

Cairns District Disaster Management Group
RESTRICTED ACCESS TO REMOTE COMMUNITIES
PROTOCOL

Chief Health Officer's Direction

Version 4

Current as of 13 June 2020

1. Purpose

To provide a sustainable whole-of-government response to protecting the health of vulnerable people in Remote Communities by restricting non-essential travel without specific approval.

Travel restrictions to remote and discrete Indigenous communities came into effect as of midnight Thursday 26 March 2020 under s477 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Cth). On 12 June 2020, Queensland was removed from the *Biosecurity Determination (Remote Communities)* and has been replaced with the new Chief Health Officer (CHO) Direction '*Restricted Access to Remote Communities*'.

This purpose of this document is to provide guidance to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) on the application processes for gaining entry to a Designated Area (DA) in Remote Communities.

2. Introduction

Revised travel restrictions to remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities came into effect as of midnight Friday 12 June 2020 under the provision of the CHO Directive '*Restricted Access to Remote Communities*'.

Entry into a Designated Area (Remote Communities)

Designated areas are declared under the *CHO Directive* and include the following Local Government Areas (LGA):

Aurukun	Lockhart River	Torres Strait Island
Burke	Mapoon	Torres
Cherbourg	Mornington Island	Weipa
Cook	Napranum	Woorabinda
Doomadgee	Northern Peninsula Area	Wujal Wujal
Hope Vale	Palm Island	Yarrabah
Kowanyama	Pormpuraaw	

Persons are prohibited from entering a DA unless certain conditions apply. All individuals will be screened prior to entering the DA. This will occur at vehicle check points (VCP), and airports.

The categories of entry are:

1. Returning Residents (Refer to appendix A)
2. Non-Resident Visitors (Refer to appendix B)
3. Essential Service – inside / outside Declared Travel Zone (DTZ) (Refer to appendix C)
4. Exemption (Refer to appendix D)
5. In Transit (Refer to appendix E).
6. Special Purpose (Refer to appendix F).
7. Residents – Required to Quarantine (14 days) (Refer to appendix F)

Reference information:

Table 1 List of Designated Areas and associated Declared Travel Zones.

Table 2 Definition of Essential Activity -employment classifications.

Heath Screening Questions (Mandatory)

A person who attends a VCP or airport with the purpose to enter a DA will be asked the following questions:

1. Are you experiencing or have experienced any fever or chills in the past 14 days?
2. Are you experiencing or have experienced any respiratory symptoms in the past 14 days (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)?
3. Have you travelled overseas in the past 14 days?
4. Have you been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the past 14 days?
5. Have you been to a COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days? (*area of Australia decided by CHO and published on Qld Health website*)

If a person answers **YES** to any of these questions, entry to the DA is **refused** and the individual is directed to contact 13HEALTH.

3. Process for Entering a Designated Area

The following protocols outline the approved process for the listed categories of entry into a DA. The following information also includes the documentation required to be presented for entry at the VCPs and Airports.

RETURNING RESIDENTS (NO QUARANTINE REQUIRED)

Process:

- Residents of the DA (including new residents- only those who currently reside in a DA or the DTZ of the intended DA) are not required to quarantine if their travel was:
 - to DTZ (see Table 1);
 - to another DA (see Table 1);
 - as part of health care (including carer/support person) received outside of their DA;
 - as a student (prep to Yr12) (including parent, guardian / carer) from a school outside of their DTZ;
 - as a prisoner or youth justice client returning after custody / detention; and
 - on an approved community transport arrangement.
- Residents will need to prove their identity / residency when they attend the VCP / Airports.
- Residents complete the online, "Travelling to or through remote communities entry pass" via the website www.qld.gov.au/border-pass - **Resident, new resident or visiting family** – E Pass
- Identity / Proof of Residency can include (not exhaustive):
 - Drivers licence
 - 18+ card
 - Centrelink Card - customer reference number contains 9 numbers and ends in a letter
 - Passport - not expired more than 2 years
 - Birth certificate (not an extract)
 - Health insurance card
 - Medicare card including numbers in family
 - Motor vehicle registration / Electricity account
 - Letter from CEO / Mayor verifying they are a resident

