

# COVID-19 public information update

## Public information materials available in Yolngu Matha

ARDS Aboriginal Corporation recently launched a webpage dedicated to providing [public information on COVID-19 in Yolngu Matha](#), including resources on [health advice](#) and [rules about travelling to and around Arnhem Land](#).

A range of other materials Yolngu Matha have also been produced by Skinny Fish, Why Warriors, Miwatj Health and Laynhapuy Health and are available on the [AMSANT website](#). The NLC also has a range of information [available](#) in Yolngu Matha.

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

Travel restrictions still apply, however there are some changes.

### Interstate borders

Late last week the Chief Minister announced that from Monday 15 June, the Northern Territory will transition from mandatory, monitored quarantine to mandatory, monitored self-quarantine. This will mean that travellers arriving from interstate will not have to stay at accommodation selected and secured by the NT Government, and the \$2500 quarantine fee will no longer apply. Arriving interstate travellers will be able to select their own quarantine arrangements, as long as it is within the Chief Health Officer's guidelines.

A coronavirus testing regime is being introduced for incoming interstate travellers as part of this transition. Arrivals will be tested in the first and final 72 hours and completing quarantine after 14 days will depend on returning two negative tests.

### Designated biosecurity areas

Recently, the NT and Commonwealth Governments announced that designated biosecurity areas within the Northern Territory will be lifting on 5 June 2020. This will mean that after 5 June 2020, there is no longer a requirement to quarantine for 14 days for intrastate travellers prior to entering the previously declared designated biosecurity area.

From midday 5 June 2020, intrastate biosecurity checkpoints across the Northern Territory will be stood down. The checkpoints located along NT border will remain in place, because the lifting of remote travel restrictions does not impact the requirement to quarantine upon arrival from interstate. This announcement does not change the current travel restrictions across Aboriginal land. Please see further details on this below.

### 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). The NLC advice on [its website](#) continues to be that the NLC is still only issuing permits for essential travel. The Northern Territory Government is discussing with the Northern Land Council when tourism, other recreational area, general work and transit permits might be issued and we hope to be able to provide advice on this before 5 June 2020.

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

### **Visitors and patients at the Gove District Hospital**

The Gove Hospital has begun meeting visitors and patients at the entrances and asking some questions. As the restrictions of physical distancing and travel are relaxing, we must increase our vigilance to protect our patients and our community.

Even though there is no COVID in the NT, we want to make sure that if it comes to East Arnhem, we will be able to detect it early, and that we will be able to protect our patients, our staff and our wider community.

To do this, everybody coming to the Hospital will be asked (sometimes many times) if they have any symptoms (cough, sore throat, fevers), or if they have been outside the NT recently. If anyone is believed to be sick with respiratory symptoms, then a formal review by doctors/nurses will be conducted before this visitor or patient can enter the hospital.

### **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. More than 5.1 million Australians have downloaded the app since it launched on 26 April 2020.

Information about [how COVIDsafe works](#) and details about [privacy](#) while using the app is online. The app is available for iPhones and android devices. All States and Territories have not agreed to the use of the app and data to support effective and timely contact tracing.

All Territorians are encouraged to download the app to help keep the NT safe.

## **ROADMAP TO THE NEW NORMAL**

### **Stage 3 of the Roadmap to the New Normal commences Friday 5 June**

Stage 3 of the [Roadmap to the New Normal](#) commences Friday at 12pm.

The following activities are permitted under Stage 3, provided that participants follow physical distancing requirements are adhered to, you can:

- Operate all licensed gaming activities including a TAB.
- Resume officiating, participating and supporting the playing of team sports such as football, basketball, soccer and netball.
- Attend any cinema or theatre, concert hall, music hall, dance hall, nightclub or any other similar entertainment venue in approved configuration.
- Attend an amusement venue.
- Attend a bar without food being consumed.
- Operate and access all previously restricted services at a place that provides beauty therapy and/or cosmetic services including facial care.
- Operate and access all previously restricted services at a place that provides tattooing or body art such as branding and piercing.
- Attend an amusement park, community centre, recreation centre or play centre.

- Attend an arena, stadium, sporting facility including community and sporting competitions with spectators in approved seating configuration. However, if above 500 people the event requires a separately approved COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- All businesses, facilities and services previously restricted can now resume ensuring adherence to key principles.

