



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 SELF-ISOLATION AND LOCKDOWN UPDATE

EMNI wishes to thank the Norfolk Island community for their cooperation during this difficult time of lockdown.

EMNI has had a number of different requests for exemptions to the lockdown rules. EMNI is committed to working through this with the community by addressing each one and assessing the potential risks of allowing these. The health and wellbeing of the Norfolk Island community is EMNI's chief priority, but the economy and lifestyle of Norfolk Islanders is not forgotten in our decision-making.

Stores

The newsagency in the Foodland Mall and the two hardware stores can now open. The Emergency Management Team (EMT) has assessed the risks associated with allowing these businesses to open and concluded that it is safe to do so with the understanding that they will abide by hygiene and social distancing requirements and each regulate traffic by limiting the number of customers within their establishments at any one time. These restrictions will be discussed with the individual businesses.

Exercise

Walking, running and riding a bicycle from your place of residence is now permitted for exercise purposes. However, driving to the beach or to a place of exercise is not permitted. This is because this presents opportunities for social congregation— a practice EMNI wishes to discourage. You must only exercise with people from your household or by yourself.

Businesses

If you need to undertake the payroll function of your business and you cannot undertake this from home, you may attend the premises to do this. One individual may be nominated to do this task and visit the office for as short a period as possible and return home.

Councillors

Councillors, as our community representatives, will be able to attend necessary meetings, but only in their official capacity. Again social distancing and gathering requirements will be followed.

Family custody arrangements and contact

Family law matters are not overruled by the lockdown period. This means child custody arrangements including pick-ups are exempt from the lockdown restrictions.

For those family arrangements outside family law (i.e. informal arrangements), certain concessions may be made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Incident Controller on 22222 or email glenn.elder@afp.gov.au to discuss.

Fishing

This will be allowed only on a case-by-case basis for commercial fishermen who supply fish to food outlets that are open during the lockdown. Please note, you **MUST** apply to the Police to get approval for this.

PATHWAY FORWARD

EMNI are heavily focussed on the current situation to manage the health risks, but are also looking to a pathway forward once it is determined it is safe to do so. To help the community move in this direction, we need to focus on the following 3 steps:

- 1. Quarantine** -Any person arriving into Norfolk Island will be required to be placed into mandatory quarantine for 14-days in pre-arranged and pre-paid accommodation places (so costs will be covered and not borne by individuals). This is the highest level of restriction and is essential for anyone coming to the island to safeguard the community.
- 2. Self- Isolation** – Where health officials have identified persons who are unwell to self-isolate in their own accommodation and following those rules that have been in place for some time for those in this category.
- 3. Social Distancing** – The details around this are well known by all, and need to be stringently adhered to when people are out and about, especially while we are still in lockdown.

REMINDER: One person doing the wrong thing could jeopardise the health and wellbeing of the whole community. 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 Incident Management Team
8 April 2020