

Groote Archipelago COVID-19 ADVICE #18 – 14 July 2020

Hi All

Please see below for an update of key COVID-19 information and how it relates to Groote Eylandt. Thanks to everyone for your continued efforts in keeping Groote Eylandt safe. Please be aware that this email advice is based on the most up-to-date information but the situation is rapidly changing. Further advice will be provided as required. Continue to check <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

Territory Situation Update – New Cases

Please be aware that the NT has recorded its first cases in a month, an overseas traveller who completed quarantine in Victoria before spending time in Melbourne and travelling to Darwin, and a US Marine. Both cases had been in isolation prior to testing positive and the risk to the community is believed to be low. The patients are in good condition in isolation in Royal Darwin Hospital.

Please be aware these two cases are the only known active cases in the NT and there continues to remain zero known cases of COVID-19 in the Groote Archipelago.

17,028 tests have now been conducted in the NT.

Please continue to check <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/current-status> for up to date NT data.

CHANGES TO INTERSTATE ARRIVAL ARRANGEMENTS

Below are changes to interstate arrival due to begin on 17 July 2020. This is a constantly changing situation and further updates will be provided as necessary.

What are the arrangements up until 17 July 2020?

Anyone travelling into the Northern Territory from interstate up to and including 16 July 2020 must complete mandatory self-quarantine.

What is mandatory self-quarantine?

Self-quarantine is when people undertake a 14 day quarantine period in their own home, in private accommodation, or in appropriate commercial accommodation at their own cost.

For further details, see the [Self-quarantine Guidelines](#).

Are there any restrictions on where people can self-quarantine?

Yes. In the East Arnhem region (including Groote Eylandt), the only place interstate travellers may quarantine is the town of Nhulunbuy unless they have an exemption from the Chief Health Officer.

Other places within the Territory where travellers may undertake self-quarantine include Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield (except Litchfield National Park and Dundee Beach), Katherine, Tenant Creek and Alice Springs.

What forms do people need to complete if they are entering the Territory?

Anyone entering the Northern Territory must complete a [pre-arrival border crossing application](#), which can be done online in around 10 minutes.

Is it possible to be exempt from mandatory self-quarantine?

A person may [apply for an exemption self-quarantine](#) if they are in an [exempt category](#). Please note that these applications can take some weeks to process.

No exemptions will be issued for people travelling from hotspots. All exemptions from self-quarantine for people who have travelled from hotspots have been revoked. People intending to travel to the Territory from a hotspot are strongly urged to reconsider their plans.

What are the arrangements after 17 July 2020?

On 17 July, the Territory will lift interstate border restrictions, however restrictions will still apply to people travelling from areas declared as [‘hotspots’](#) – they will be required to complete mandatory supervised quarantine at their own cost of \$2,500.

What is a ‘hotspot’?

To prevent people who have travelled from high risk areas entering the Northern Territory, the Chief Health Officer can declare the area a hotspot. As at 8 July 2020, the entire State of Victoria has been declared as a hotspot, and will remain so indefinitely.

Other areas might be declared to as [hotspots](#) in the future. The Chief Health Officer is currently monitoring the situation in NSW and the ACT closely. Further updates will be provided as required.

What will people travelling from hotspots need to do from 17 July?

People intending to travel to the Territory from a hotspot are strongly urged to reconsider their plans.

If people from a hotspot do enter the Northern Territory, they will need to complete 14 days of mandatory supervised quarantine at their own expense.

What is mandatory supervised quarantine?

Mandatory supervised quarantine will be at the Howard Springs quarantine facility, or another approved facility elsewhere in the Northern Territory. People in mandatory supervised quarantine will be charged a fee of \$2,500 per person.

People in supervised quarantine will be subject to testing before exiting quarantine. If they refuse a test, they will be required to quarantine for a further 10 days (at an extra cost).

What forms will people need to complete if they are entering the Territory from 17 July?

Regardless of where they are coming from – even if they are not coming from a hotspot – everyone entering the Northern Territory must complete a [pre-arrival border crossing application](#), which may be done online in around 10 minutes.

Can anyone be exempt from mandatory supervised quarantine?

No. There is no process to apply for an exemption from mandatory supervised quarantine for people travelling from hotspots.

More Information

More information is available at coronavirus.nt.gov.au, www.secureNT.nt.gov.au, www.health.gov.au and anindilyakwasafe.net

This is a continually evolving situation and I thank you all for continuing to stay informed and taking the necessary steps to keep the Groote Archipelago safe. As always, if you would like to discuss anything further please contact me on 0438 304 647.

Regards

Jesse Fatnowna

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Remote Travel Hotline 1800-518-189

Coronavirus Hotline 1800-020-080

NT Police Compliance Number 131-444