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

- Identification / Proof of Residency (including Driver's Licence / Passport / proof of identity)
- Communities Entry Pass - **Resident, new resident or visiting family** – E Pass



NON RESIDENTS (VISITORS) TO DESIGNATED AREA

Process:

1. A resident of the DTZ (see Table 1) for the associated DA (see Table 1) can visit family within the DA. (for example: a Cairns resident can travel to Coen to visit family);
2. Residents will need to provide proof of identity including residential address in DTZ;
3. Residents will need to identify the name of the family and their residential address they intend to visit;
4. Residents complete the online, "Travelling to or through remote communities entry pass" via the website www.qld.gov.au/border-pass - **Resident, new resident or visiting family** – E Pass
5. Identity / Proof of Residency can include (not exhaustive):
 - Drivers licence
 - 18+ card
 - Centrelink Card - customer reference number contains 9 numbers and ends in a letter
 - Passport - not expired more than 2 years
 - Birth certificate (not an extract)
 - Health insurance card
 - Medicare card including numbers in family
 - Motor vehicle registration / Electricity account
 - Letter from CEO / Mayor verifying they are a resident

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

- a. Identification / Proof of Residency (including Driver's Licence / Passport / proof of identity);
- b. When applicants attend the VCP / Airport and they will be questioned by police officers regarding the validity of their visit to family; and
- c. Communities Entry Pass- **Resident, new resident or visiting family** – E Pass.



1. Essential workers (*including those who transport person/s into the area*) and (*who reside outside of the Declared Travel Zone 'DTZ'*) complete the online, "Travelling to or through remote communities entry pass" via the website www.qld.gov.au/border-pass - **Essential Service Pass**.
2. Applicants / Businesses – download and complete the online **Queensland risk management plan** and adopt the principles contained within. The form can be found at:
www.datsip.qld.gov.au/coronavirus/travel-restrictions-remote-communities
3. Essential workers (*who reside within the DTZ of the DA*) will need to prove their identity / residency – **DO NOT REQUIRE** - **Queensland risk management plan (QRMP)** or **Queensland Entry Pass**
4. Identity / Proof of Residency can include (not exhaustive) –
 - *Drivers licence*
 - *18+ card*
 - *Centrelink Card - customer reference number contains 9 numbers and ends in a letter*
 - *Passport - not expired more than 2 years*
 - *Birth certificate (not an extract)*
 - *Health insurance card*
 - *Medicare card including numbers in family*
 - *Motor vehicle registration / Electricity account*
 - *Letter from CEO / Mayor verifying they are a resident*
5. Essential activity – See Table 2

- a. Individual Identification (*including Driver's Licence / Passport / proof of identity*);
- b. Completed QRMP - ONLY for Essential Workers (*who reside outside of the Declared Travel Zone 'DTZ'*);
- c. Community Entry Pass - ONLY for Essential Workers (*who reside outside of the Declared Travel Zone 'DTZ'- Not mandatory*);
- d. Confirmation of Employment including workplace identification or letter of employment.

Queensland health

Queensland Risk Management Plan for Essential Activity in a Designated Area under the Restricted Access to Remote Communities Direction

Requirements for person entering, or providing transport for, essential activity (the requirements)

This template is for:

- A person who is required under the Chief Health Officer Public Health Direction: *Restricted Access to Remote Communities to have a Queensland risk management plan that complies with the requirements of the Chief Health Officer to minimise the extent to which other persons in the area are exposed to the person carrying out essential activity.*

The requirements of the Chief Health Officer directed in this document relate to the COVID-19 management of a person *entering person* *entering a remote Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community in a designated area under schedule 1 of the Chief Health Officer Public Health Direction: Restricted Access to Remote Communities (a designated area)* for the purpose of *engaging in an essential activity in the area and that person* to be in the area.

