

**Subject:** COVID planning- for positive cases

**Date:** 7th July 2020

A meeting was held on 6th July 2020 with the ALC and GEESC. GEESC is the Groote Eylandt Executive Steering Committee – made up of DCM, NIAA, GEMCO, Territory Families, Police and ALC.

**Outcome:**

*The NTG are providing a comprehensive community comms plan with respect to Contain & Test strategy. They have asked that the ALC work together with them to get that messaging out, so there is consistency and no confusion.*

*The ALC is working with the police and NTG Health to bolster the local pandemic plan to include Contain & Test. This will include scenario planning specific to Groote.*

*They are planning to have a few meetings to work through those various scenarios.*

**The Contain & Test strategy follows principles.**

**What the strategy will look like on Groote is to be confirmed ASAP before the border control lift and is being worked on now.**

It must be non-discriminatory, strictly necessary, time-limited, evidence-based, and proportionate to the risk (that is, using the least restrictive measures necessary to protect the community).

A 'contain and test' strategy must therefore only be implemented:

- to deal with a specific communicable disease emergency that poses a direct and immediate threat to the health and well-being of Aboriginal communities (i.e. where there is an initial or suspected case of COVID-19 in a remote Aboriginal community);
- in a strictly defined location, such as a discrete remote Aboriginal community;
- for a strictly defined period, with extensions only granted on the explicit recommendation of public health expertise including advice from Aboriginal health organisations;
- on a non-discriminatory basis, applying to all residents in a community, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
- only in regions where there is the significant support of Land Councils and Aboriginal community controlled health services, noting that the urgency of implementation may make the approval of all local-level community organisations impossible

In addition, implementation of a 'contain and test' strategy will need to be guided by the principles identified in the Management Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Populations as developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID-19 and endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) [2], namely:

- Shared decision-making between Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Community control
- Cultural safety across the whole-of-population system
- Data and evidence

Final information will be issued from the ALC.