



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***Lifting of Greater Brisbane lockdown and end of local self-isolation requirements.***

The Queensland Government has lifted the lockdown requirements for the Greater Brisbane area from 12:00 midday today (AEST). Local self-isolation requirements are removed from 2:00pm (Norfolk Island time) for people who have been in the Greater Brisbane area since March 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who is in self-isolation associated with NIHRACS requirements must continue to abide by their direction.

### ***Complacency around getting tested.***

Norfolk has been extremely fortunate in not having an active COVID-19 case during the pandemic. However as can be seen by the recent cluster in Brisbane and now northern NSW, early detection and isolation are the most potent methods of stopping the disease spread. Therefore, if you or anyone in your household have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, it is especially important that you contact NIHRACS and arrange for a test. In most cases the result can be obtained very quickly.

### ***COVID-19 vaccination program on Norfolk Island.***

Locally, NIHRACS will undertake the vaccination program and as more information becomes available, they will communicate it to the community. Current understanding is that the Commonwealth Department of Health, estimate the vaccine will be made available to Norfolk Island sometime after Phase 1a and 1b have been completed.

The Commonwealth Department of Health acknowledge the External Territories have people within all priority phases. However, it is anticipated that when vaccination commences for Norfolk Island, rollout will occur for the whole community in a single push, rather than continually returning to vaccinate the various priority groups. This, along with the logistics required to obtain the vaccine will determine the actual timetable when rollout commences.

No formal decision has been made regarding which vaccine will be available to Norfolk Island.

### ***Travel to the island during lockdowns***

During lockdown periods, the State or jurisdiction applying the lockdown have allowed movement for people to return to their normal place of residence, providing they follow the lockdown restrictions once home. Residents of lockdown areas are not allowed to travel, unless they have been granted an exemption by the authorising jurisdiction. In the recent lockdown this has been the Government of Queensland.

If you have a holiday home on the island, but you normally live or work elsewhere, Norfolk Island would not be regarded as your residence. Therefore, if you leave the lockdown area to travel to the island (without an exemption) you are in breach of the jurisdiction that has applied the conditions.

Locally you may be refused an Entry Pass and the jurisdiction whose conditions you have breached maybe informed that this has occurred. If you are off the island and caught up in COVID-19 restrictions, please abide by the conditions that apply to where you are. If you are returning home you are required to check and ensure that you comply with the conditions applying to the jurisdiction you are travelling to, including any of which you need to transit through.



If you are travelling to the island and must stay overnight in Brisbane during lockdown conditions the Ibis Brisbane Airport Hotel and the Pullman Brisbane Airport Hotel are regarded as being on the airport precinct. You can stay in either of these hotels during transit. You must not however venture out into the areas subject to lockdown, or have friends from the lockdown area visit you during the transit period.

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 Senior Constable Linda Apps or Detective Sergeant Glenn Elder, IMT Incident Controller at IO-Norfolk-Island@afp.gov.au or +6723 22222.

1 April 2021

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