Details of the entering person

Name of the entering person	_____
Address of the entering person	_____
Employment details of the entering person	_____
Length of time the person has been in the area for purposes of the essential activity	_____
Where else for multiple dates, multiple entries are permitted (i.e. daily)	_____

Circle the designated areas the entering person needs to enter:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ararat <input type="checkbox"/> Burke <input type="checkbox"/> Cook <input type="checkbox"/> Hargbark <input type="checkbox"/> Dooenaple <input type="checkbox"/> Hope Vale <input type="checkbox"/> Keweenaw <input type="checkbox"/> Lockhart River <input type="checkbox"/> Mornington Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Napier <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Peninsula Area <input type="checkbox"/> Palm Island <input type="checkbox"/> Pomorony <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Island <input type="checkbox"/> Weipa <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Shire <input type="checkbox"/> Weipa <input type="checkbox"/> Woorindind <input type="checkbox"/> Wujal Wujal <input type="checkbox"/> Yarrabab
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Queensland
Government

COMMUNITIES ENTRY PASS

COVID-19 disaster declaration

Rebate Communities Pass

Date of issue: 12/06/2020

Reference ID: 2020-000000

Personal details

Name

John Smith

Residential address

123 Main Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Email

john.smith@queensland.gov.au

Reason for rebate community pass

Disaster event name

Rebate of the fee for the Queensland Government's COVID-19 disaster declaration

This information has been provided for your review and control. It is not to be used for any other purpose. It is the responsibility of the Queensland Government to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date. It is the responsibility of the Queensland Government to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date.

The collection of this information is for the purpose of the Queensland Government's COVID-19 disaster declaration. It is not to be used for any other purpose. It is the responsibility of the Queensland Government to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date. It is the responsibility of the Queensland Government to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date.

EXEMPTION

Process:

1. Applicants make application to **Queensland Chief Health Officer** for approval to enter relevant DA via website: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/request-an-exemption/>
2. If approved, **Queensland Chief Health Officer** will issue approval notice.
3. Applicant when approved will complete the online “Travelling to or through remote communities entry pass” via the website www.qld.gov.au/border-pass - **Communities Entry Pass – Chief Health Officer Exemption.**

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

- a. Individual Identification (including Driver’s Licence / Passport / proof of identity)
- b. Qld Chief Health Officer Exemption Notice (awaiting document production)
- c. Communities Entry Pass E - **Chief Health Officer Exemption**

Queensland Government

COMMUNITIES ENTRY PASS

COVID-19 disaster declaration

Remote Communities Pass

Date of issue: 12/06/2020

Telephone for contact purposes

Personal details:

Name: [redacted]

Residential address: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Reason for remote community travel:

Travel across private: [redacted]

The information I have provided is true, correct and complete. I acknowledge that providing false information is an offence under the Public Health Act 2005 which may result in me being liable to a fine of up to \$10,000 per offence.

The collection of this information is authorised by the Public Health Act 2005. The information will be used for the administration and enforcement of the Public Health Act 2005. The Queensland Police Service and/or Queensland Health may access this information for other State and Commonwealth law enforcement purposes and for the purposes of the Public Health Act 2005. The information may be disclosed to other State and Commonwealth law enforcement agencies and to the public.

IN TRANSIT

- (i) *Transiting through the DA to a non-DA – non-stop without contact to persons within the DA*
- (ii) *Transiting between DA's via a non DA – non stop without contact to persons in the non DA*

Process:

1. Applicant completes the online process, “Transiting through or between designated areas” remote communities entry pass via the website www.qld.gov.au/border-pass – **Transiting through the designated area or Travelling between designated areas**
2. Applicant attends the Vehicle Check Point / Airport and is questioned by officers as to the validity of the travel and if they can comply with the conditions of travelling through the Designated area non-stop and without contact.

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

- a. Individual Identification (including Driver's Licence / Passport / proof of identity)
- b. Communities Entry Pass E - **Transiting through the designated area** or **Travelling between designated areas**

Queensland Government

COMMUNITIES ENTRY PASS

COVID-19 disaster declaration

E

Remote Communities Pass

Date of issue: 12/06/2020

Telephone for emergency services

Personal details:

Name: [REDACTED]

Residential address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reason for remote community travel:

Travel reason please: [REDACTED] Member of the destination declared from entering in the course of work

☒ The information I have provided in this form is true and correct. I acknowledge that providing false information is an offence under the Public Health Act 2012 which may result in me being liable for a fine of up to qld.parliament.qld.gov.au

The collection of this information is authorised by the Public Health Act 2012. The information will be used for the administration and enforcement of the Public Health Act 2012. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Queensland Health may share this information for other State and Commonwealth government agencies for law enforcement purposes in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2012.

