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5 June 2020

RESIDENTS RETURNING TO NORFOLK ISLAND – CHANGE IN PROTOCOL

From Saturday 13 June 2020, residents returning to Norfolk Island will not be required to quarantine, however, a new protocol will apply. Returning residents must comply with the requirements outlined below for a period of 14 days following their return to the island. Failure to comply with the requirements may result in mandatory quarantine for a 14-day period.

Requirements for 14 days following the date of residents returning to Norfolk Island

Residents returning will be:

- Required to wear a face mask (user to provide) through the Norfolk Island International Airport and must travel in their own vehicle from the airport to their residence
- Required to wear a face mask (user to provide) when in public
- Encouraged to work from home where possible and limit face-to-face meetings. Any meetings must observe physical distancing requirements
- Required to avoid non-essential gatherings. Essential gatherings will be limited to household plus two people. Contact with elderly, and high-risk members of the community should be avoided
- Required each day to complete a *Returning Resident Contact Record* list of people they have been in close contact with (for 15 minutes or longer)
- Required to take their own temperature each day and complete the *NIHRACS symptoms sheet* and report any symptoms immediately to NIHRACS
- Expected to follow the COVIDSafe steps of frequent handwashing, and physical distancing
- Encouraged to download the COVIDSafe app (proposed to be Norfolk Island compatible from 17 June 2020).

Essential Personnel

Essential personnel intending on travelling to Norfolk Island are required to submit a work plan proposal to the Incident Controller IO-Norfolk-Island@afp.gov.au. If approved, the plan will need to be adhered to, and additionally essential personnel will be required to follow the same 14 day protocol as residents returning.

Please note that these requirements may be subject to change or modification.

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, physical distancing is essential and is an integral part of the 'new normal'. To enable businesses to remain operating when our border opens, we need to ensure the risk to business staff and clients is minimal. Protocols implemented now will reduce risk and may save lives when our borders open and the risk increases.

While the current threat of spread on the island is very low, when we reopen to visitors, the risk will be higher and ongoing, so as a community, we need to ensure the basic control measure of physical distancing becomes second nature by putting it in practice now. It is important that every



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person and every business practises physical distancing and good hygiene consistently. COVID-19 is not going to go away in a few months and it may be several years until a vaccine is developed. We all want to avoid the uncertainty and disruption of restrictions being off and on again, including the further health, economic and social impacts which would result from this.

How do we protect ourselves and our family in public places?

- Avoid crowds and large public gatherings – if you see a crowded space, do not enter.
- Limit one parent to attend sporting activities with children, and stay in the car to watch the sport where possible.
- Practise extra care in public places such as supermarkets (wash hands, sanitise, don't touch your face, social distance).
- Avoid physical greetings such as hugging, handshaking and kissing.
- Use tap-and-go instead of cash where possible.
- Stay at home if you have any cold or flu symptoms and phone NIHRACS.

Detective Sergeant David Perry
IMT Incident Controller