

[From Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet Office, 13th January 2022]

There have now been a total of 21 positive cases of COVID-19 on Groote Eylandt. All cases are safely isolating at home or being supported to isolate by their employer. There is currently no evidence of community transmission on Groote Eylandt.

VACCINATION ROLLOUT 5-11 YEAR OLDS

Children aged 5-11 years are now eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine within the Northern Territory. The vaccination roll out of 5-11 year olds for the Groote Archipelago will commence on 17 January 2022.

The following vaccination roll-out options will be available:

- Home visits by Health Clinic staff for Umbakumba and Angurugu communities;
- Walk-ins are welcome at Umbakumba and Angurugu Health Clinics;
- Bookings can be made at the Alyangula Health Clinic - 8987 6255;
- Child Health Nurses will be vaccinating children at Angurugu School at the commencement of Term 1;
- ALC will host BBQs and Hotdog days to support the vaccination roll-out for this cohort.

NOTE: A parent or legal guardian will be asked to provide consent prior to each child being vaccinated.

REPORTING RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

There are many reasons that you might take a Rapid Antigen Test.

There are currently four reasons why you might need to declare the results of your Rapid Antigen Test:

1. As a condition of entry to the Northern Territory
2. Prior to travelling to an exclusion zone/excluded community (see further detail on this in the email, attached)
3. As a requirement to complete isolation
4. To notify of a positive result (regardless of whether you took the test for one of the above reasons, you are required to notify of a positive Rapid Antigen Test result).

Rapid Antigen Test [declarations can be lodged online](#).

If your Rapid Antigen Test is positive, you should:

- Isolate immediately.
- Let members of your household and any close contacts know that you have received a positive test result. They should also be tested for COVID-19 using a Rapid Antigen Test.
- Review [instructions for what to do if you are COVID-19 positive](#).

CLOSE CONTACTS

The definition of what a close contact is, and what is required for them to isolate, has changed.

A person is considered a close contact if:

- They reside in the same household /premises as a COVID-19 positive person
- Have spent 4 hours or more indoors with a COVID-19 positive person while that person was infectious over a 24-hour period.

Close contacts in isolation who are [essential workers](#) may leave isolation to perform their essential work if they:

- Have no COVID-19 symptoms (and continue to monitor for symptoms), and
- Are fully vaccinated, having had at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, and

- Are required to attend their place of employment to perform their essential work (i.e. if a person can work from home they should do so), and
- Have a Rapid Antigen Test each day before attending work, and the result of the test is negative, and
- Wear a mask and stay 1.5m away from other people while outside their place of isolation.

This change for essential workers does not mean that a person who is an essential workers and becomes a close contact is required to leave isolation and go to work, but they may choose to.

WEAR MASKS

A reminder that the Territory-wide mask mandate is in place. It is a requirement that all people across the Northern Territory wear masks whenever they are inside unless they are eating, drinking or 1.5m away from others.

Everyone must wear a mask while inside any premises, vehicle or vessel where they cannot maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from other people. This includes pubs, clubs, restaurants, shopping centres, hairdressers, workplaces, public transport and taxi cabs.

Everyone is also strongly encouraged to wear a mask when they are outside if they cannot physically distance.

[More information about masks](#) is available online.

CHECK-IN

Use the Territory Check-In app every time, everywhere. This will be a vital way of contacting you if you have been to an exposure site.

WHERE TO GET VACCINATED

The clinics in Alyangula, Umbakumba and Angurugu are open and vaccinating during business hours, this includes booster shots.

If you are 18 years and over and it has been 4 months since receiving your second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine you are now eligible to receive your booster shot. The interval has been reduced from five months.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and recommended by ATAGI as a COVID-19 booster dose. You can have the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as a booster dose regardless of which vaccine you had for your first 2 doses.

You are encouraged to book in your booster dose as soon as you are eligible to decrease your risk of getting seriously ill, going to the hospital or transmitting the virus. It is important that every gets vaccinated.

The Alyangula clinic requires you to book an appointment via phone on 89876255 and the Angurugu and Umbakumba clinics have capacity to support walk in appointments.

GET TESTED

On Groote, [contact](#) the Alyangula, Angurugu or Umbakumba Clinics during business hours to arrange testing.

Regards,

Melissa Muller

Regional Development Officer – Anindilyakwa Region
Regional Network
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Northern Territory Government