



EMNI - MEDIA RELEASE

29 May 2020

BUSINESS MEETINGS & FEEDBACK

The Emergency Management Team (EMT) recently facilitated three meetings 'Moving Tourism Businesses forward through COVID-19' to discuss how businesses with high visitor contact might best prepare themselves to deal with reducing the potential for any virus transmission when the island is open to visitors again. Businesses who were identified as having aspects of their business that involve high visitor contact were invited to attend and were divided into three categories so that similar issues were discussed amongst each group.

- Tour Operators & Cruise Ship Operations
- Clubs, Bars, Cafes & Restaurants
- Large Accommodations with group travel & Airport staff

EMT would like to thank the excellent attendance from the business owners, and the helpful feedback they provided at the meeting and via emails. The feedback is now being considered by the EMT and will assist the planning that is currently being undertaken for allowing visitation again to the island.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A COVIDSAFE PLAN?

COVID-19 will be with us for some time, so it is important that businesses have a plan to keep their workforce safe and virus free. Businesses need to develop safe work practices and consider how they can reconfigure their operations to adapt to any ongoing restrictions. In the case of Norfolk Island when we reopen for visitors there will be an expectation from visitors that they are being protected with respect to businesses being COVID-19 safe. All Australian Governments have agreed to a set of National COVID-19 Safe Work Principles to guide and ensure that our workplaces are healthy and safe.

There are a number of important work health and safety laws, obligations and duties your business needs to comply with. It's important you carefully review the guidance on the Safe Work Australia website to understand your obligations and ensure your business is properly prepared. What needs to be done to meet your work health and safety obligations will depend on your business's individual circumstances – these will have changed because of COVID-19.

Safe Work Australia

Fact Sheets, Checklists & Infographics for safe work places

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/collection/covid-19-resource-kit>

COVID-19 Information for workplaces

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces>

National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC)

My business's COVIDSafe Plan

<https://pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/my-business-covidsafe-plan.pdf>

Have a COVIDSafe Plan – Checklist for businesses

<https://pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/covid-19-business-checklist-nccc.pdf>



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WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

The model Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws require you to take care of the health, safety and welfare of your workers, including yourself and other staff, contractors and volunteers, and others (clients, customers, visitors) at your workplace.

This includes:

- providing and maintaining a work environment that is without risk to health and safety
- providing adequate and accessible facilities for the welfare of workers to carry out their work, and
- monitoring the health of workers and the conditions of the workplace for the purpose of preventing illness or injury.

You must do what you can to ensure the health and safety of your workers. You must eliminate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 if reasonably practicable. If you are not able to eliminate the risk of exposure to COVID-19, you must minimise that risk, as far as is reasonably practicable.

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/general-industry-information/duties-under-whs>

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

In addition to workplace social distancing, adequate cleaning, and good hygiene practices, it is essential for employers to provide workers with any information, training, or PPE that is necessary to protect them from the risk of exposure to COVID-19 arising from their work. This may include training workers in how to fit and use any necessary personal protective equipment (PPE).

It is the responsibility of the employer to secure adequate supply of PPE for their workplace. Several Norfolk Island businesses stock PPE supplies such as hand sanitiser, gloves, disinfectant, masks, bleach, and antibacterial wipes. NI Stockfeeds, Foodland, NI Building Supplies, Christian Bailey Agencies, Pharmacy in the Mall, Norfolk Bath & Body and the Trading Post all have various PPE supplies. If the PPE product you require is not available locally you could purchase from Australian suppliers but make sure you allow sufficient time for the goods to be delivered.

Detective Sergeant David Perry
IMT Incident Controller