

# This COVID-19 public information update contains information about:

In recent weeks, we've been providing public information updates based on how each requirement fits within the key elements of the initiatives to keep East Arnhem safe from COVID-19. Broadly, they involve

1. Keeping COVID-19 out of East Arnhem (through travel restrictions)
2. Being prepared to contain the spread of the virus if it does arrive (such as establishing pandemic clinics and rapid testing options)
3. Business updates, including important steps to support the region's economy.

Yesterday, the Chief Minister introduced a new series of initiatives: the Territory's Roadmap to a 'New Normal'. In this update, we will outline what we know at this stage about what the 'New Normal' will look like in the East Arnhem region. However, it's crucial that we all know that the move to a New Normal does not remove the need for compliance with travel restrictions or for other preparedness measures – in fact, it makes them even more important.

This COVID-19 public information update contains information about:

- Measures to prevent COVID-19 from entering the East Arnhem Region
  - Interstate borders
  - Designated biosecurity areas
    - Support to quarantine
    - Providing evidence of quarantine
  - Travel to Aboriginal Land
- Actions being taken now so we can contain the spread of the virus if it does arrive
  - COVIDsafe App
- The Territory's [Roadmap to the New Normal](#)
  - The three principles of the roadmap
  - Camping, boating and recreational areas
- Business updates
  - Safety plan checklists for the New Normal
  - East Arnhem Live
  - DEAL business updates

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

There are no changes to the travel restrictions under any of the following schemes:

### Interstate borders

Any person [arriving into the Northern Territory](#) will be forced to quarantine for 14 days at their own expense.

### Designated biosecurity areas

The [East Arnhem designated biosecurity area](#) will be in place until 18 June 2020. Any decision to either lift the requirements of the area early, or extend them for longer, will be made in partnership with the NT and Commonwealth Governments (through the National Cabinet) and the Land Councils.

To enter the designated area – including if you leave the area and then attempt to re-enter - you must either be an [approved remote essential worker](#), or be able to demonstrate that you have quarantined for 14 days immediately prior to entry.

### Support to quarantine

Culturally appropriate quarantine facilities to support people who need to use them are being arranged outside designated areas. We encourage Yolngu and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to contact the following organisations for support to quarantine and return to the region:

- In Darwin – Contact Larrakia Nation on 1800 PATROL (1800 728 765)
- In Katherine – Visit Kalano’s Big Rivers Child and Family Centre at Level 2, 42 Katherine Terrace (Above the Traditional Credit Union).

### Providing evidence of quarantine

If you are not an approved remote essential worker, you will need to undertake 14 days of self-quarantine immediately before you enter a designated area.

You will be required to complete a [designated area compliance form](#) and attach appropriate evidence of self-quarantine, which may include:

- A Return to Country Compliance Certificate including personal declaration; or
- A statutory declaration that indicates:
  - The dates of your self-quarantine (start and end dates); and
  - The location of your self-quarantine and how you managed things such as meals (whether they were delivered with appropriate physical distance); and
  - The names of any other people who were present at the location you self-quarantined, and how you were separated from them in your quarantine; and
  - A declaration that you did not leave the location during your 14 day quarantine period.

Other evidence that may help to demonstrate you have successfully completed a 14 day self-quarantine could include a hotel invoice showing the delivery of meals for the entire period.

Compliance checks may be undertaken and penalties apply for false and misleading statutory declarations and/or for entering a Biosecurity Area illegally.

## Travel to Aboriginal Land

As always, travel to Aboriginal Land (in the Yolngu region of East Arnhem, this is everything outside of Nhulunbuy) requires a [valid permit from the Northern Land Council](#) or a [Dhimurru Recreation Area permit](#) (for areas managed by them). However, the NLC still has [advised](#) us that it is still only issuing permits for essential travel.

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

### COVIDsafe App

To help keep people safe, the Commonwealth Government has introduced the COVIDsafe app. The app speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19) which helps to limit the spread of the virus in the community.

