



MEDIA RELEASE

Identification of two positive cases of COVID-19 on island -Escalation level 2 requirements

This afternoon two positive cases of COVID-19 were identified by NIHRACS. The cases do not currently require hospitalisation and are in isolation and being monitored. Contact tracing associated with the cases is now underway and close contacts will be required to isolate.

EMT met this afternoon and agreed to move the island to level 2 of our Response Escalation Matrix. At level 2 the following are mandatory requirements: -

- Masks are required to be worn indoors by all staff and customers in Café's, Restaurants, Retail, Personal Services, and non-essential businesses (tours etc.)
- Organised Sport and Recreation activities are suspended
- Social distancing rules must be maintained
- Density limits indoors reduced to one person per 4 sqm
- Groups reduced to a maximum of 150 people

The Response Escalation Matrix is available on the NIRC website at <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/emni-media-releases-2021>.

With the virus present in the community and New Years Eve celebrations occurring tomorrow it is highly recommended that organisers of events consider postponing events involving large groups, either indoors or outdoors. Any events that do occur will have to adhere to social distancing requirements (wearing masks indoors, density limits, keeping 1.5m apart, maintaining registers of people who attend etc.). Police will be enforcing these requirements.

Anyone on the island who is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves and contact NIHRACS. For those who are unvaccinated on the island and wish to do so should also contact NIHRACS.

EMT will be meeting daily and providing updated information to the community as it becomes available.

For any questions about the COVID-19 response on Norfolk Island, please visit the Norfolk Island Regional Council website: <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/covid-19-advice-norfolk-island> in the first instance or contact Sergeant Mark Watson, IMT Incident Controller at IO-Norfolk-Island@afp.gov.au or +6723 22222. Alternatively, could you contact the Welfare Co-ordinator on 52777.

17:00

30 December 2021

EMT