



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*

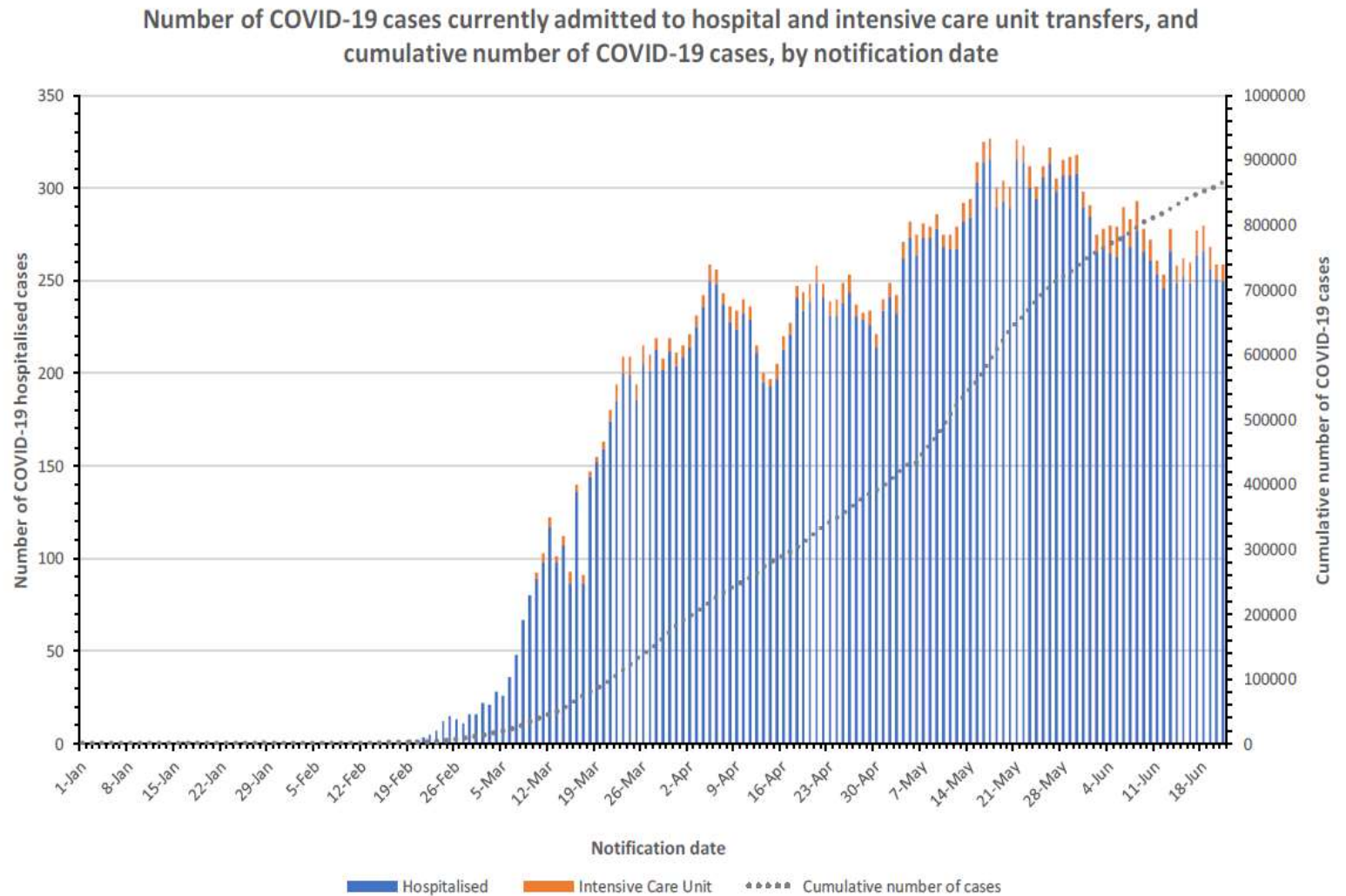
5,770  
new cases

28,770  
active cases

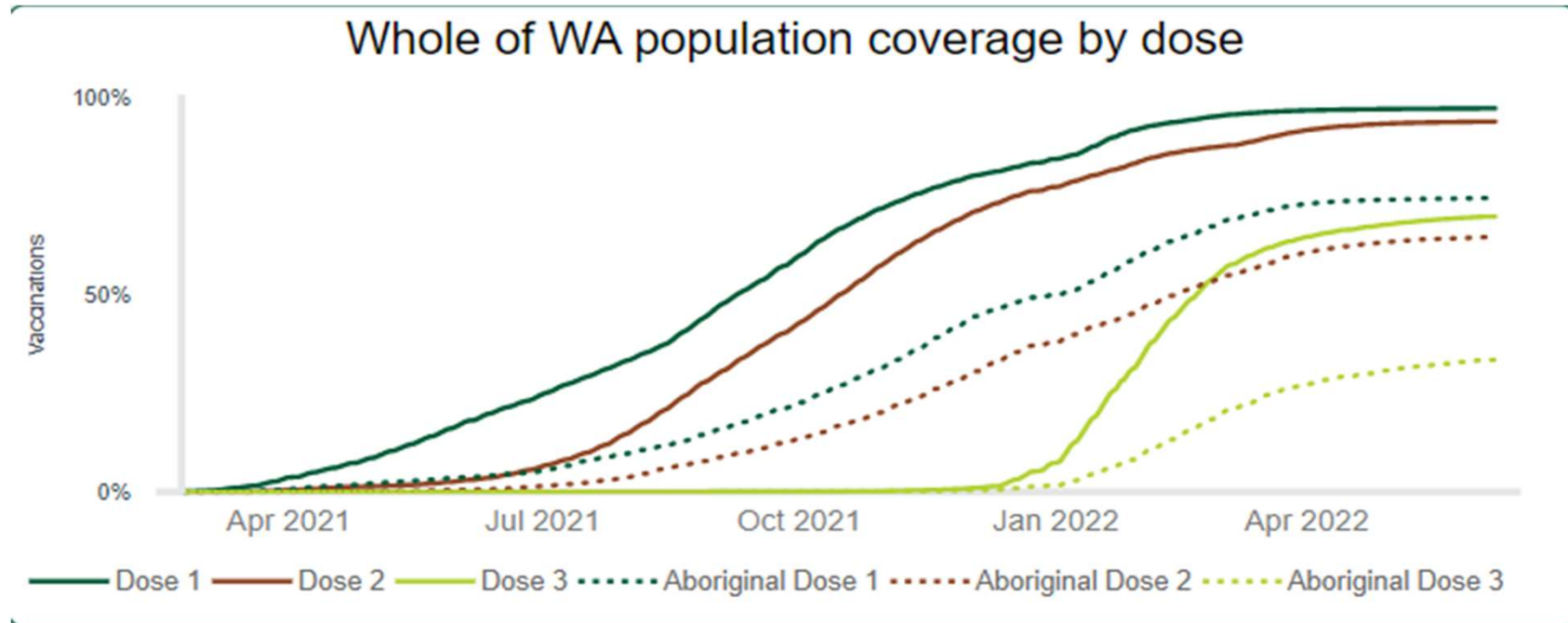
866,453  
total cases

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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?