Entry into Designated Biosecurity Areas

COVID-19 – Guidance for Travel to Designated Areas

Purpose and scope

- The Australian Government has restricted entry to some Aboriginal communities ('designated areas') in South Australia. (see list below)
- These restrictions have been made under the Commonwealth *Biosecurity Act 2015*, to protect the health of people in remote areas.
- The travel restrictions are part of a national approach set out in the *Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020 (Cth).*
- People are not to enter the designated areas unless they have been granted permission or they meet exception criteria.
- Exceptions include – isolation from the general public for 14 days, engaging in or providing transport for essential activities, being granted 'permission' by a decision-maker or in transit through the area.
- Whenever possible, people (including community members returning home) should 'isolate from the general public' for 14 days before entry and the measures to prevent exposure to COVID-19 during this period must continue during travel to the designated area.

The purpose of this document is to provide advice to travellers, so they can reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 during travel and therefore limit the possibility of introducing COVID-19 to the Aboriginal Lands and Communities.

This guide relates only to the travel process and does not provide advice regarding actions once the traveller reaches their destination or for the period before travel.

Who does this information apply to?

This guide is intended as general advice for **ALL** people travelling to Aboriginal Lands and Communities (the 'designated areas'). It recommends the steps to follow when preparing to travel and when on route using various transport modes.

The guidance relates to people:
- who have completed a period of 14 day 'isolation from the public'; or
- who have been given 'permission' to enter; or
- who are engaging in or providing transport for essential activity (whether considered urgent or non-urgent); or
- who are in transit through or moving between designated areas; or
- who are crossing the State border between designated areas;

The guidance can be used by organisations, contractors and the South Australian Police (SAPOL):
- to inform work-practices and protocols
- as part of Human Biosecurity Officer guidance information
- to guide clinical decisions regarding patient transport

It is important for all people intending to enter a 'designated area', particularly for people who have completed '14 day isolation from the public', that measures to prevent COVID-19 **are continued while travelling** to the area.

Designated Areas

In South Australia, 'designated areas' are Aboriginal lands or communities including:
- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands
- Gerard community
- Point Pearce community

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- Nepabunna community (excluding Iga Warta)
- Maralinga Tjarutja Lands
- Yalata community

Guidance for travel

Preparing to travel
- If possible, or if instructed to do so, complete a 14-day period of isolation from the general public
- Do **not** proceed with travel if you become unwell with COVID-19 like symptoms – seek medical advice
- Obtain sufficient supplies for the journey without compromising the isolation period. This may require:
    - Purchasing necessary supplies (such as food, fluid and petrol) before starting isolation; *or*
    - Asking a friend, colleague or family member to shop for necessary supplies and deliver them without contact; *or*
    - Arranging for necessary supplies to be delivered without contact, for example through use of a supermarket home delivery service
- Consider sourcing supplies such as alcohol-based hand gel and hand wipes to clean hands if hand washing facilities are not available, plus surgical masks and gloves for use during the journey
- If travelling with other people, make sure that they are not unwell and that they have also completed the self-isolation period
- If appropriate, inform the Police Officer responsible for the designated area of your intention to travel, your intended date/time of entry to the area and mode of transport.
- Ensure any other permit requirements are arranged before travel
- Keep a record of any unplanned stop, contact with people or incidents to assist with future outbreak investigation, should it be necessary

Travelling by car
- If possible, travel in your own vehicle
- If the vehicle being used is also used by other people it should be cleaned before use. Advice on cleaning procedures is provided in SA Health and the Australian Government Department of Health fact sheets. Particular attention should be paid to door handles, seat belts, steering wheel, gear shifts, indicator/windscreen wiper controls, window controls, hand brake and control panel (e.g. radio)
- If you are not travelling alone, windows should be open or vehicle air-conditioning/airflow set to fresh air rather than recirculate
- Make sure you have sourced sufficient supplies before the journey so that visits to shops and restaurants are not required
- Rest stops
    - Maintain social distancing (stay at least 1.5 meters away from other people; avoid physical contact)
    - Keep stops to less than 15 minutes duration to minimise any contact
    - Clean hands before eating and after using the toilet
    - Clean hands after using the petrol pump (or wear gloves if available, and wash hands after removing gloves)
    - Clean hands before re-entering the vehicle
    - Use contactless payment methods ('tap-and-go') rather than cash, if possible
- Overnight stops (if required)
    - Go directly to accommodation and avoid contact with other people
    - Eat food that you have brought with you, or if this is not possible order room service or take away food
    - Arrange payment via contactless means e.g. online or by phone, if possible
    - Make sure you have sourced sufficient supplies before the journey so that visits to shops and restaurants are not required
    - Maintain social distancing (stay at least 1.5 meters away from other people; avoid physical contact with others)
    - Clean hands before eating and after using the toilet
    - Clean hands before entering the vehicle to restart the journey

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Travelling by plane
- Request to be seated away from other passengers if possible
- Maintain social distancing as much as practicable (stay at least 1.5 meters away from other people; avoid physical contact with others)
- Wash hands regularly, particularly before eating and after using the toilet
- Wear a mask if one is available and close contact cannot be avoided

Travelling by taxi or ride-hail services (e.g. Uber)
- Sit in the back seat
- Maintain social distancing as much as practicable (stay at least 1.5 meters away from other people; avoid physical contact with others)
- Use contactless payment methods ('tap-and-go') rather than cash, if possible
- Clean hands after exiting the vehicle

If you become unwell during the journey **do not proceed with travel** and seek medical advice.

Further information

Self-isolation and quarantine advice for COVID-19 (coronavirus)
https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+topics+a+-+z/covid+2019/community/self-isolation+and+quarantine+advice+for+covid-19+%28coronavirus%29

Self-isolation (self-quarantine) for coronavirus (COVID-19)
https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-self-quarantine-for-coronavirus-covid-19

Good hygiene for coronavirus (COVID-19)
https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/good-hygiene-for-coronavirus-covid-19

Social distancing for coronavirus (COVID-19)
https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/social-distancing-for-coronavirus-covid-19

Environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for COVID-19
https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19.pdf

Cleaning and disinfection in the workplace
https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/3abb2b62-6f07-4051-838b-b71d090df3ac/20200330+COVID-19+Fact+Sheet+-+Cleaning+and+disinfection+in+the+workplace.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE-3abb2b62-6f07-4051-838b-b71d090df3ac-n4G6H9W