



MEDIA RELEASE

CLARIFICATION OF CURRENT COVID-19 MEASURES AND NEW MEASURES FOR NORFOLK ISLAND

As at 25 March 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Norfolk Island, and Emergency Management Norfolk Island (EMNI) continue to monitor the situation in conjunction with Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS), and advice received from the Australian Government.

This media release is to provide clarification about restrictions on non-essential businesses and social gatherings announced by the Prime Minister. On Tuesday 24 March the community was advised that Norfolk Island will adhere to the nation-wide measures. This decision was made to afford the community maximum protection.

On 24 March 2020, the Prime Minister gave further detail on additional measures that will apply in mainland Australia from 11.59pm Wednesday 25 March 2020.

Please be aware, that the new additional rules consistent with the new and enhanced social distancing measures agreed by the National Cabinet will **come into effect on Norfolk Island from 11.59pm Thursday 26 March 2020**, giving Norfolk Island one extra day to get prepared.

Restrictions already in place on Norfolk Island from 24 March 2020:

- Cafés, restaurants and registered and licensed premises are closed, although takeaway service and home delivery is permitted
- Places of worship are closed
- Gyms and indoor sports facilities are closed.

Restrictions that will come into effect on Norfolk Island from 11.59am Thursday 26 March 2020:

- The School canteen is permitted to remain open
- Real estate auctions and open house inspections are prohibited, private appointments for inspection are permitted
- Outdoor food markets are permitted, so long as people distance themselves from others
- Hairdressers and barber shops may remain open but the 4sqm rule per person must be strictly observed within the premises and that personal contact should be minimised wherever possible, one client at a time is suggested
- Beauty therapy, nail salons and tattoo parlours are closed
- Health-related massage therapy, osteopathy and physiotherapy are permitted
- Cinemas and theatres are closed
- Play centres including indoor and outdoor play groups are closed
- Fitness classes, pilates and yoga classes are closed

- Personal training is prohibited (unless it is outdoors and there are fewer than 10 people who maintain the one person-per-4 square metre rule)
- Sporting club houses are closed, EMNI will permit people to play singles tennis and individual golf if they use their own equipment and maintain social distancing, however this will ultimately be a decision of the individual Clubs)
- Social sporting-based activities are prohibited (e.g. squash, rugby and touch football prohibited, single outrigger would be permitted)
- The Bowls Club, Golf Club and Mini-Golf Shop may remain open under strict conditions. People are not to gather inside, own equipment is to be used wherever possible, and any food or drinks is takeaway only
- Swimming lessons in others' swimming pools are prohibited. All accommodation pools are to be closed
- Galleries, museums and libraries are closed
- Services clubs are closed. Those services clubs with restaurants and bars may be open for the purposes of takeaway only
- Weddings may occur with only the couple, celebrant and the two witnesses - a maximum attendance of five people
- Funerals may occur with a maximum attendance of 10 people. The Incident Controller is aware that funerals are of particular importance and cultural significance for the community of Norfolk Island. EMNI is open to addressing funerals on a case-by-case basis, particularly given the outdoor nature of funerals on Norfolk Island.

Fundamentally, these measures are about the community avoiding large gatherings. Do not congregate in large groups indoors or outdoors. Visits to homes should have small numbers. House parties are prohibited.

I also ask that people use their common sense and continue, above all, to keep yourself and the community safe.

Services providing food or drink to those in self-isolation are permitted, but must follow the safe distancing requirements.

It is understood the impact of these new measures on Norfolk Island will be significant. Everyone is asked to work together and support each other, while exercising safe social distancing, as we navigate this unprecedented situation.

Please call the Norfolk Island Police Force on 22222 if you have specific questions relating to this.

Glenn Elder
Incident Controller
EMNI IMT
25 March 2020

Edited 26 March 2020 to include revised National Cabinet hairdresser and barber restrictions