



## Norfolk Island's Response to Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Are there any known cases of COVID-19 on Norfolk Island?**

No, there are no known cases of COVID-19.

#### **What authority are these changes and actions being taken under?**

The Administrator of Norfolk Island declared a State of Emergency for COVID-19 on the recommendation of Emergency Management Norfolk Island. The recommendation and declaration was made in accordance with the *Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2001* (NI), and the Norfolk Island Disaster and Emergency Plan (NORDISPLAN) has been activated.

#### **How long will the declaration of emergency remain in place?**

The State of Emergency and associated travel ban will be in place from 16 March 2020 until 30 June 2020. There is provision under the legislation to allow for an extension of the State of Emergency, or to revoke the declaration. The COVID-19 situation will continue to be monitored closely.

#### **Why has this decision been made?**

The decision has been made to protect the Norfolk Island community through a number of measures including a travel ban. Norfolk Island's community is much older on average than the population of mainland Australia, with a high percentage of the population in the elderly demographic. Persons over 60 years of age, particularly the elderly, are at most risk of serious illness from the virus, together with the immunosuppressed and those with chronic health conditions.

#### **What is the Norfolk Island Lockdown?**

For the health and safety of the Norfolk Island community a localised lockdown from 10pm 3 April 2020 has been implemented, to be reviewed on a week-by-week basis. The lockdown will not impact air services or sea freight.

All persons are confined to their residence and its grounds. Wherever a person was at 10pm on 3 April 2020 is where they are required to remain for the duration of the lockdown period with certain exemptions.

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
- Newsagency
- Hardware stores
- Nurseries

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.

For more information on the lockdown and exemptions, please see inserted media release from 09 April 2020.

### **What are the requirements of the current travel ban?**

Only those who ordinarily reside on Norfolk Island undertaking essential travel will be able to travel to Norfolk Island during the travel ban. Essential travel includes medical and compassionate. Anyone returning to the island will need to self-isolate for 14 days on your own. This means you cannot isolate with others (including family), unless they also travelled with you. If this poses logistical issues for you, please discuss with the Welfare Functional Services Coordinator on 50855.

Exemptions from the travel ban include: those needing to travel for medical or compassionate reasons and emergency services personnel. Emergency services personnel include doctors, nurses and other required emergency services personnel as determined by need by the IMT. Medical evacuation flights are exempt from travel restrictions.

All travel must be approved, email [glenn.elder@afp.gov.au](mailto:glenn.elder@afp.gov.au).

### **What will the flight schedules in and out of Norfolk Island be into the future?**

Air New Zealand flights will continue but at reduced frequency.

From Monday 30 March 2020, Air New Zealand will be scheduling return flights to the island as follows:

- Mondays - Sydney to Norfolk Island return
- Saturdays - Brisbane to Norfolk Island return.

This schedule will continue until further notice. If you have any queries about incoming and outgoing flights, please contact Burnt Pine Travel on [travel@burntpinetravel.nf](mailto:travel@burntpinetravel.nf) or phone +6723 22195.

Air Chathams last flight to Norfolk Island was on 20 March 2020. They have suspended flights after this date and await further updates and information on travel restrictions and self-isolation periods.

### **Do I have to self-isolate if I travel to mainland Australia from Norfolk Island?**

All non-essential travel from Norfolk Island should not occur.

Self-isolation requirements when travelling to the mainland do change. Please contact Border Force on +6723 22900 for the latest information.

### **What happens if I am trying to get home to Norfolk Island, including if I have been overseas (outside of Australia)?**

Email [glenn.elder@afp.gov.au](mailto:glenn.elder@afp.gov.au) as soon as possible to have your travel to Norfolk Island approved.

When you arrive in mainland Australia from an overseas destination you will self-isolate in a pre-arranged hotel for 14-days in your Australian port of arrival. Once you arrive on Norfolk Island, you will then begin your Norfolk Island 14-day self-isolation requirement.

### **Is there assistance for people that are required to be in mandatory self-isolation?**

Yes there is support for these persons if required. Contact the Welfare Functional Services Coordinator on [sharyn.menzies@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:sharyn.menzies@nirc.gov.nf) or +6723 50855.

### **What if I work in, or deliver goods to houses on Norfolk Island?**

If you work in people's homes for an essential service, as deemed by the lockdown requirements, (e.g. aged care, allied health, water deliveries, etc) it is imperative that you call ahead to ensure the person isn't in self-isolation or voluntarily self-isolating.

If you are delivering goods to a person who is in self-isolation leave the goods at the person's door.

If you provide a service to a person's home or grounds that is permitted during the lockdown, check with them if they are in self-isolation, if they are, the service cannot occur until their mandatory isolation has completed.

If a person has decided to put themselves into voluntary isolation, check with them if they would like the service to continue.

The Norfolk Island lockdown restricts non-essential movement with the exceptions of the exemptions listed on the 09 April 2020 media release.

### **Are there fines if I do not self-isolate or adhere to the lockdown restrictions on Norfolk Island?**

Yes, heavy fines and enforceable containment/custody may be imposed on you if you do not comply with requirements. It is important to comply with the self-isolation and lockdown requirements to protect the Norfolk Island community.

### **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other colds and flus and include:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Difficulty breathing

While coronavirus is of concern, it is important to remember that most people displaying these symptoms are likely suffering with a cold or other respiratory illness – not coronavirus.

### **What do I do if I get sick?**

If you develop symptoms (fever, a cough, sore throat, tiredness and/or shortness of breath) following your return to Norfolk Island, you should make a telephone call to Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS) for an urgent assessment over the telephone. A doctor or nurse will advise you of next steps. Follow their instructions. DO NOT present to the GP clinic. In an emergency call 000.

### **Where can I get further information?**

Please contact the Office of the Administrator on 22152 or email [office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au). For out of hours' assistance call the NIPF on 22222.

For the latest advice, information and resources, go to [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

EMNI Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Emergency-Management-Norfolk-Island-EMNI-101701221466699>

Call the National Coronavirus Help Line on 1800 020 080. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Administrator's Media Releases:

[https://www.regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk\\_island/administrator/media/2020/index.aspx](https://www.regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk_island/administrator/media/2020/index.aspx):

NIPF Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkIslandPolice/>

Council Website: [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf)