



MEDIA RELEASE

Visitor information for travel to the island

Visitor travel to island can commence from Thursday 27 January 2022.

Before travelling to island, we urge all visitors to carefully consider what your health needs may be as there is community transmission of COVID-19 on Norfolk Island.

Norfolk Island is a small and remote community. The Norfolk Island Health and Aged Care Service (NIHRACS) is a small facility with limited services and without an Intensive Care Unit.

If you arrive on Norfolk Island and present with COVID-19 or discover that you are a close contact, you are required to isolate at your accommodation until you return a negative test and are cleared for release. Extended accommodation expenses are at guests' own expense. You cannot fly back to Australia until you are released from isolation and medically cleared.

Those who are at risk of serious illness if they contract COVID-19 (including older people and those with a range of underlying health conditions) should reconsider their travel to Norfolk Island at this time, given the local spread of COVID on island. More information about who is most at risk of contracting COVID can be found online at Health Direct www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-groups-at-higher-risk-faqs

Returning a negative PCR or RAT test is a good indicator but, it is not foolproof - if you feel unwell, please do not travel and consider postponing your holiday on Norfolk Island for a future date.

Mandatory Reporting of Positive Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT)

If you are doing a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) at home, it is important that you follow the testing instructions carefully to ensure that you receive an accurate result. Testing kits can vary significantly between brands.

If you test positive for COVID, you are required to report this to the NIHRACS, phone 22091.

De-escalation to level 3

The Response Escalation Matrix, when first created, was centred around zero COVID cases. The current environmental conditions do not reflect this, therefore, the decision to change restrictions as at midnight 26 January 2022 to level 3 was made using the Matrix as a guide only. The EMT has acknowledged that the de-escalation triggers in the Matrix are too rigid and not flexible in living with COVID and the current OMICRON variant.

In making decisions the EMT takes a holistic approach. Health is a leading factor taken into consideration however, other factors such as the economic, social, and welfare impacts to the community are also considered.

The EMT will next week reduce meeting frequency to Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Daily statistical information will still be provided to the community.

Updated case numbers as of 14 January 2022

The statistics below are as at midnight on Thursday 13 January 2022.

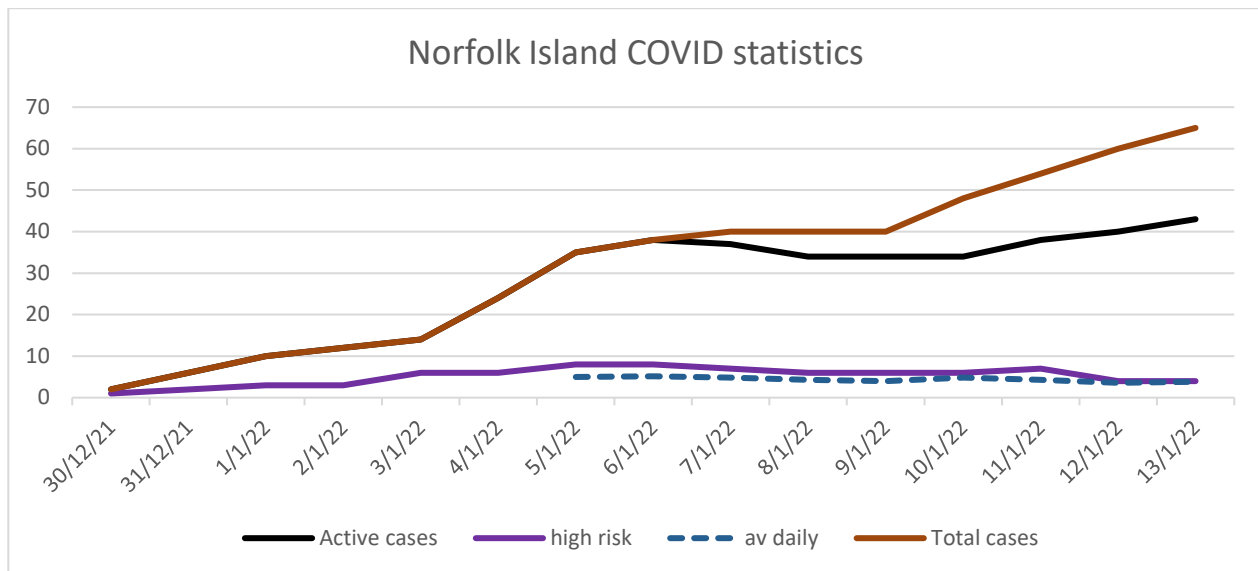
COVID Statistics	Number
Positive RAT tests (previous 24hrs)	11
Number of RAT tests conducted (previous 24hrs)	5
Daily average of positive tests (7days)	3.9



Current number of Active cases	43
Current number of high-risk cases	4
Close Contacts in isolation	26
Recovered (discharged) cases (Previous 24hrs)	2

Cumulative Statistic	Number
Total number of positive (including recovered)	65
Total number of tests conducted	307
Recovered (discharged) cases	22

People who have had COVID and who have been medically cleared and discharged by NIHRACS are free to join the community and return to work but, must comply with the requirements to wear masks and practice social distancing.



Key points of contact

Welfare: Hayley Evans, email hayley.evans@nirc.gov.nf, phone 52777

Incident Controller: Sergeant Mark Watson, email IO-Norfolk-Island@afp.gov.au, phone 22222

NIHRACS: Phone 22091 for all health-related enquiries

The area code for Norfolk Island, for international callers, is +672 3 i.e. +672 3 22222

You can find information about Emergency Management Norfolk Island (EMNI) on Facebook [@emergencymanagementnorfolkisland](https://www.facebook.com/emergencymanagementnorfolkisland) and the Councils website www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/covid-19-advice-norfolk-island.

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14 January 2021

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