

COVID-19 information on deliveries to remote communities in the Northern Territory

Version number 1

Purpose

This advice provides guidance to industry and contractors who provide deliveries or supplies to remote communities. This information is provided in relation to measures being implemented to protect employees and the community from the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Advice to contractors and other essential workers

Remote communities in the Northern Territory are only open to essential travel in response to concerns about the spread of COVID-19.

Northern Territory land councils have advised that all existing permits to Aboriginal communities for non-essential travel will be suspended and no new permits will be granted until further notice. People who provide essential services to the community, including those who deliver essential supplies such as food and medicine, doctors, nurses, teachers, police officers and council workers will not be affected by the ban.

Deliveries to remote communities by barge, road or air are generally considered essential services, especially deliveries that keep the community functioning such as food, fuel, sanitary items, medicine and other necessary consumables.

There is greater risk of COVID-19 causing serious illness in individuals living in communities with chronic disease, such as remote Indigenous communities.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has updated its recommended measures to protect vulnerable people. These include reducing visitors to remote Aboriginal communities.

Health and community separation precautions

Delivery contractors and companies should have a COVID-19 management plan in place and should;

- Avoid direct contact with community residents where possible.
- Bring own food and supplies into communities to avoid having to go to community stores.
- Carry out good hygiene practices to protect themselves and others from the spread of illness.
- Employ appropriate cleaning practices at the end of each delivery as part of good hygiene practice - wipe down and sanitise surfaces of delivery vehicles and any equipment such as forklifts after use and/ or at the end of a shift.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, use alcohol-based hand sanitiser between hand washes and after making deliveries.
- Practise good personal hand hygiene and cough/sneeze hygiene:

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- wash your hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet; and
- cough/sneeze into your elbow, or use a tissue and dispose of tissues, and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

Remote Travel Hotline

Specific queries on whether travel to the Territory's remote communities should continue should be directed to the NT Government remote travel hotline on 1800 518 189. If they cannot respond to your query immediately, they will follow it up and get back to you.

Some access requests are being considered case by case or community by community basis.

For more information on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Web: <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

Phone: 1800 020 080 - *Australian Coronavirus Information Line*