

## Groote Eylandt Local Emergency Management Committee COVID-19 ADVICE 3: 25 March 2020

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**Date:** 25 March 2020 at 14:54:09 ACST

**To:** Groote Eylandt <[GrooteEylandt@alcnt.com.au](mailto:GrooteEylandt@alcnt.com.au)>

**Subject:** Groote Eylandt Local Emergency Management Committee COVID-19 ADVICE 3: 25 March 2020

Hi All

While there are currently no known cases of COVID-19 on the Groote Archipelago, you may be aware that several people have been tested as a precaution and have been following isolation protocols at the advice of health practitioners.

You may have heard a conjecture this morning that Groote Eylandt has confirmed cases of COVID-19. This is not correct. As at 25 March 2020 there are still six cases of COVID-19 in the NT, all cases are in Darwin and involve recent overseas or interstate travel.

I would like to clarify two particular incidences that I have received numerous calls about today.

### Resident 1

I can confirm that there is an Alyangula resident who recently returned from interstate in self-isolation with their child, as both are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Both are expected to be tested for COVID-19 later today as a precaution. They are not believed to have had contact with any known cases of COVID-19. The remainder of their family is being monitored for symptoms.

### Resident 2

I also can confirm that as a precaution, a separate person is in self-isolation in Alyangula due being on the same commercial flight as a confirmed COVID-19 case last Friday. It is not believed that this person had close contact with a known COVID-19 case. This does not mean that they are a suspected case and they are not currently showing symptoms.

The resident's family has been in contact with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Unit who has advised the following:

- *CDC have completed contact tracing from the flight in question.*
- *The Alyangula resident is low risk, as they were unlikely to be exposed via 'close contact' due to not sitting in close proximity to a confirmed case.*
- *CDC recommends self-monitoring and isolation of the person for 14 days.*
- *There is no requirement for family to go into self-isolation unless the person develops symptoms (however the family may choose to self-isolate as a precaution).*
- *At the moment the person does not meet the criteria to be tested, as they are unlikely to return a positive test without showing symptoms.*
- *The current criteria for testing is a person showing symptoms that has either returned from overseas or interstate in the last 14 days or has had close contact with a known case of COVID-19.*
- *Current advice suggests that there is no need for anyone who has had contact with the family to self-isolate at this stage but all Groote Eylandt residents should continue to observe all hygiene and social-distancing directions.*

### Other Information

I can also confirm that despite opening late today as a precaution, Angurugu School (and all Groote Eylandt Schools) remain open. As per the Chief Minister's recent advice parents may choose to keep their children at home if they wish.

Groote Eylandt residents will be notified immediately (via these emails, Facebook and local radio stations) if there are any confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Groote Eylandt.

I ask you all to continue to be vigilant in practicing good hygiene and social distancing measures during this difficult time. For more information on social distancing, self-isolation, good health practices and relevant contact numbers please visit [coronavirus.nt.gov.au](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au), [securent.nt.gov.au](https://securent.nt.gov.au) or [health.gov.au](https://health.gov.au).

As always, please feel free to contact Regional Director – Groote Eylandt Jesse Fatnowna on 0439 304 647 with any communications questions. We will issue a more detailed status update of the broader situation later this afternoon.

**Jesse Fatnowna**

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