



COVID-19 Coronavirus Management

ALC Message

The ALC are continuing to assess the risks of the spread of Coronavirus on Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island. The Health and Safety of our staff and the communities of our Traditional Owners are paramount.

The ALC's view is that the COVID-19 situation is manageable on the Groote Archipelago. In fact, the ALC and all key stakeholders are in a strong position to protect both staff and community members from infection.

Over the past week, the ALC has been working with NT Health to procure supplies of hand sanitiser, face masks and other items to enhance hygiene on Eylandt and testing regimes for workers coming into the community. The ALC will make such supplies available to other organisations on the Archipelago and to community members. Due to limited supply available nation-wide, face masks will not be made available unless a case of COVID-19 does present on the Archipelago.

The ALC wishes to emphasise the following key messages:

- 1. The Groote Archipelago's isolation is its greatest asset. Worldwide the virus is spreading rapidly because people are living close together in cities. **"Home is safe and Fortress Groote!"***
- 2. There are currently no infections of COVID-19 in the Northern Territory apart from one individual currently in isolation as of today.*
- 3. South32 charter flights have a high degree of security over FIFO workers and are actively minimizing their contact with community. Similar precautions have been adopted by GEBIE, Aminjarrinja and other FIFO workforces.*
- 4. The ALC has been engaging with all other routes of potential transport-borne contamination via other air services (including Airnorth, ChartAir and other light aircraft) and Seaswift ferry services to ensure precautions are put in place.*
- 5. The ALC radio service will be a key communication and education tool to manage key messages and to address community concern and potential misinformation (distribution of radios to all households will begin tomorrow).*
- 6. The ALC Community Support Program offices in each of the three communities will provide a key portal for a continuation of all essential services and supports to assist the community in their continued daily lives.*
- 7. The ALC Preserving Culture Programs will be maintained as long as it is safe to do so.*



The ALC recommends all organisations and service providers across the Groote Archipelago adopt the following precautions:

1. Staff must NOT present to work if any cold or flu like symptoms are present. This compromises everyone's health and safety. You should seek medical advice and remain isolated at home, until the flu like symptoms have cleared. This extends to attending all social gatherings outside of business hours to prevent infecting others.
2. All staff living in community should be encouraged to stay in Community and continue to work as normal. In particular, we request those staff living in Community to minimise any non-essential contact with people living in Alyangula, and avoid social gatherings in Alyangula (including at the Golf Club, Resort and ARC).
3. Services should continue to be provided in a safe, careful and measured way. The ALC Community Support Program will continue to operate at this time. We request other critical services such as the stores, health workers, education programs and community hubs such as the GEAT building continue to operate as normal.
4. Where possible, please limit movement between Alyangula and our Aboriginal Communities. We recommend organisations take the following measures to try and limit contact between FIFO workers and Aboriginal Communities:
 - a. Invest in planning and communication, seek alternatives to face to face meetings (ie telephone, Facetime, Zoom).
 - b. Wherever possible, train Anindilyakwa staff to perform key roles in Community.
5. We request all non-essential travel to/from Groote Eylandt is cancelled. The ALC considers non-essential travel to be travel that will not impact on the operations of organisations and service providers on the Groote Archipelago.

In conclusion, we are embarking on a measured, calm and systematic approach based on a position of strength. As far as possible, we are committed to the continuity of programs and other essential services.

Regards

Mark Hewitt

CEO

Anindilyakwa Land Council