SPECIAL PURPOSE

Public Health or Biosecurity Officers, ADF personnel and Persons fleeing imminent life threatening circumstances

Process:

1. Applicant attends the Vehicle Check Point / Airport and is questioned by officers as to the validity of their special purpose to enter

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

- a. Individual Identification (*including Driver's Licence / Passport / proof of identity*)

RESIDENTS (14 days Quarantine Completed)**Process:**

- 1 Residents who have travelled outside of their DTZ (*including new residents who come from outside a designated area or the DTZ for the new area*) **MUST QUARANTINE** for 14 days at suitable place.
- 2 Suitable place is:
 - (i) a private residence **INSIDE** the designated area where physical distancing can be observed or
 - (ii) other premises as directed by an emergency officer (public health)
- 3 If Quarantine can be completed at residence inside DA follow process for Returning Resident (*see appendix A*)

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

- a. Identification / Proof of Residency (*including Driver's Licence / Passport / proof of identity*)
- b. **VCP / Airport Question** – *Is the residence you intend on travelling to suitable for quarantine?*
- c. If Resident answers **YES** – VCP / Airport staff will issue – Emergency Officer Direction notice or assist applicant to download a Communities Entry Q-Pass. Queensland Entry Pass (see below)
- d. If Resident answers **NO** – Not allowed into DA. Need to Quarantine outside DA at premises directed QHEALTH or apply for Qld CHO exemption (*see appendix D*)

Table 1

Designated Area	Declared Travel Zone
Yarrabah	Cairns Regional Council area Tablelands Regional Council area Mareeba Shire area Douglas Shire area Cassowary Coast Regional area
Torres Strait Island Torres Northern Peninsula Area Mapoon Napranum Aurukun Pormpuraaw Kowanyama Lockhart River Cook Hopevale Wujal Wujal Weipa	Cairns Regional Council area Tablelands Regional Council area Mareeba Shire area Douglas Shire area Carpentaria Shire area

Table 2

Essential activity means one of the following, or to transport a person to or from the area to provide one of the following:

- a. health care;
- b. education;
- c. services relating to prevention of, or recovery from, domestic violence;
- d. services relating to child protection;
- e. policing services;
- f. emergency services;
- g. essential services of a kind typically provided by local government, such as rubbish collection;
- h. services, benefits, programs or facilities that the Chief Executive Centrelink has the function of providing;
- i. correctional services in relation to one or more persons in the area;
- j. funerary services in the area;
- k. conducting, or taking part in, a sitting of a court or tribunal in the area;
- l. operating, maintaining, repairing or replacing equipment for providing electricity, gas, water, medical services, telecommunications services or broadcasting services or other essential infrastructure in the area;
- m. delivering food, fuel, mail or medical supplies in the area;
- n. obtaining medical care or medical supplies in the area;
- o. continuing the construction in the area of housing or transport infrastructure that was in progress immediately before the commencement of this public health direction;
- p. carrying out mining operations, or operations ancillary to mining operations, in the area for an employer who has a health plan that complies with the requirements specified by the Chief Health Officer;
- q. transporting freight to or from a place in the area;
- r. carrying out commercial primary production including agribusiness or commercial fishing in the area for an employer who has a health plan that complies with the requirements specified by the Chief Health Officer;
- s. services, benefits, programs or facilities provided by any federal, state or local government or agency;
- t. new construction;
- u. legal services;
- v. social work, counselling or support services;
- w. research activities (*Note: all other relevant approvals, such as the approval of the local authority, must be in place*).
- x. duties and functions carried out by a federal, state or local government elected official;
- y. providing religious or cultural services including conducting a wedding or funeral or other religious ceremony;
- z. providing services reasonably necessary for the proper functioning of the designated area, including hospitality services, mechanical repairs and retail services.