

Advice to Norfolk Island Residents & Visitors regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19)



COVID -19 (novel coronavirus) continues to spread across Norfolk Island.

While this is a serious public health issue, it is important to keep in mind that the disease mainly causes mild respiratory illness. It is, however, necessary for us to try to limit spread of the virus on the island.

NIHRACS encourages all community members to ensure that you follow infection control measures, which include hand and respiratory hygiene, and to use face-masks in the community.

At present NIHRACS considers every person who has fever or acute respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) to be at risk of having the virus. Also considered at risk of having coronavirus is any person who lives in the same household as a current confirmed case of COVID-19.

If these criteria apply to you, you should not attend work, school or go out into the community. Call the hospital on 22091 for advice. If you are exhibiting symptoms the GP may request a coronavirus rapid antigen test (RAT). These swabs are conducted at the drive through testing tent at NIHRACS. You will be advised to self-isolate at home or your accommodation until a negative test result is received. Should you become very ill and require medical care, please call the hospital on 22091 or an ambulance on 000. You will be seen in the hospital's separate viral assessment unit.

Older people and patients with chronic diseases are most at risk of complications not only from this coronavirus but also from other viruses like influenza. If you are ill, be particularly mindful of avoiding the spread of infection when visiting relatives and friends.

NIHRACS strongly advises people to have the COVID vaccination to help prevent the spread.

This is an evolving situation and advice concerning the Health response is being regularly reviewed.