Information about [how COVIDsafe works](#) and details about [privacy](#) while using the app is online. The app is available for iPhones and android devices.

### THE TERRITORY'S ROADMAP TO THE NEW NORMAL

The Territory's Roadmap to the New Normal was announced today and is [based on three key principles, of personal and community responsibility, physical distancing and hygiene](#).

There are three Stages to the 'New Normal' with the first stage commencing today, Friday 1 May. From today Stage One allows the following, as long as physical distancing of 1.5 meters between people is observed:

- Exercise outdoors with other people such as yoga and bootcamp
- Participate in non-contact, non-collision outdoor sports such as athletics, golf, tennis, swimming, shooting, archery, badminton, geocaching, paddling and lawn bowls. (Note: You may not use a clubhouse facility to consume food or drink; outdoor training activities for sporting clubs and teams cannot occur until Stage 2 on 15 May. Football, netball, basketball, soccer and other team sports won't commence until Stage 3 on 5 June)
- Meet up with people in outdoor areas, including gatherings like markets, weddings and funerals ([see below for more info](#))
- Conduct and attend outdoor religious gatherings
- Go fishing, boating, sailing with other people ([see below for more info](#))
- Attend a public swimming pool, water park or recreational lake for swimming or water sports ([see below for more info](#))

As at 1 May 2020

- Use a skate park, outdoor public playground or outdoor gym equipment ([see below for more info](#))
- Have visitors to your home (NTG is asking you to limit groups to 10).

Frequently Asked Questioned are being updated regularly [here](#).

## Camping, boating, fishing and recreational areas

While some recreational areas in East Arnhem have re-opened today, travel to these areas is limited to those who are already inside the designated biosecurity area and who have a valid permit.

From today, people may go fishing, boating and sailing with other people, as long as physical distancing can be maintained.

## Dhimurru recreational areas

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation has announced that from 2pm today (1 May 2020), it will re-open recreation areas for day use and camping, including special permit areas. You must have a valid [Dhimurru general permit and special permit](#) (for special permit areas).

Whilst recreation areas will be open, the following will be in place:

- Toilets in all recreation areas remain CLOSED (for the moment) and you are reminded of permit condition 6 regarding burying of toilet waste.
- For your safety, there is no swimming in any of the recreation areas (as normal), be Crocwise and COVID19 safe.
- An additional condition has been applied to all current and new permit holders until further notice: For the duration of the COVID19 restrictions, residents visiting Dhimurru recreation areas must abide by the NT Chief Health Officer's Directions, in particular with regard to physical distancing requirements. More information on the recent changes can be found at <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/steps-to-restart>

Special permit area camping bookings will be open in advance for two week blocks until 30 June 2020.

Dhimurru Rangers will be on patrol over the weekend and will work with Police to ensure compliance with all relevant physical distancing requirements in the 'New Normal'.

For the latest information, keep an eye on the Facebook page for Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation.

## Northern Land Council areas

As outlined above, the NLC currently only permits essential travel to Aboriginal Land. That means the following areas remain closed:

- The Yirrkala Boat Ramp and the Gunyangara (Drimmie Head) boat ramp
- The Cato River and Baniyala (Dholuwuy) recreational areas.

## Parks, playgrounds and skate parks

In Nhulunbuy parks, playgrounds and the skate park have re-opened (as of midday on Friday 1 May), but physical distancing rules must be observed. In Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Milingimbi and Galiwinku, parks and playgrounds will also be opened.

Keep an eye on the [Nhulunbuy Corporation's Facebook page](#) for details about the aquatic centre's reopening, which is likely to be early next week.

## Personal gatherings including markets, weddings and funerals

From Friday 1 May at 12 midday, you may meet up with people in outdoor areas including gatherings like markets, weddings and funerals while observing physical distancing requirements.

If you are planning such an event, for the safety of everyone in the East Arnhem region, we would encourage you to actively consider how your gathering will ensure that it reflects the [three key principles, of personal and community responsibility, physical distancing and hygiene](#), which underpin the roadmap to the Territory's New Normal.

