

# Guidance and response to COVID-19 risk ratings

## Introduction

The Victorian Department of Health has developed four COVID-19 risk ratings to guide health service response to changes in COVID-19 community transmission.

The four risk ratings are **COVID Ready** (low risk), **COVID Alert** (moderate risk), **COVID Active** (high risk) and **COVID Peak** (very high risk). Further information about the COVID-19 risk ratings can be found [here](#).



## Who makes the decision to change risk ratings?

The risk level is influenced by COVID-19 prevalence within Victoria or geographical area, prevalence of COVID-19 cases in at-risk communities and the number of COVID-19 cases of an unknown source over a particular timeframe.

The Victorian Department of Health will provide advice regarding changes to the risk rating which may be applied to the entire state of Victoria, or to specific geographical regions and/or individual health services.

Western Health's COVID Response and Infectious Diseases leadership team will also continually assess the risk in our area and may choose to change the risk rating for our organisation.

## What guidance topics do the COVID-19 risk levels inform?

The COVID-19 risk levels inform guidance topics including,

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) use
- Health care worker surveillance testing
- Patient pre-operative testing and screening
- Elective surgery
- Visitor information
- Outpatient consultations
- Emergency Department guidelines
- Healthcare worker mobility.

### How will the COVID-19 risk ratings be implemented at Western Health?

WH COVID-19 guidance documents will incorporate the COVID-19 risk ratings so that in the case of risk rating changes, changes in practice and service provision can be made swiftly.

Each area and Division should develop plans for action about how to implement changes in the relevant areas if the risk ratings change. The COVID-19 Response team will work with different areas to assist with preparedness planning as required.

If you have a question about the risk ratings and guidance for your area, please email [coronavirus@wh.org.au](mailto:coronavirus@wh.org.au) and a member of the team will be in touch.