

MEASURES TO PREVENT COVID-19 FROM ENTERING THE EAST ARNHEM REGION

Travel Restrictions

Residents of Northern Territory remote communities - including approved essential workers - are strongly urged to stay in their community. If you do need to travel outside the East Arnhem region, you should be aware of the travel restrictions outlined [here](#).

East Arnhem designated biosecurity area

People cannot enter the East Arnhem designated biosecurity area except in the following circumstances:

- they can demonstrate they are an approved [remote essential worker](#) and meet certain health and safety requirements
- they are a resident of the designated area, and can provide evidence that they have quarantined for 14 days (within the NT) **before** entering the designated biosecurity area (regardless of whether they travel by air or road or sea), or
- they have an exemption from an authorised person and can provide evidence of that exemption at the checkpoint to enter the area.

How do I prove that I have quarantined for 14 days prior to entering East Arnhem?

If you are a resident who is not a remote essential worker, you will be required to complete a [designated area compliance form](#), outlining your planned social distancing measures and attaching evidence of your quarantine.

We have sought guidance about the nature of the evidence required of your quarantine. We will provide updates to you as soon as we are able to.

Forced quarantine for interstate arrivals

From 11:59pm on 3 April, if you are [arriving into the Northern Territory from interstate](#) (for example, flying from Cairns to Gove), you will be taken to forced quarantine for 14 days and be required to pay a quarantine fee. The fee is \$2,500 for individuals and \$5,000 for families sharing accommodation.

The quarantine fee will not apply to those who have a travel exemption provided by the Chief Health Officer. You may [apply for an exemption](#) from forced quarantine for interstate travel if your work includes:

- national and Northern Territory security and governance
- health and emergency services
- transport, freight and logistics
- defence and policing
- flight crews and freight – with strict guidelines in place to monitor and manage this
- specialist skills that are critical to maintaining key government services, industries or businesses.
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We have been advised that applications for exemptions from the Chief Health Officer should be sent to doh.pcc@nt.gov.au, and may take around 24-48 hours to process.

What if I am interstate for medical treatment?

If individuals are currently interstate for medical treatment and accessing the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) they will need to complete the application for exemption form but may also wish to [contact PATS for further advice](#).

As at 6 April 2020

What steps are being taken to ensure that arrivals are complying with self-quarantine requirements?

At our last update from NT Police on Thursday 2 April, Police advised they had been conducting compliance checks on all people required to self-quarantine and were pleased to report 100% compliance. We know this is a difficult requirement and the Nhulunbuy Local Emergency Management Committee's Welfare Group is contacting all those people to ensure their wellbeing. We would like to thank all those people who are complying with quarantine requirements and those involved in support them to do so.

Compliance with quarantine is important. Call NT police [131 444](tel:131444) to report someone who is not complying with quarantine or self-isolation requirements.

ACTIONS BEING TAKEN NOW SO WE CAN CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IF IT DOES ARRIVE

Local screening facilities

Gove Pandemic Clinic and remote community Respiratory Clinics

The Gove District Hospital Pandemic Clinic is now open to facilitate screening for COVID-19 locally. Respiratory Clinics in remote communities right across the region are also ready to assist with this strategy.

Even though there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in East Arnhem currently, Miwatj, Marthakal, and Laynhapuy health services and Top End Health Services aim to ensure that we can detect the virus quickly if it gets to the region in order to contain it.

Please do not go directly to the Gove Pandemic Clinic or your local clinic for screening – you should phone first to make have an appointment.

Specific testing criteria are regularly adapted based on the staging of the pandemic and are based on the recommendations from CDC (Centre for Disease Control).

At present, testing is mainly required if:

- you have returned from overseas in the past 14 days and you become unwell with flu-like symptoms.
- you have return from Interstate in the last 14 days and you have become unwell with flu like symptoms.
- you have been in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19 disease AND you become unwell.

If you think you meet these criteria, or if you are still concerned, please contact 0476 828 005 (Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 3.30pm) to book an appointment and to receive further instructions for testing.

For all after Hours call the national advice hotline on 1800 020 080.

Airport wellbeing and temperature screening

In a cooperative initiative, the Nhulunbuy Corporation, local health services and Northern Territory Police are meeting each passenger arriving at the Gove airport to conduct a wellness check, including temperature testing. This initiatives helps health services to identify people who might be referred to self-isolate based on risk factors and vulnerability, as well as provide clear advice to all those arriving to the East Arnhem region about their obligations regarding social distancing (regardless of whether or not they are an essential worker).

Restrictions to support social distancing practices

Additional closures

From 5pm on 2 April 2020, further directions from the Chief Health Officer came into force across the Northern Territory. As a result, some further local sport and recreational facilities have closed, including a number of Dhimurru recreation areas. You can read more about the closure of Dhimurru recreation areas [here](#) or contact their office on 08 8939 2700 for more information.

Social distancing requirements

We understand that there is some confusion about the current social distancing requirements, particularly regarding [gatherings](#) and funerals.

Northern Territory Police are currently enforcing a limit on gatherings to 10 people. However, experts have advised that gatherings outdoors should be limited to 2 people, except for your family. Territorians are encouraged to follow this advice.

We also understand that there are deep concerns about throughout the region about limiting significant gatherings such as funerals to 10 people. While we appreciate this concern, this limit will continue to be applied in the interests of safety for all people throughout East Arnhem.

CRITICAL GOODS AND SERVICES

The NT Department of Trade, Business and Innovation staff in Nhulunbuy are monitoring closely critical goods like food, essential services and transport services to ensure the East Arnhem region are maintained. At present supermarket and community store stocks levels are generally good however it's important not to panic buy or hoard goods so that all people in the region can access the things they need when they need them.

Latest flight information

Continuing the supply of essential goods and services will ensure the protection and support of our communities under these trying circumstances. The Northern Territory Government is supporting aviation companies to provide Scheduled Essential Air Services for the delivery of critical freight and essential personnel to Northern Territory remote communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. A list of Scheduled Essential Air Services can be found [here](#) for your reference but please ensure you check with your airline to confirm travel schedules.

MORE INFORMATION

Further public information will be distributed later this week. If you would like to be added to the distribution list for future emails, please send a request to EastArnhem.Covid19@nt.gov.au.

PLEASE NOTE: While this information is current at the time of posting, the most up to date information and advice about the Northern Territory's response to COVID-19 is available at <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>. If you require specific advice about your circumstances, please call the Remote Travel Hotline on 1800 518 189.