



MEDIA RELEASE

International Arrivals

The requirement for international travellers to isolate for 14 days on arrival on Norfolk Island has been removed. Travellers will still be required to comply with Australian national requirements for entry from any international destination but will only need to comply with testing requirements for entry into Norfolk Island.

Cleaning Requirements

The EMT has received advice about the cleaning requirements for those who have tested positive and who have been in quarantine at a home or residence. Cleaning with normal household products is suitable for any private residences, however, if the home is a holiday house or tourist accommodation, then a deep clean prior to the next occupant's arrival is advisable. Additional information will be provided to businesses separately and will be available on Council's website soon.

Queensland Check In App

Businesses should now be using the Queensland Check In application for customer registration on the island. Unlike the NSW check-in application, the Queensland version does not send an SMS verification, therefore it can be used by customers for registration purposes at businesses on the island.

Businesses will need to register with the app and details of how to do this can be found at https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/check-in-qlld#_business. The business registration process requires you to provide a mainland mobile number and accepts a Norfolk Island addresses. Once registered you will receive a welcome pack that includes a unique QR code that you print and display at your business for customer registration.

Customers will need to download the mobile app onto their device and need to have an internet or data connection to do this. If people cannot use the app, or do not have a smart device, your staff can check them in using the business profile mode on the app. It remains a requirement for customer registration and the use of the QR code.

Information collected by the mobile app is being used by the contact tracing team on island as an aid in identifying exposure sites.

Visitor pause commences today until January 19, testing requirements for entry into Norfolk Island

Visitor arrivals to the island will pause from today Thursday 6 January 2022. This pause will remain in place until Wednesday 19 January. The pause is to allow NIHRACS to manage the current level of COVID cases in the community without additional cases from visitors arriving on the island. This decision will be reviewed on 12 January. Returning residents and essential workers will continue to be able to obtain Entry Permits.

Testing requirements for passengers to the island remain in place and are:

- A negative PCR test result in the 72 hours prior to arrival on island

or

- A negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) in the 48 hours prior to arrival and a negative RAT test undertaken within 24 hours of arrival on the island.



Due to the limited availability of RAT tests on the island passengers are required to bring a RAT test with them to comply with this requirement. There is no requirement to self-isolate before undertaking the second RAT test.

Anyone who has COVID symptoms or underlying health conditions is strongly recommended not to travel to the island and anyone on the island who has the slightest symptoms should self-isolate and contact NIHRACS to have a RAT test undertaken.

Updated case numbers as of 6 January 2022

Rapid tests undertaken on Wednesday 5 January identified an additional four (4) positive results. The total number of people on the island who have tested positive is now 35. Those who have tested positive are being closely monitored by NIHRACS with eight (8) cases being considered high risk.

There are approximately 150 close contacts in self-isolation on the island. Close contacts are also being monitored by the NIHRACS team and are released when it is regarded safe to do so. More people will be placed into self-isolation as contact tracing of people who have tested positive occurs.

If you are a close contact in isolation it is important that you do not have contact with the rest of the community. If you have any symptoms associated with COVID you must self-isolate and contact NIHRACS immediately and arrange for a test.

It is highly recommended that for the next few weeks those who can work from home do so and people should try to minimise close interaction with each other - especially indoors.

Restrictions

EMT is guided by the Response Escalation Matrix. The current status under the Matrix is level 4, with flexibility for cafes and restaurants, personal services and non-essential businesses who are permitted to operate with enforced social distancing of 1person/4sqm and mandatory masks for all staff and customers when indoors.

EMT is very appreciative of the community support of the management measures that are currently in force and greatly regrets the disruption to the community and business associated with the visitor arrival pause. If we continue to abide with the measures that we currently have in place it is hoped that the virus moves through the community at a rate that can be managed by NIHRACS.

EMT will continue to review the situation daily.

If you are in isolation and feeling unwell, please contact NIHRACS on 22091 and they will arrange to have a phone consultation with you. Do not go to the hospital. If you need anything such as food or supplies, please contact the Welfare Co-ordinator on 52777 so that this can be arranged.

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, you can contact the Welfare Co-ordinator on 52777.

14:30

6 January 2022

EMT