



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID safe plans and the application of the 2 square-metre-rule for enclosed spaces on the island.

EMT has reviewed the national guidelines in respect to being able to increase the density of people in enclosed spaces such as café's, restaurants, clubs, and bars for small venues. The guidelines allow for the reduction of the requirement from 1 person per 4 square metres to 1 person per 2 square metres. However, premises must have an approved COVID safe plan to qualify for the reduction. In a Norfolk Island context, it has been decided that all our venues are small venues and that the 2 square metre rules will apply to the permissible extent determined by the floor area. For example, a venue with a floor area (excluding kitchens, bathrooms etc.) with a floor area of 210 square metres would be able to accommodate 105 people. The rule can be applied for a one-off function in a venue such as Rawson Hall.

To apply this rule the premises, or function organiser must submit a COVID safe plan outlining how the physical distancing, hygiene and other safety requirements will be met. The plan needs to be submitted to the Incident Controller and approved before the rule can be applied. Guidance on how to prepare a COVID safe plan can be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe-businesses#industries>.

The NSW Government website has very useful templates for Safety Plans by industry and it is recommended that all businesses on the island take the time to prepare a plan, regardless of whether you are seeking to have the 2 square metre applied to your business or function. If there is no approved plan the current requirement of 1 person per 4 square metres applies.

Restrictions for people arriving from NSW extended until Friday August 7th . Quarantine restriction removed for people coming from the ACT.

As announced yesterday it has been decided to extend the current requirement for people who have spent time in NSW in the preceding 14 days to quarantine on the island. There is a low level of community transmission in NSW and for an abundance of caution it has been decided to extend the current restriction for a further seven (7) days. This means that up to the 7th of August anybody who has spent time in NSW, is required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival into the island.

Since there has been no new cases recorded in the ACT the quarantine restriction has been removed in relation to people coming from there, providing they have not overnighted in NSW on the way to Norfolk.

This requirement does not apply to passengers who have had to transit through Sydney airport in the same day on the way to Norfolk from the other states. The island remains closed to people from Victoria and hotspots listed on the Queensland Government website and entry passes will be denied from these areas. Queensland on Wednesday listed the greater Sydney as hotspot areas and therefore people from the listed Local Government Areas will be denied Entry Passes.

The restrictions will be reviewed again next week.

30th July 2020

Sgt Glenn Elder

Incident Controller