

Removal of Designated Biosecurity Area Restrictions

03 June 2020
Version 1

FAQs

Remote community areas of the Northern Territory (NT) will be re-opened to non-essential travel into and throughout the Designated Biosecurity Areas from Friday 5 June 2020.

Q. What is a Designated Biosecurity Area

Remote communities of the Northern Territory were declared Designated Biosecurity Areas, on Thursday, 26 March 2020 and were closed to all non-essential travel to protect vulnerable people in our remote communities, from to the dangerous coronavirus (COVID-19).

These restrictions will no longer be in place from Friday 5 June 2020, and allows all Territorians to move freely within the borders of the Northern Territory.

Q. Why are the restrictions being removed?

The restrictions have been removed because Territorians worked together to protect our people and keep communities safe.

The removal of restrictions have been supported by many leaders, our land councils and the Aboriginal community controlled organisations.

All restrictions for all Territorians will be lifted from June 5 - whether you live in a remote area or a regional town or city.

The Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland borders will remain closed to protect Territorians from the coronavirus. This means Biosecurity check points will still be in place at these borders.

Q. Can I visit town?

You can now visit town and return to country without having to complete the 14 days self-quarantine. You are encouraged not stay in town for any longer than you need to.

The coronavirus is still in Australia, and there is no medicine or needle to fix it. The safest place for you is on your country in your community, homeland or outstation.

Remember if you do visit town, children need to go to school every day.

Q. Is it safe to visit town?

The coronavirus is still in Australia, and there is no medicine or needle to fix it. If you leave your safe zone you risk catching the dangerous virus.

The safest place for you is on your country in your community, homeland or outstation.

Q. Will my community still have access to supplies?

All the important work in community will keep going. Clinic workers will still be there, food and fuel and important workers like plumbers and electricians are still working and all the schools are still open.

The Government and your community store will continue to work really hard to make sure you can continue to be able to buy food, fuel and other goods in your community. So, you might not need to travel to town.

Q. Where can I stay if I choose to go to town?

If you choose to leave your community and come into town, you need to have a safe place to stay. This is your responsibility. You can make a booking at the hostel, hotel, caravan park, or check with family.

Q. Can I still get help get home safely?

Yes, you can check with your local remote community transport businesses like Centre Bush Bus or Bodhi Bus, and many others that are still operating.

Community members who require assistance to return to their home community, homeland or outstation should contact the following Return to Country Programs in your region:

Top End

Larrakia Nation

Return to Country office between 8:45am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

Address: Larrakia Return to Country, 50 Bradshaw Terrace, Casuarina NT 0810

Phone: 08 8945 5211 or 1800 290 659

Email: rtc.officer1@larrakia.com

Big Rivers

Kalano Community Association Inc.

Big Rivers Child and Family Centre between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Address: Level 1, 42 Katherine Terrace, Katherine, NT 0850

Phone: 08 8918 6130

Email: msoundron@kalano.org.au

Central Australia

Return to Country – Operated by Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation

Address: 4 Elder Street, Alice Springs NT 0871

Phone: 08 8951 4262 or 08 8951 4291

Email: rtc@tangentyere.org.au

Barkly

Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation

Address: 13 Maloney Street, Tennant Creek NT 0860

Phone: 08 8962 2699

Email: geoff.evans@julalikari.com.au

Q. Are the big events in town still on?

This dangerous virus has changed things in town, community festivals and events like the show have been cancelled or the date changed, so check first before you travel as the events might not be on.

Q. What ways can I help stop the spread of coronavirus?

We still need to keep everyone strong; so some rules have not changed.

You need to keep three steps away from other people (that's 1.5 metres) and keep washing hands with soap and water to make sure this dangerous virus stays away forever.

Q. How can I protect my family from corona virus?

It's really important to protect yourself and others in community.

- Make sure you wash your hands with soap and water
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth
- Don't share smokes or drinks
- Don't touch or be close to people and no more handshakes or hugs
- Keep your homes clean.

We are all in this together! We need to keep working together, to keep the older people and the sick people in our communities safe.

Q. What are the symptoms of corona virus?

Remember, coronavirus is really cheeky and it can hide for a while. It can take 14 days to see if it is there.

If you feel:

- Hot/fever
- Dry cough and short wind
- Paining throat
- Feel weak

Q. Who can I call if I feel sick?

If you are in town and not feeling well, are hot, have a dry cough or short breath, sore throat and feel weak - you need to call the clinic to be tested for coronavirus.

Top End

Danila Dilba Health Service – 08 8942 5400

East Arnhem

Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation – 08 8939 1900

Big Rivers

Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Service - 08 8972 9100

Central Australia

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress - 1800 514 400

Barkly

Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation – 08 8962 2385

Q. What do I do if I am sick?

Get tested – go to your nearest health clinic - or stay at home and stay away from other people.

Call the NT COVID-19 hotline for testing on 1800 490 484.

Q. Who can I contact if I need more information?

If you want to know more about travelling to a remote community in the NT, call that remote travel hotline mob on [1800 518 189](tel:1800518189) or email remote.travel@nt.gov.au

Remember for the most up to date information please visit:

www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au or call the Remote Travel Hotline on 1800 518 189