Major events will be approved on a case by case basis.

The Chief Health Officer will issue new directions on or before Friday 5 June 2020. The new directions may be a little different from the Road Map depending on the national and Territory situation at the time, so please make sure you check the new requirements on 5 June 2020.

### Principles of Stage 3

Stage 3 of the *Roadmap to the New Normal* is underpinned by three principles. With restrictions easing, the risk of spreading coronavirus increases and it is important to keep these principles in mind when going about your daily life. The principles are:

#### Personal and community responsibility

- Ensure you are following these principles in your daily life.
- Encourage your family and friends to follow these principles in their daily life.
- Take responsibility - it is only if the community work together that we will keep the NT safe.

#### Physical distancing

- A minimum space of 1.5 metres between you and other people who aren't known to you.
- If you need to be facing another person and closer than 1.5 metres apart minimise contact to less than 15 minutes.

#### Hygiene

- Avoid touching your face and cough and sneeze into a tissue or into your elbow.
- Hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before and after any contact with surfaces such as playground equipment that is used by more than one person.
- Regularly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that are touched by more than one person – e.g. phones, door handles, benches, equipment, toys etc.
- Avoid sharing cups, utensils and cigarettes.

### A reminder to remain vigilant as restrictions with personal hygiene and physical distancing.

Businesses across the region have been working hard to complete checklists that authorise them to resume trade in accordance with the *Roadmap to the New Normal*. Businesses have been encouraged to display printed copies of their interim approvals to operate, until a statement of commitment is issued.

It's important that patrons of those businesses resuming trade play their part. If you're participating in an activity or attending business premises, we encourage you to abide by signage and directions from staff that will ensure compliance with the principles of physical distancing and hygiene measures, which underpin the Roadmap to the New Normal.

## Details about the Roadmap to the New Normal

You can find detailed [information about the three stages the NT Government's Roadmap](#) (on Stage 1 on 1 May, Stage 2 on 15 May and Stage 3 on 5 June), including [answers to some frequently asked questions](#) about when different types of activities may be resumed, and what rules will apply when they do.

## BUSINESS UPDATES

### Free training course

The Northern Territory Government is funding a range of short courses to help Territorians build skills that employers are likely to be looking for as the economy recovers from COVID-19 restrictions. The [range of courses available](#) spans digital skills, emergency and disaster, environmental studies, finance skills, hospitality, health and education, practical and business skills and skills for tradies.

Depending on the training organisation providing each course, various eligibility criteria will apply. There might also be a small resource and administration fee for some courses.

If you would like further advice on these courses, the Skills Recognition Centre can help you find training that will suit your circumstances, and enhance your skills and job prospects.

For more information email [info@skillsrecognitioncentre.edu.au](mailto:info@skillsrecognitioncentre.edu.au) or phone 08 8946 7316.

### Essential air services

Airnorth has received Commonwealth support to ensure that it will continue to deliver services connecting areas within the Northern Territory, as well as interstate locations. Be sure to check the Airnorth [timetables](#) regularly as the flight schedules will vary through this time.

It should be noted that the various travel restrictions for travel interstate, as described above, still apply.

### Safety plan checklists for Stage 3

Prior to resuming operations on 5 June 2020 all businesses and organisations need to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. Checklist smart forms are now available for submission online and sample safety plans are available at [coronavirus.gov.au](https://coronavirus.gov.au).

Any businesses that would like assistance completing a COVID-19 Safety Checklist, or implementing physical distancing and hygiene measures in their businesses are encouraged to contact the team at Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) on 08 8987 0558 or email [EA@developingeastarnhem.com.au](mailto:EA@developingeastarnhem.com.au).

Businesses are also encouraged to visit the Commonwealth Government's website [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au), which provides additional industry-specific guidance to support businesses to reopen.

### East Arnhem Live

We hope you caught Saturday's special edition of East Arnhem Live as part of National Reconciliation Week. If you haven't yet seen it, we recommend [logging on to Facebook for a front row seat to a traditional ceremonial dance, known as a bungul, by the Rirratjingu clan in Yirrkala](#).

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.

You can catch the next gig in the live concert series on Saturday 6 June at 6:30pm ACST. 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 at <https://www.developingeastarnhem.com.au/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>

### PUBLIC INFORMATION UPDATES

These public information updates include details relevant to the East Arnhem region. The 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.