

FACT SHEET

COVID-19 Information for Aboriginal People

The Tasmanian Government is closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID-19 in Tasmania and its potential impacts on the community. The Department of Communities Tasmania has prepared this fact sheet to provide useful information and important links for Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations who are seeking answers and clarification.

What is coronavirus and COVID-19?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause respiratory illness. The latest coronavirus disease outbreak is named COVID-19.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms of COVID-19 infection are like those of other respiratory viruses such as cold and flu, with two of the most indicative symptoms being a DRY COUGH and an ELEVATED TEMPERATURE.

If you experience these symptoms, and/or shortness of breath, and you think you might have COVID-19 because of recent travel or contact with a confirmed case, phone your GP or the Tasmanian Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.

For further information visit the Tasmanian Government Coronavirus website
www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

Preventing the spread

To slow the spread of COVID19 everyone must practice good hygiene and keep physical distance between each other. This is our most powerful weapon in fighting this virus and saving lives and we all must do our bit.

The Australian Government Department of Health website includes the latest advice and information about how you can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (www.health.gov.au).



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) has begun reaching out to community health services to implement possible emergency response plans and provide the latest available information.

This information is also available on the NACCHO website (www.naccho.org.au).

Travelling to and from your community and self-isolation

Currently, anyone arriving in Tasmania from interstate or overseas, including Tasmanian residents, must self-isolate for 14 days.

Further to this, non-essential travellers from mainland Tasmania are not permitted to travel to King or Flinders Island, and any residents of the islands returning home from mainland Tasmania must spend 14 days in self-isolation. If you are instructed to self-isolate for any reason you must comply.

The Tasmanian Government has made a commitment to work in partnership with key organisations including Red Cross, Salvation Army and Rural Business Tasmania to deliver support to people who are required to self-isolate. You can request the assistance of these organisations via the Tasmanian Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.

A Tasmanian Government fact sheet containing important information about self-isolation and quarantine is available from the Tasmanian Government Coronavirus website www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Government response

The Tasmanian Government has declared a State of Emergency and introduced restrictions on non-essential gatherings and business operations.

Border restrictions are also in place for people entering Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government has closed private airstrips in Tasmania to any aircraft arriving from interstate.

The Tasmanian Government Coronavirus website has the latest information about Tasmanian emergency measures, including border restrictions and quarantine conditions for essential travellers and the site is updated daily www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment website has additional information about border control and quarantine measures (www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity).

Support for individuals and businesses

Both the Tasmanian and Australian Governments have introduced financial assistance measures for individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19 shutdowns.

The Australian Government Department of Social Services website has the latest information on assistance available to individuals (www.dss.gov.au) while the Business Australia website has up-to-date information on assistance available to businesses (www.business.gov.au).

Details of the Tasmanian Government's support and stimulus packages for households and businesses are available from the Department of State Growth website (www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au).

It is worth checking all these websites regularly as the COVID-19 situation develops and governments introduce further restrictions and support measures.

As part of the COVID-19 National Health Plan, the Australian Government recently announced a range of measures to help support mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic. Details of these measures, and other elements of the National Health Plan, are available on the Australian Government Department of Health website (www.health.gov.au).

For more information

The Australian Government Department of Health website is regularly updated with the latest COVID-19 information and resources, including details of the latest infection control measures and social distancing guidelines (www.health.gov.au).

For general information about COVID-19, including the national response, call the National Coronavirus Information Line on 1800 020 080.

For more general information about the global COVID-19 situation and latest developments, visit the World Health Organisation website (www.who.int).