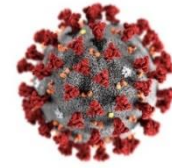


What will happen if COVID-19 comes to Gove Peninsula and nearby homelands?

Summary of the Nhulunbuy district local coronavirus outbreak plan



Currently there is no COVID-19 in East Arnhem Land. But someone might bring the coronavirus into the NT and into East Arnhem Land. We need to be ready to protect ourselves and control the virus if that happens.

The Northern Territory Government, the Land Councils and Aboriginal Medical Services Associated of the NT (AMSANT), working with many local organisations like Miwatj Health, Laynhapuy Health, Rirratjingu, Gumatj and East Arnhem Regional Council, have made two plans about what to do if coronavirus comes to the region. You might hear people talking about the 'Remote Communities Outbreak Management Plan' or 'Local Pandemic Plans'. These are the names of two plans which are connected – we will think of these combined plans as one 'local coronavirus outbreak plan'.

Each of the five communities and nearby homelands have their own local coronavirus outbreak plan, because local people will help run the plan. The people who worked on the Nhulunbuy district plan are sharing this summary of the plan so that everyone is informed and prepared.

The plans might change if the people steering the plan make new decisions about the pathways to keep people safe. The last time new information was added to this summary was on 13 August 2020.

Goals of this plan

- Keep COVID-19 out of East Arnhem Land.
- Talking and listening to Balanda and Yolŋu about what is happening, so everyone knows what to do if someone brings coronavirus to East Arnhem.
- Plan for testing people who might have the virus, and looking after them until the test results are known.
- Plan for taking the people who have the virus to hospital in Nhulunbuy or Darwin
- Plan for quickly finding people who might have come into contact with the person who has the virus, looking after them and keeping them away from other people.
- Plan to keep the rest of the community safe and stop the spread of the virus.

Who is this plan for?

Everyone (Yolŋu and Balanda) living in Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala, Gunyaŋara, Barrkira, Birany Birany, Birritjimi, Baniyala, Barraratjpi, Bukudal, Dhälinybuy, Dhaniya, Djarrakpi, Garrthalala, Gikal, Gurkawuy, Gurumuru, Gutjangan, Rurrangala, Wandawuy, Yanungbi, Buymarr, Mata Mata, Yinyikay and Rorruwuy.

Who will steer the plan?

Police officers and a worker at the NT Government Department of Health will steer the plan. In the Nhulunbuy district, the Local Controller of the plan is the Officer-in-Charge at the Nhulunbuy Police Station. He will work with the Gove District Hospital to steer the plan. They will lead five groups with different jobs in the plan. Each group has its own leaders in the Gove Peninsula, who are workers for different NT Government Departments. These workers will work together with local organisations. These are the five groups:

	Medical Group	Public Information Group	Transport Group	Critical goods Group	Welfare Group
Lead Agency	Top End Health Service	Department of the Chief Minister	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	Department of Trade, Business and Innovation	Territory Families
Assisting organisations	Miwatj Health, Laynha Health, Marthakal, Careflight, St Johns, Gove Pharmacy	Miwatj, Laynha, East Arnhem Regional Council, DEAL, Nhulunbuy Corp and others	YBE, East Arnhem Regional Council, SeaSwift and others	Woolworths, ALPA, Laynha, YBE and local businesses	Housing, Anglicare, Miwatj Health, Centrelink and others.
What do they do?	Test people for the virus. Lead contact tracing. Plan to have enough medical staff and resources. Get people to hospital and provide medical care.	Tell everyone what is happening and what we need to do. Try to make sure the right information is heard, not rumours and misinformation which can create panic.	Help bring people who are sick, or who might be sick, to where they need to go.	Make sure we don't run out of things we need, like food, medicine, fuel and other supplies.	Support people who need to quarantine, including old and vulnerable people, and make sure they are safe and have everything they need.

What can we do to prepare now?

There are things everyone can do to prepare, now. If we do these things, and someone brings the virus here without knowing it, fewer people will get the virus.

People who feel unwell

If you feel unwell with:

- Fever, chills or sweating
- Sore throat
- Dry cough
- Runny nose
- Shortness of breath

Don't go directly to the clinic or doctor

- Phone the hospital or clinic to arrange a test. Some 'point of care tests' are available that take only a few hours.
- Each clinic has set up a special process for COVID-19. If you are sick and need to go to the clinic, call them and they will tell you what to do.

People who feel unwell

If you are sick, call your clinic or the hospital and they will tell you what to do.

Phone numbers:

- **Gove District Hospital:** Monday to Friday 8.30am to 3.30pm: 0476 828 005. This number is just for people wanting to get a test for coronavirus, not anything else. After hours, call the Gove District Hospital 8987 0211
- **Miwatj Health Nhulunbuy Clinic:** 8939 1999
- **Miwatj Health Yirrkala Clinic:** 8987 2650
- **Miwatj Health Gunyajarra Clinic:** 8987 3800
- **Arnhem Allied Health Centre:** 8919 4727
- **Laynhapuy Health:** 8939 1800
- **Marthakal Homelands:** 1800 758 854

If you cannot contact your clinic, call the NT COVID-19 hotline on 1800 008 002.