It is important to note that the restrictions on indoor gatherings of this nature still apply for the time being.

## BUSINESS UPDATES

### Airnorth

Airnorth recently announced a package of Commonwealth support for its regional air routes which will see minimum level servicing to East Arnhem for an initial 6 week period from 1 May 2020. The package is outlined below:

Airnorth flying program from 01 May to 12 June, 2020

ROUTE	AIRCRAFT	NUMBER OF SERVICES
Darwin - Gove - Cairns - Gove - Darwin	Embraer E170	2
Darwin - Broome - Darwin	Embraer E170	1
Darwin - Alice Springs - Darwin	Embraer E170	2
Darwin - Cairns - Darwin	Embraer E170	1
Darwin - Gove - Groote- Darwin	Embraer E120	3
Darwin - Croote - Darwin	Embraer E120	2
Darwin - Milingimbi - Maningrida - Darwin	Embraer E120	3
Darwin - Elcho Island - Maningrida - Darwin	Embraer E120	3
Darwin - Townsville - Darwin	Embraer E170	2
Darwin - Gove - Darwin	Embraer E170	1
Darwin - Kununurra - Perth - Kununurra - Darwin	Embraer E170	2
Darwin - Kununurra - Broome - Kununurra - Darwin	Embraer E170	2

Be sure to check the Airnorth [timetables](#) regularly as the flight schedules will vary through this time. There are no flight this Monday due to the public holiday.

## Regional Critical Goods and Services

Through the very hard work of organisations like ALPA, Woolworths, Seaswift, Nighthawk, Laynhapuy and many others, the region's supermarkets, stores and retail sector have managed to keep us all fed and stocked with essential goods through some very trying times. Whilst national supply challenges remain in some areas, our hardworking retail, wholesale and supply chain workers have done an outstanding job. Please make sure you take the time to thank them personally when you have the opportunity.

## Safety plan checklists

The Territory's Roadmap to the New Normal ([Stage 1](#), [Stage 2](#) and [Stage 3](#)) will see a gradual relaxation of restrictions for businesses who will need to ensure their workplace is applying physical distancing and hygiene measures. Business looking to resume trade from 15 May 2020 will need to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan Checklist. The Checklist is a tool for businesses and community groups to consider and demonstrate how they will manage their obligations regarding physical distancing and hygiene prior to the opening of their service. The Checklist will ask a series of questions regarding these principles of COVID19 and will be available online from 5 May.

## East Arnhem Live

Whether or not you go camping, be sure to tune in for the next instalment of East Arnhem Live on Saturday night 2 May 6.30pm ACST featuring [The Andrew Gurruwiwi Band](#).

East Arnhem Live is an initiative to bring the culture, history and beauty of East Arnhem Land to audiences across Australia and the world. It involves producing content featuring local artists, which is hosted online through Facebook. East Arnhem Live is proudly presented by Yolngu Radio (ARDS Aboriginal Corporation) in partnership with Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) and Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation.

This weekend's gig will be the second in the live concert series, with further acts scheduled and still more to be announced. For more details, keep an eye on [East Arnhem Land's Facebook Page](#).

## Information updates from DEAL

DEAL is leading regional business-related updates on COVID-19. If you wish to be notified when new information is available, subscribe to DEAL's mailing list, follow DEAL on social media or email [ea@developingeastarnhem.com.au](mailto:ea@developingeastarnhem.com.au).

Businesses are strongly encouraged to take advantage of all of the various Commonwealth, Territory and DEAL business, industry and community support available. A good summary is available [here](#).

## PUBLIC INFORMATION UPDATES

These public information updates include details relevant to the East Arnhem region. The official source of information for Northern Territory Government news and requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic is <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/> and we encourage you to visit that site regularly. If you have questions about how Northern Territory Government requirements apply in the East Arnhem region, please email [EastArnhem.Covid19@nt.gov.au](mailto:EastArnhem.Covid19@nt.gov.au) and we will do our best to include relevant details in our next public information update.

## 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](mailto: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.