

Protecting our remote communities

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

Vaccination, testing and mask requirements

Doherty Institute modelling has set a higher benchmark for vaccination coverage, **80 per cent for all people aged five years and over**, in all Northern Territory remote communities and homelands.

This is due to the high prevalence of health issues and our young population, with the median age of Territorians living in remote communities in the low 20s.

Until the 80 per cent vaccination rate for all people aged five years and over can be achieved in remote communities, a number of public health measures will be introduced. These include:

Vaccination

- In line with the CHO Direction for mandatory vaccination, all people entering or working in a remote community in the NT **must have their first dose by 12 November and their second dose by 24 December 2021**.
- Vaccination remains the best defence against COVID-19. Two doses of the vaccine gives you around 90% protection against hospitalisation and death from COVID-19.

Mandatory mask wearing

- From Monday, 15 November 2021, any worker or resident entering a remote community with a first dose vaccination rate below 70%, from Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs or interstate will be required to **wear a mask at all times for seven days when in public**.
- For example:
 - If a teacher travels from Kalkaringi to Katherine, they will be required to wear a mask for seven days when they return to Kalkaringi.
 - A tradesperson who travels from Alice Springs to Papunya will be required to wear a mask for seven days upon entry.
 - A person travelling from Queensland to Galiwinku will be required to wear a mask for seven days upon entry.
 - A person travelling from Tennant Creek to Ali Curung will not be required to wear a mask upon entry.
 - A person travelling from Wilowra to Yuendumu will not be required to wear a mask upon entry.

COVID-19 testing

- From 19 November 2021, any person travelling from Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs or outside the Territory who enters a [low-vaccination-rate remote community](#) (with a first dose vaccination under 70% or any of the 29 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation controlled communities in the Northern Territory) remote community with a vaccination rate below 70%, will be required to receive a negative rapid antigen COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to entry.
- Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing sites will be established in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

NOTE: The mask mandate and rapid antigen testing applies to all communities with a low vaccination rate. Remote community vaccination data can be accessed is available at coronavirus.nt.gov.au