

# Travel restrictions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities during coronavirus

# FACTSHEET

The Australian Government has restricted entry to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (or 'designated areas') in Queensland to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

These restrictions also protect the health of community members, especially Elders, who are at greater risk of becoming seriously ill if they catch COVID-19.

Every Queenslanders needs to do the right thing and take remote travel restrictions seriously. Strict penalties apply for anyone deliberately breaching these laws and putting vulnerable First Nations Queenslanders at risk.

## Communities with restrictions

Travel restrictions apply to the local government areas of Aurukun, Cook, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Pormpuraaw, Torres Strait Island, Torres, Wujal Wujal, Burke, Doomadgee, Cherbourg, Mornington, Palm Island, Woorabinda and Yarrabah.



### More information

Coronavirus including symptoms and prevention:

[www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus)

Restricted access to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities:

[www.datsip.qld.gov.au/travel](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/travel)

## Quarantine and entry for residents

The safest place for you is in your community, homeland or outstation. If you are at home in your community, we encourage you to stay there.

If you go outside your area and then want to return to your community, you will need to go into quarantine for 14 days before being allowed to enter. Contact your local council to determine quarantine requirements in your area.

On entry, you must meet the following conditions:

- No COVID-19 related symptoms in the last 14 days
- No overseas travel in the last 14 days
- Not entering for the purpose of breaking the law
- Not prohibited from entering by any other law (e.g. restraining orders).

Once you are back in your community, please follow the social distancing and health advice provided by local health workers and at [www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus)

## Quarantine and entry for essential workers

Essential workers (essential service workers, decision makers and biosecurity officers) must meet the following conditions before entering a community:

- Not have been exposed to others with COVID-19
- No COVID-19 related symptoms in the last 14 days
- No overseas travel in the last 14 days
- Not entering for the purpose of breaking the law
- Not prohibited from entering by any other law (e.g. restraining orders).

Essential workers do not need to go into quarantine for 14 days before entering the community but must minimise contact with community members.

Please follow the social distancing and health advice provided at [www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus) once you enter a restricted area.

More information about essential services is available at [www.datsip.qld.gov.au/travel](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/travel)

## Travellers and people in transit

A person in transit is someone travelling beyond the restricted community, who is driving through the area to reach another destination.

All travellers are encouraged to seek other routes if possible. If you are travelling through a restricted community you:

- must meet all entry requirements
- cannot stop or have contact with other people in the community.

# Frequently asked questions

## How are essential services being provided?

Essential workers can enter restricted areas so important services like health, education, food delivery and garbage collection can continue.

Essential workers must not show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have been outside Australia in the last 14 days.

Read the full list of essential services at [www.datsip.qld.gov.au/travel](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/travel)

## How do the restrictions work if I'm only entering for a short time?

You can only stop in a community if you are providing essential services to one or more people in that community.

You must meet the entry conditions, and minimise contact with others while in a community.

Travellers or people in transit must not stop or come into contact with other people in restricted communities.

## I'm already in my community. How does this affect me?

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

If you go outside the restricted area and want to return, you will need to go into quarantine for 14 days before you can come back in.

This is to make sure no one brings COVID-19 into the community from outside. It can take 14 days for symptoms to show.

## How do the restrictions affect community members wanting to return home?

If you want to return to your community, you will need to go into quarantine for 14 days before being allowed to enter.

## Can I travel between restricted areas?

If you travel out of one restricted area and want to enter another, you will need to go into quarantine for 14 days before going in.

The same will apply if you want to go back to the first community.

Local councils can provide advice about where to quarantine before entering each restricted area.

## Can I travel between my homeland and community?

You can move between your homeland and community if it is within a restricted designated area, however local quarantine measures may apply.

If unsure, check with your local council or Biosecurity Officer.

## Can I travel for Sorry Business?

The Australian Government has banned large indoor and outdoor gatherings to slow the spread of COVID-19, including cultural gatherings such as wakes. Funerals can have no more than ten people.

Read more about alternate ways to conduct Sorry Business at [www.datsip.qld.gov.au/sorry-business](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/sorry-business)

## Can I go to town for shopping (outside the designated area) and return to community (inside the designated area)?

You cannot leave a designated area and return without having to self-quarantine for 14 days.

## What if I have to travel to town for my job?

If you have a job outside a designated area, you won't be able to return without having to self-quarantine for 14 days.

## Can travellers / people in transit travel to / through the restricted areas?

All travellers should seek other routes if possible.

You should only travel through restricted communities if it is the most direct and practical route.

You cannot stop or have contact with people from that community.

## When do the restrictions end?

The current travel restrictions are expected to end on 18 June 2020. However, restrictions may be extended if it is considered necessary.

## Where can I find more information?

### Remote travel restrictions

Contact your local council or DATSIP regional office [www.datsip.qld.gov.au/contact](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/contact)

### Coronavirus and health matters

Visit [www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus)

Call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)