COVID-19 is in our community. Please use and dispose of your masks properly.

## Call 13 COVID (13 26843) or visit <u>WA COVID Care at Home</u> for information on receiving additional support while recovering from COVID at home.

### Testing: Where and When

Western Australians are encouraged to keep using PCR testing clinics while clinics can manage the number of tests required. Public metropolitan COVID clinics are currently open from 8.00am to 8.00pm, with last tests conducted at 8.00pm (please arrive for testing by 7.00pm).

The Midland Sports Complex drive-through testing clinic is open from 6.00am to 5.00pm.

Toodyay's closest regional testing locations are:

- Goomalling Health Service, (08) 9629 0100, 52 Forrest Street Goomalling
- Northam Health Service, (08) 9690 1300, 50 Robinson Street Northam
- York Health Service, (08) 9641 0200, 9 Trews Road, York

#### Vaccinations

On May 6, the level of Western Australians aged 16 and older who are third dose vaccinated reached 80%. Toodyay is over 84% third dose vaccinated, and more than half of residents aged 5-11 have had their first dose.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends extending dose intervals for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to 8 weeks (previously 3-4 weeks) to improve the immune response to vaccination. The dose interval can be reduced for those at risk of severe COVID-19. More information can be found here.

ATAGI now also recommends waiting three months after having COVID-19 before getting your next vaccine dose for the most effective immune response.

#### Flu Season

This year's flu season is likely to be more severe and less predictable than the last two years, with cases in Australia on the rise.

It is recommended people have their flu vaccine. These are available free for those aged 6 months-5 years and for those aged over 65 years. Those aged over 5 years can get the vaccination from pharmacies, and it can be given on the same day as a COVID booster. It is recommended to be in a separate arm if given on the same day so any reactions can be monitored.

#### Public Health Measures

Masks and other public health measures remain highly recommended in settings where the risk of COVID exposure is high. In addition, masks are still required for those aged 12 and over in hospitals and healthcare settings, aged care and residential care facilities, public and passenger transport, and correctional facilities.

Showing proof of vaccination is not required when entering venues and businesses, but is still required when visiting hospitals and aged/residential care facilities.



# **COVID-19 Community Update**