

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

COVID-19 Update: Lockdown restrictions in place

16 August 2021

This morning, the Security and Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) made the decision under the Northern Territory pandemic plan to lock down part of the NT community.

Effective from 12.01pm today, the below areas will enter a full lockdown for 72 hours:

City of Darwin
City of Palmerston
Litchfield Council
Wagait Shire
Belyuen Shire
Dundee
Bynoe
Charlotte
Cox Peninsula
Municipality of Katherine including Tindal

The lockdown follows confirmation of a COVID-19 positive case last night of a man in his 30's who had relocated to the Territory for work. The man is currently isolating in Katherine and will be transferred to the Centre for National Resilience today.

As an international arrival, he completed 14-days quarantine in Sydney on 12 August 2021 and returned multiple negative test results, the last one on the 10 August 2021. He transited from Sydney to Darwin via Canberra on Thursday (12 August 2021).

He landed in Darwin at approximately midnight Thursday night-Friday morning (12-13 August 2021) and drove to Katherine on Sunday afternoon after having his mandatory three-day post quarantine test at the RDH Pandemic clinic.

This test subsequently returned a positive last night. This man is asymptomatic and it is not known where he contracted COVID-19 or what strain it is.

The man visited various locations in the Darwin CBD and Katherine for limited periods of time. The exposure site locations are available at coronavirus.nt.gov.au

From 12:01pm today, residents from affected areas must stay at home for the 72 hour lockdown period and people are only permitted to leave home for the following five reasons:

1. Medical treatment, including COVID testing or vaccination
2. For essential goods and services, like groceries and medications
3. For work that is considered essential
4. For one hour of outdoor exercise a day within 5 km from your home with one other person or people from your house
5. To provide care and support to a family member or person who cannot support themselves.

Schools in affected areas will remain open only for the children of essential workers.

For everyone in the lockdown area, masks must be worn if you leave your place of residence for one of these five reasons.

Your place of residence is where you live right now.

Anyone caught breaching today's directions – including not wearing a mask – faces a \$5,000 fine.

Police will be establishing interception points to control travel in and out of these regions.

Territorians in the lockdown areas should not travel – including out of the Territory – unless it is for one of the five reasons.

Non-Territorians are permitted to leave the Territory.

Quotes attributable to NT Chief Health Officer Dr Hugh Heggie:

“This is a significant COVID-19 event for the Northern Territory. We know that taking short, sharp action is the most effective way to stop the spread of COVID-19.

“To protect our NT community, Greater Darwin and Katherine will enter into a 72-hour day lockdown effective at noon today.

“Our contact tracers are working around the clock to identify public exposure sites and close contacts. We will continue to keep Territorians informed as more information comes to hand.

“We've been here before and we know what we have to do to beat this. I thank Territorians for doing the right thing.

“There are only five reasons to leave home and one of them is to get the COVID-19 vaccine. I encourage everyone to get the vaccine as soon as you can. Appointments are available.”

If you have symptoms regardless of where you are living, you are urged to get tested, and stay isolated until you receive a negative result.

For more information visit coronavirus.nt.gov.au or call the COVID Hotline on 1800 490 484