MEDIA RELEASE

COVID testing requirements for entry into Norfolk Island

The island has restrictions in place to aid in reducing pressure on the health system during the current Omicron outbreak. These include testing before travel (PCR) and RAT testing along with other local restrictions (mask wearing, density limits etc.) once on-island.

There is a pause in visitor arrivals until midnight 26 January 2022; travel is still permitted for returning residents and essential workers.

Travel to the island now, and after 27 January, requires all travellers to complete a COVID test involving:

- 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.

Those who have completed a RAT test are required to bring an additional test with them to comply with the above testing requirements. There is no requirement to self-isolate before undertaking the second RAT test.

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

Visitor Information about health services on Norfolk Island

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

Anyone who has COVID symptoms or underlying health conditions is strongly recommended not to travel to the island.

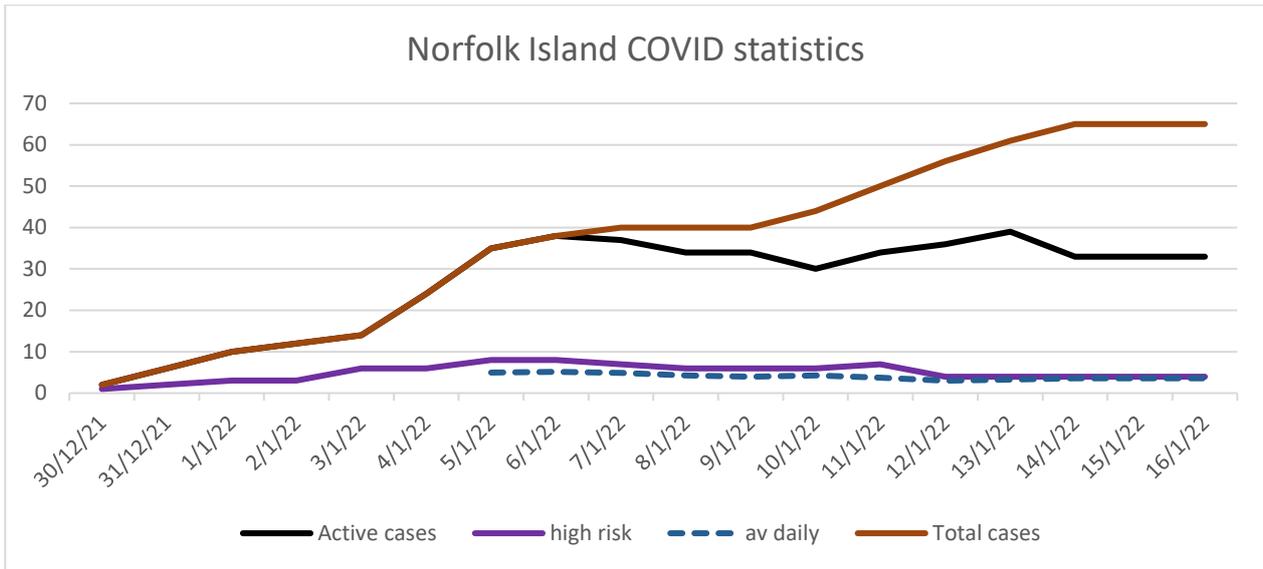*Updated case numbers as of 17 January 2022*

The statistics below are as at midnight on Sunday 16 January 2022.

COVID Statistics	Number
Positive RAT tests (previous 24hrs)	0
Number of RAT tests conducted (previous 24hrs)	7
Daily average of positive tests (7days)	3.6
Current number of Active cases	33
Current number of high-risk cases	4
Close Contacts in isolation	51

Recovered (discharged) cases (Previous 24hrs)	2

Cumulative Statistic	Number
Total number of positive (including recovered)	65
Total number of tests conducted	343
Recovered (discharged) cases	32

Note: With EMT now meeting Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the next update will be on Wednesday January 19.

Key points of contact

Welfare: Hayley Evans, email hayley.evans@nirc.gov.nf, phone- +672 3 52777

Incident Controller: Sergeant Mark Watson, email IO-Norfolk-Island@afp.gov.au, phone +672 3 22222

NIHRACS: Phone +672 3 22091 for all health-related enquiries

Information about Emergency Management Norfolk Island (EMNI) is available on Facebook @emergencymanagementnorfolkisland and the Councils website www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/covid-19-advice-norfolk-island

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