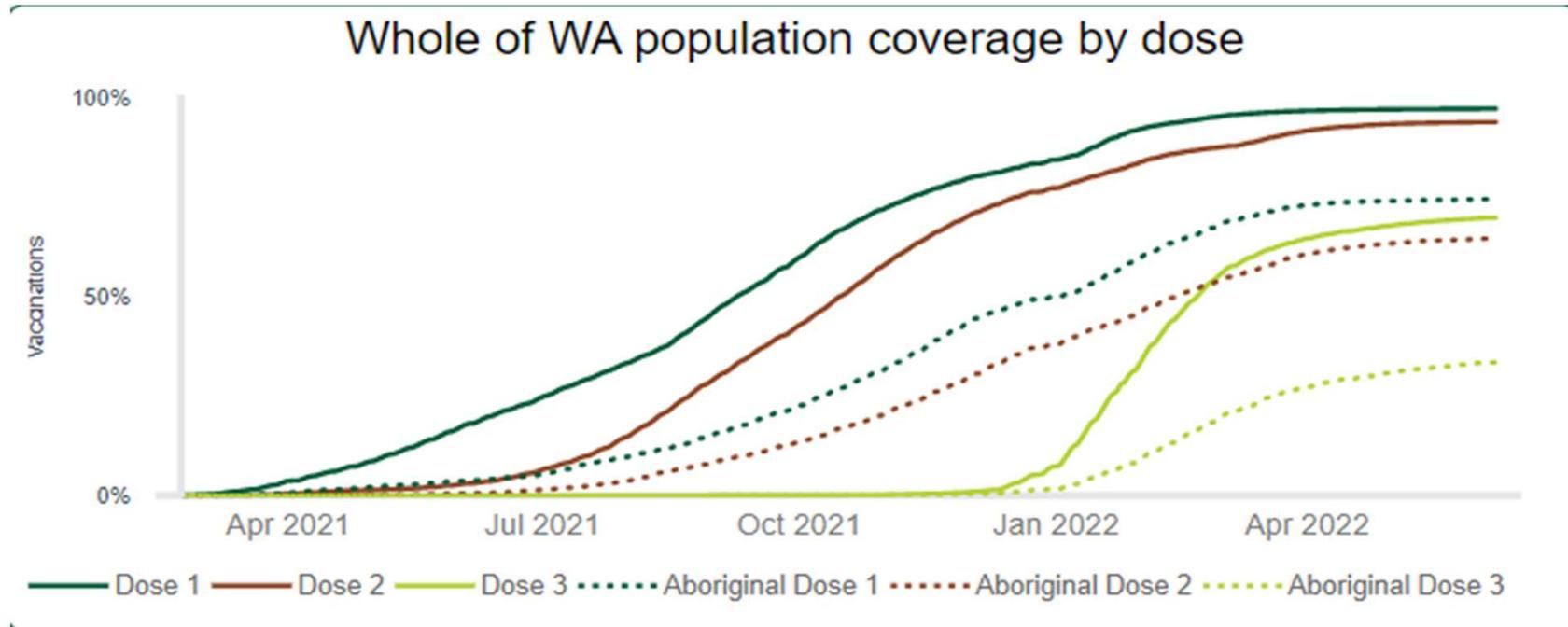
866,453
total cases

259
in hospital

9
in ICU



Covid vaccination rates



6,614,363 Covid vaccinations have been administered in the 5+ population.

- 2 doses → 12+ population, 2,199,115 people, representing >95% coverage
- Booster dose → 16+ population, 1,714,128 people, representing 82.5%

Since 21st June 2022, 207,452 people have received their Winter Booster (Doses 4+5 aged 16+).

Influenza update

- Experiencing a more significant flu season across Australia than previous years
 - 87,989 laboratory confirmed notifications of influenza reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System in Australia for 2022, as at 5 June 2022.
 - As of 6 June 2021, there were 326 notifications recorded in the same period.
 - From mid-April 2022, the weekly number of notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza reported in Australia has exceeded the 5 year average.
- The WA Government is providing free influenza vaccines for all Western Australians throughout June.
 - available at COVID-19 community vaccination clinics, participating pharmacies and GPs.
 - Staff are encouraged to tell their friends and family
- Staff required to complete the mandatory form to consent or decline the vaccination, or state that they have already received it
 - available on the staff intranet
- As of 19 June 2022, 854,180 influenza vaccination (2022 season) doses had been administered to West Australians, representing 28.3% coverage.

Changes to the Mandatory Vaccination policy

- Vaccination rates in WA have now reached >82% booster dose (>16y).
- Higher rates than in other Australian jurisdictions.
- Review of vaccine mandates: effective and compliance has been good.
- No longer proportionate to have them in place broadly.
- Still of value where workers will have intense and close contact with very vulnerable people – in hospitals, health services, residential aged care and residential disability care.
- While other disability workers may have contact with vulnerable people – it is not proportionate to apply the mandates broadly in this and other groups.

Easing of restrictions

1 June

Unvaccinated
Australians and
permanent
residents are
no longer
required to
quarantine for
7 days on
return to WA

10 June

WA's
mandatory
vaccination
policy will be
updated

15 June

Directions to
restrict access
to Remote
Aboriginal
Communities
will be
removed

Which mandates now apply?

- Healthcare and health support workers in hospitals and primary health care settings;
 - Health Worker (Restriction on Access) Directions (No 4)
 - Primary Health Care Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions (No 3)
- Workers in residential aged care;
 - Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions (No 5)
- Workers in residential disability settings.
 - ***NEW*** Disability Support Accommodation Worker Restriction on Access Directions
- Booster Vaccination (Restrictions on Access) Directions (No 2)

The Community Care Services Worker mandate, previously covering most community care workers, has been **revoked**.

Note, the revocation is contained within the *Disability Support Accommodation Worker Restriction on Access Directions*

[Disability Support Accommodation Worker \(Restrictions On Access\) Directions \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

More information on mandatory vaccination

[COVID-19 coronavirus: Mandatory vaccination \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

What does this mean for those who work in the community sector?

Mandatory vaccination

If your role requires you to enter a site where a mandatory vaccination requirement applies (including being booster dose vaccinated when eligible) then you must comply with that requirement to enter the site.

Current sites include,

- health care facilities (HCF),
- residential aged care facilities (RACF),
- residential disability care facilities, and
- primary health care facilities.

 ***Consider the remaining mandates as work site specific and not job role specific***

Unless an exception applies, or the visit is on an 'ad hoc' basis

Home visitations

None of the directions relate to access of staff to a client / patients personal residence / home - each direction contains a definition of what sites are included in more detail.

Masks

If you are not providing health care, no mask mandate applies however, if you or your clients feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal safety, then please do so.

Questions?