Everyone

Physical distancing:

- Stand 1.5m away from people, unless you live with them
- Don't spend a long time with big groups of people
- Don't share drinks or 'njalali'

Hygiene:

- Wash your hands with soap often
- Clean surfaces that people touch often
- Cough into your elbow.

Everyone

Think about people who are old or unwell.

Do they need a place to stay by themselves?

Download the COVIDSAFE app

Search for COVIDSAFE in the iPhone or Android store

Listen to the loudspeaker or radio for news about about coronavirus.

What happens when doctors think someone has COVID-19 in East Arnhem?

What will the sick person do?

- Call the Miwatj clinic or hospital to get tested. Homelands residents will call Laynhapuy Health or Marthakal Homelands.
- If health staff are worried that person has COVID-19, they might take them to Gove District Hospital or Royal Darwin Hospital.
- If health staff are waiting for a test to know if that person has coronavirus, they will help that person stay in a room by themselves. This could be at the clinic or hospital, at their home, or somewhere else in community. The test results might be available within two hours but it could also take up to two days.

What will the sick person's family do?

- If doctors find out a person has the virus, health staff will start 'contact tracing'. This means they will try to find all the people the sick person usually stays with, and any other people they have been close to in the past few days.
- If any of those people look sick, Careflight or St John's will take them to Gove District Hospital or Royal Darwin Hospital.
- The other people who have been close to the sick person will be taken to Nhulunbuy Town Hall because we will not know if they have the virus or not. If they go home, they could get someone else sick and that coronavirus could spread to many other people.
- After staying in the Town Hall for a few hours, they will be taken to a place like a motel in Howard Springs near Darwin. They will then stay here for two weeks and maybe longer. Workers will bring food, drink, medicine and other things to their door. They can buy tobacco and other things online from shops like Coles and Big W, which will be delivered to their room. They will have TV and wifi, but will need to bring their own phones and chargers. No visitors are allowed. They will call to see a doctor or speak to one on the phone. They can ask for a Yolŋu interpreter to help over the phone or face-to-face, when they want to speak to a health worker or someone else. They are allowed to sit on the verandah for fresh air, and they are allowed to walk around a small area outside for 20 minutes two times a day.

We will hear instructions and news through:

- Loudspeakers in each community
- Yolŋu Radio 88.9FM
- Gove FM 106.9FM
- Police
- Miwatj Health, Laynhapuy Health and Marthakal Health
- Gove Notice Board (Facebook)
- SecureNT Facebook
- Nhulunbuy Corporation website

What will everybody else do?

In Yirrkala, Gunyana, Birritjimi, Baniyala, Barraratjpi, Bukudal, Dhälinybuy, Djarrakpi, Garrthalala, Gurkawuy, Gurrumuru, Gutjangan, Rurrangala, Wandawuy, Yanungbi, Buymarr, Mata Mata, Yinyikay and Rorruwuy

- If someone in a community or homeland has coronavirus, the police and Northern Territory Government might ask everyone to stay at home. This could be for a long time, maybe 14 days.
- This way of protecting everyone only works if everyone stays at home. If you leave your home or community, you might make your family in another place sick.
- The police, army and many health workers will come to the community and work with Yolŋu organisations to help everyone through this difficult time.
- Health staff will test everyone for coronavirus. Sick people will fly to Gove or Darwin Hospital. Well people will stay at home. If a house is overcrowded, some people might stay in tents.
- Food, drink, medicine and other things will be brought to houses in communities and homelands. Health staff with Yolŋu workers will visit sick people at home.
- In homelands, healthy residents might stay on country if it is safe.
- Old and sick people might be taken to Darwin or Nhulunbuy to keep safe.

In Nhulunbuy:

- If someone in Nhulunbuy has coronavirus, there might be some pathways that are different for Nhulunbuy township. This is because Nhulunbuy has lots of important services – like the hospital, shopping (e.g. Woolworths and other shops), and NT Government services – which might need to stay open to help other communities or homelands if people there get sick with coronavirus.
- The police and Government might ask everyone or some people in Nhulunbuy to stay at home. This could be for a long time, maybe 14 days or even longer. The police, army and health workers may come to the community and help residents through this difficult time.
- Because many people live in Nhulunbuy, health staff will test many people for coronavirus but not everyone. In the communities and homelands, everyone will get tested. But in Nhulunbuy, medical staff might only test people they are worried about, people who call up to ask for a test, and people who are in quarantine.

Public information contact: eastarnhem.covid19@nt.gov.au

NT COVID-19 Hotline: 1800 008 002

National Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080

Secure NT Updates: <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

Australian Government Department of Health: www.health.gov.au

Information in Yolŋu Matha: www.ards.com.au, Yolŋu Radio [Facebook](#) and 88.9FM and www.amsant.org.au/covid-19/