

COVID-19 public information update

This update contains new information and some changed advice since the last update. It is current as at today's date but advice can change quickly. Further updates will be provided if or when things change.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS AS OF 7 AUGUST 2020?

On 17 July, the Territory eased interstate border restrictions, however restrictions still apply to people travelling from areas declared as ['hotspots'](#) – they will be required to complete mandatory supervised quarantine at Howard Springs.

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 7 August 2020, the entire State of Victoria and several local government areas in New South Wales and Queensland have been declared as hotspots. Other areas might be declared as hotspots in the future, hotspots can be declared rapidly and without notice so please stay up to date. A full list of the current hotspots can be found [here](#).

What will people travelling from hotspots need to do?

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

However, 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. For those travelling to Nhulunbuy, authorities will direct you to travel on to Darwin for quarantine at [Howard Springs](#). Police and authorities are checking all arrivals and there major penalties apply for providing false information.

Following the rules is important because it keeps the region's communities safe.

ADDITIONAL POLICE AND FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS TO BE RECRUITED

NT Government is recruiting 131 extra police and support staff, and purchasing 20 new police vehicles to keep hard borders for hotspots in place. The new recruits will include frontline constables, Aboriginal Liaison Officers and Aboriginal Community Police Officers. Local Police are currently seeking expressions of interest for Aboriginal Liaison Offices in a number of the region's stations.

100 additional frontline health workers will also be recruited to screen arrivals to the Territory. The workforce will be trained to be multi-skilled, to support testing and timely outbreak management contract tracing if there is ever a need for it.

The Local Emergency Committee is working with Police and NT Health around how these additional resources will support Nhulunbuy, the East Arnhem communities and in particular the Gove Airport.

Additional business support for not-for-profits and community organisations will be made available as of 1 September. Please keep an eye out for more information in a DEAL update.

MANAGEMENT OF OUTBREAKS ACROSS THE REMOTE COMMUNITIES OF EAST ARNHEM AND ON THE GOVE PENINSULA

Extensive work has gone into how a local outbreak of COVID-19 will be managed across the remote parts of the Territory and however additional support from places like Darwin will assist to ensure communities are kept safe. Plain English summaries of the Local Pandemic Plans, including the arrangements for outbreak management, which explain how this work for each of the regional communities and Nhulunbuy, will be distributed in the next couple of days.

MORE INFORMATION

While this information is current at the time of sending, 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/> and national health information is available at www.health.gov.au.

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.

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 and we will do our best to include relevant details in our next public information update.