**Intranet article - COVID-19 measures to ease**

Based on the latest health advice, a number of public health measures will ease as Western Australia continues its transition out of COVID-19.

**Updated isolation requirements**

Following a decision at National Cabinet, the isolation period for COVID-19 positive cases and close contacts with symptoms will reduce from 7 days to 5 days – providing they are free of symptoms by the time they leave isolation. These changes will come into effect across Western Australia from Friday 9 September.

For people who still have symptoms after five days, they must continue to isolate.

People who work at or visit high-risk settings (including hospitals, health care settings, disability and aged care facilities, and those providing care in the home) are not permitted to enter these locations for at least 7 days following a positive test.

 Close contacts with no symptoms will not have to isolate for the 5 days if they:

* undertake daily Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT);
* wear a mask outside the home;
* avoid high-risk settings, including hospitals, health care settings, disability and aged care facilities and correctional facilities;
* work from home (where possible);
* avoid non-essential gatherings and contact with people at risk of severe illness; and
* notify their employer/educational facility of their close contact status.

The change to isolation requirements will enable people who have tested positive to COVID-19 and close contacts with no symptoms to return to work sooner, while continuing to protect at-risk people in our community.

**Changes to mask rules**

The WA Government has also updated mask wearing rules. From Friday 9 September, mask rules will be eased on all public and passenger transport, including trains, buses, rideshares, taxies and aircraft.

Mask wearing will still be required for high-risk settings such as hospitals, healthcare services, corrective services, residential aged care and disability service facilities.

All Western Australians are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded indoors spaces and where physical distancing is not possible, to help protect vulnerable members of the community.

**Visitors to aged and disability care facilities**

Visitor limits will also be eased for residential aged and disability care facilities. From Friday 2 September, these facilities will be able to determine the number of visitors permitted per resident each day.

Proof of vaccination will still be required for aged care facilities, in addition to mask wearing at both aged care and disability care facilities.

For more information about COVID-19, visit wa.gov.au