



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 REVIEW OF LOCKDOWN RULES AND PRECAUTIONS

EMNI has committed to maintain 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 main priority, which in turn will save lives.

The local Norfolk Island Disaster and Emergency Management legislation and associated plans provide for a strategic oversight committee to support the Incident Controller, Glenn Elder, and the Incident Management Team. This committee, the Emergency Management Team (EMT), met yesterday to review the lockdown provisions. A lockdown of this kind is new for Norfolk Island and EMNI is committed to an ongoing review to ensure it is workable in the Norfolk Island context and most importantly continues to keep the Norfolk Island community safe.

CHANGES TO THE LOCKDOWN RULES

Waste Management

The Waste Management Centre (WMC) will be open during its normal working hours for waste disposal. To avoid the risk of contact and transmission of the virus associated with handing over waste tickets, Norfolk Island Regional Council have advised no fee will be charged for waste. Only one vehicle at a time will be permitted inside the drive-through area of the building. The requirement still stands that no waste from places with people in self-isolation can be delivered to the WMC until 3 days past isolation release.

Construction at NIHRACS

Work at the medical centre will continue. This is essential to ensure that the facility is prepared in the event a positive COVID-19 case is identified.

Airport construction works

The airport is Norfolk Island's lifeline, Council has advised that work on this essential and critical infrastructure must continue. This project involves both Boral and local workers. If any new workers need to come to the Island they will be in isolation for the full 14-days. These workers will adhere to social-distancing restrictions to ensure they do not come into close contact with fellow workers or the community. Those working on this project are doing a good thing for the community and should be supported.

4G construction works

Now more than ever the importance of efficient communications systems is being highlighted. With that in mind, this work must also continue, with the same restrictions as applied to the airport construction workers.

Commonwealth Bank

The Commonwealth Bank will be open normal hours, apart from closing early at 4pm on Fridays, but with restrictions on how many customers can be inside at one time. Only essential banking should be done in person at this time. Please use telephone and internet banking whenever possible.

Fire Ban

As the Waste Management Centre is now open, it has been decided that the fire ban is no longer necessary and can be lifted, effective Tuesday 7 April 2020.

Supermarket and other stores

EMNI is working directly with the stores that are remaining open for essential supplies to establish how many can be in each store at one time. The stores will advertise these numbers individually.

You may travel to the shops by car, truck, motorbike, bicycle or, if you do not have a vehicle, by walking.

EMNI has had requests to open the newsagency in the Foodland Mall and the two hardware stores. EMT is currently assessing the risks associated with allowing this and how to minimise these risks.

Roadside vegetable stalls

For the time being these are not permitted.

Caring for elderly relatives and community members

If you look after an elderly family or community member, please contact the Police to obtain approval and to ensure your details are logged with them. Once you have done this, you may deliver groceries and meals, as long as you maintain social-distancing and do not linger to chat for more than a couple of minutes to check on their wellbeing.

It is important the community understands that EMNI is open to suggestions and is willing to consider changes to the lockdown rules on a case-by-case basis. However, at all times EMNI will and must be guided by the professional advice of health experts to keep this community safe.

Please call the Police on 22222 for further information or contact the Office of the Administrator on 22152 or email office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au to for a suggestion to be considered.

Glenn Elder
Incident Controller
EMNI IMT
6 April 2020