



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 NORFOLK ISLAND UPDATE

As everyone is aware, the island went into lockdown at 10pm on 3 April 2020. The EMNI team made the difficult decision to take this course of action after much discussion and advice from a range of health experts, both here on-island and from Public Health in New South Wales.

EMNI reiterates that the principal reason behind the lockdown is because some people who have recently arrived on the island, and persons visiting isolated people, have not taken the mandatory self-isolation precautions seriously. These precautions have been put in place for the health and safety of the WHOLE Norfolk Island Community.

As you are aware, the island has limited resources to treat COVID-19 patients. Our remoteness limits access to tertiary medical care. Norfolk Island is more vulnerable to an outbreak that could overwhelm our health services, and result in increased mortality. We take these precautions now to save lives.

Likewise, there are currently limited resources to police recent arrivals to ensure they don't breach self-isolation. EMNI relied on, and trusted in, the cooperation and goodwill of individuals. Unfortunately, a small but significant number of individuals broke this trust.

The only practical way to ensure the community's safety is to get everyone off the roads apart from known individuals doing specific tasks. Anyone who is out and about now must have a good reason, so our police can easily identify anyone who is not doing the right thing.

We still do not have a proven positive COVID-19 test on Norfolk Island at this time. EMNI wants to keep it this way for your health and well-being.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the community who has helped us by cooperating so diligently. We understand it is tough. We know it is a hard ask. And we know many of you have made substantial sacrifices in many different ways.

The lockdown will be reviewed on a week-by-week basis. Let's work together; we need to control the spread of this virus and save lives here on Norfolk Island.

If you have any questions, please call the Norfolk Island Police on 22222 for further information, or email the Office of the Administrator, office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au.

Glenn Elder
Incident Controller
EMNI IMT
5 April 2020