



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 HOW LONG WILL LOCKDOWN LAST?

This media release is to help the community understand how long the current lockdown may last and what may affect it.

EMNI is committed to an ongoing review of all lockdown rules, in addition to reviewing the period that lockdown applies, on a weekly basis. Keeping Norfolk Island COVID-19 free is EMNI's primary objective, but we are also conscious of the social and economic impacts of the decisions we have made to protect the community.

As a community, there are a series of milestones we need to achieve in order to allow a relaxation of the lockdown precautions. These are as follows:

- The test results coming back negative on those tested that arrived by plane who presented with cold and flu-like symptoms. These tests have all come back negative and these individuals have now been cleared to return to life in the locked down community. We can therefore tick this one off our list, with the understanding that just because these tests came back negative, it DOES NOT guarantee the island is COVID-19 free. There could still be individuals among us who are carrying the virus but are not showing any symptoms.
- The clearance of a large cohort of passengers who returned to the island BEFORE the more stringent travel rules were put in place for those that had returned from overseas (outside of mainland Australia). This cohort has another week to go in self-isolation and then have to be approved by the medical officers and police before being released into the locked down community arrangements. If any of this group become ill, then their period of self-isolation could possibly be extended, and, so too could the lockdown period. Travellers from overseas are seen as high risk.
- Ensuring all community members are adhering to the lockdown and self-isolation rules in order to prevent any inadvertent spread of COVID-19 by unwitting carriers who are not displaying any symptoms of the disease. If community members are not complying, then this increases the health risk and could result in an extension of the lockdown.

Every time there is a breach it may serve to lengthen the time we need to keep the lockdown rules in place. Breaching the mandatory self-isolation and lockdown rules is an offence. The first breach attracts a \$1000 fine. The second breach will involve the offender being placed in custody.

EMNI understands that everyone is anxious to get back to work and to resume their normally daily routines. If everyone can work together then the sooner we can relax the lockdown precautions and do this.

REMINDER: One person doing the wrong thing could jeopardise the whole community and our way of life. Let's keep Norfolk Island safe!

Please call the Police on 22222 or email office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au for further information.

Glenn Elder
Incident Controller
EMNI IMT
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