



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 NORFOLK ISLAND IS GOING INTO LOCKDOWN

With further isolation breaches overnight, it has been deemed necessary for the health and safety of the Norfolk Island Community that we enter a localised lockdown from 2200hrs (10pm) 3 April 2020, to be reviewed on a week-by-week basis. The community is also aware of the presentation of flu-like symptoms and the continued mandatory self-isolation of 22 persons from an inbound Brisbane flight.

The lockdown will not impact air services or sea freight. Further restrictions will be imposed on the travel ban, only now allowing travel for compassionate and medical reasons and for emergency services personnel.

This was not an easy decision, but after much consideration, it has been determined that this is the safest option to protect the community at this stage, given the breaches that have again occurred despite warnings.

WHAT DOES LOCKDOWN MEAN

All persons currently on-island will now be confined to their residence and its grounds. Wherever you are at 10pm on 3 April 2020 is where you will be required to remain for the duration of the lockdown period with certain exemptions. You will be allowed out to purchase essential items such as food, pharmaceuticals and fuel.

EMNI stresses that there is no need to panic buy. The following shops will remain open:

- Supermarkets and whole-food stores
- The pharmacy
- Stockfeed and animal welfare
- Bakeries
- Butchers
- Fuel stations

EMNI asks that you limit your shopping trips as much as possible, with only one member of the household leaving the house to undertake this task.

Food

Friends and family providing food and supplies to those in mandatory self-isolation may continue to do so. Food producers may continue their deliveries to food stores and caterers. EMNI-managed food deliveries to those in self-isolation will continue.

Fishing will not be permitted during lockdown unless authorised by the Incident Controller. Slaughtering of cattle will remain permissible.

If anyone has any issues with regards to access to food, please contact the welfare officer Sharyn Menzies on 50855.

Fuel stations

At the service stations, a member of staff will assist you to fill up your vehicle. Please do not do this yourself and please remain in the car, unless you need something from the store.

Liquor Bond

The Liquor Bond will remain open, but conditions will apply to the quantities of alcohol that may be purchased. These conditions will be posted at the Liquor Bond.

Exercise

You may exercise within the boundaries of your property.

Medical

If you require a medical consultation or assistance, please call NIHRACS on 22091. In an emergency please call 000.

If you are unwell with flu-like or respiratory symptoms, please DO NOT come to the clinic, please call 22091 or 000.

The drive-through Covid-19 testing service will remain operational. Please refer to the earlier media release concerning its hours.

Customer Care

The Council's Customer Care office will be attended by a skeleton staff and will be conducting business by phone only. You can contact Customer Care on 22244, free call 0100, or by email customercare@nirc.gov.nf.

Business solutions

For Centrelink purposes, if you are required to present to Business Solutions you may do so via appointment only.

Post Office

If you have a parcel to pick up from the post office, you will be called and asked to come in to collect it. Do not come to the post office to pick up parcels without first receiving a phone call.

Banking

Further advice on the Commonwealth Bank's services will be provided.

The ATM will remain in operation.

Waste

The Waste Management Centre will be open today 03 April 2020 until 6pm. After 6pm it will remain closed to the general public for the duration of the lock-down period. Please retain your waste at home for the duration of the lockdown, please continue to sort your rubbish as per the Waste Management Centre requirements. Refer to advice provided to those in self-isolation for further guidance via Emergency Management Norfolk Island Facebook page or radio.

Fire ban

Please be aware that a Fire Danger Period has been declared for the whole of Norfolk Island from midnight tonight, 3 April 2020 to midnight 24 April 2020, unless otherwise revised. During this period, all fires of any kind must first be approved by the Chief Fire Control Officer. This has been put in place because we do not want community members burning hazardous and toxic waste. A person who otherwise lights a fire in the open air is guilty of an offence and may be fined up to \$2,000 or be imprisoned for two years, or both.

Policing

Police will not be renewing firearms or driver's licences or be undertaking driving tests for the duration of the lockdown period. They will continue to police criminal matters in the State of Emergency, including the lockdown requirements. Police will be patrolling to ensure the lockdown and other measures are being complied with.

Trades

Trades people who are not deemed to be an essential service may still be contacted to attend essential work, for example for burst pipes, septic overflows, internet outages and electrical issues.

Tradespeople, please contact Police before attending any home in order to register your intention and to have your name and details logged. Police will be patrolling and enforcing these, unapologetically, stringent measures 24/7.

School and day care

Norfolk Island Central School and Banyan Park Playcentre will be closed.

Essential services

The only other persons permitted to leave their residence are those who are providing an essential service. This includes, but is not limited to (at the discretion of the Incident Controller):

- Police and allied law-enforcement officers
- Emergency services including the Fire Service and St John Ambulance
- Council staff who are maintaining essential infrastructure and services, such as electricity, telecommunications, water assurance, and so on
- NIHRACS and Care Norfolk staff and allied health workers
- Border Force and Biosecurity when attending to incoming and outgoing aircraft and vessels
- Service providers of essential services such as gas supply, internet, drinking water, veterinary services
- Tradespeople who have registered first with the Police of their intention to attend a household
- The Office of the Administrator.

THERE WILL BE SEVERE PENALTIES FOR ANYONE BREACHING THIS LOCKDOWN.

Please call the Norfolk Island Police on 22222 for further information.

Further media releases will be made, including to provide clarification on the lockdown measures.

Glenn Elder

Incident Controller

EMNI IMT

3 April 2020