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## **Current Status of WA Health's COVID-19 Response Preparedness**

The Auditor General today tabled in Parliament the *Transparency Report: Current Status of WA Health's COVID-19 Response Preparedness*.

The report contains the findings from our limited assurance review of key elements of the State's health system preparedness to deal with a surge in COVID-19 cases. It provides Parliament and the public with information from WA Health about its key plans and actions that underpin WA's current level of preparedness, and which have informed the State's overall response to the pandemic.

Reassuringly, WA Health considers that it is now well prepared for a potential outbreak of COVID-19. The information presented in this report shows that surge planning and preparations have been made in the 3 key areas of personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilated bed capacity and staffing.

In recent times, WA Health has also made good progress on developing outbreak plans and working more closely with various sectors, including aged care. An increased focus on testing and contact tracing capability is also evident in the information presented in this report.

Auditor General Caroline Spencer said it is vitally important for the people of WA, that COVID-19 planning and responses are transparent, proportionate and well informed by the latest global data and research, including the most up-to-date best practice clinical treatment methods.

'WA Health can support continued community confidence in public health measures by providing regular, up-to-date and evidence-based information to Parliament and the public. This will allow more expansive deliberations on their appropriateness, and due consideration of ongoing costs, risks and benefits of various support and response options,' Ms Spencer said.

'As we move forward during these challenging times, it is important that as a community we manage for the virus as we now know it to be, and not for the virus that was feared in the earliest days of COVID-19's emergence. Future health responses should recognise our improved health and hygiene capability, and that we are no longer facing critical PPE shortages for our health workers.'

This report does not provide assurance as to the effectiveness, efficiency or compliance of the planning and actions undertaken by WA Health. These and other aspects of the pandemic response may be the subject of future performance audits.

### **Report resources**

- [online version](#)
- [PDF version](#)