

PLANNING FOR A LOCKDOWN IN TASMANIA

Tasmania has been planning for a lockdown in case it is needed as a circuit breaker to Covid-19 being detected in the community.

A lockdown prevents further disease transmission and allows Public Health to trace contacts of cases and ensure they are isolated and tested, while further assessing the risk of community transmission.

These restrictions build on lockdown experiences of other jurisdictions and Tasmania's lockdown in 2020 and have been updated given the increased risk associated with the delta variant of concern.

This high-level summary of the possible restrictions to a lockdown response is provided to assist with planning and preparation. Different outbreak scenarios will require different responses, this draft will be adapted in line with Public Health advice if required.

THE ADDITIONAL POINTS IN RED WILL APPLY TO NWSS.

Face masks:

Face masks to be worn outside the home by people aged 12 and older (unless still at primary school or otherwise exempt.)

NWSS:

- Face masks will be worn at all times by staff working in shared homes
- Face masks will be worn at all times by staff working in private homes
- Face masks will be worn in all NWSS vehicles when transporting people

Stay at home:

Your home is your primary residence when lockdown begins.

If you're not a Tasmanian resident and don't have a suitable place to live under the stay-at-home direction, you will need to leave the state.

Stay at home unless:

1. Shopping for urgent household or health supplies within 5km of home, only one person from a household at any one time.
2. Attending medical or health care appointments, including COVID-19 testing or vaccinations.
3. An essential worker – a person for an essential provider or business that is permitted to operate.

4. Going to school – if the child of an essential worker, or unable to learn at home. Or going to childcare.
5. Exercising once per day outdoors (including national parks and reserves) within 5km of home for up to two hours.
6. Caring for a vulnerable person or other compassionate reasons.

NWSS:

- Support staff may be required to attend to the shopping needs of clients
- Support staff will be provided with a letter of proof of “essential worker” status
- Staff will likely be restricted to working in one location only

Gatherings:

- Indoor and outdoor gatherings not allowed.
- No more than 10 guests at funerals, not including children under 12 months of age and funeral directors.
- No weddings, unless for compassionate reasons and then only five people, the couple, two witnesses and a celebrant.
- Only live streaming of ceremonies and religious gatherings (one person to conduct and one to video).

NWSS:

- As above

Home visit:

No visitors to homes unless:

- Supporting a vulnerable person.
- Visiting as part of a significant relationship.
- Visiting as part of a visitor “bubble” with someone who lives alone.

NWSS:

- Will implement virtual support through electronic devices where needed to limit private home visits
- Will decrease support team sizes and limit movement between private homes

- Will restrict teams from working across multiple locations
- Will liaise with families who provide hands on support in residential settings on how to maintain the continuity of their support

Education:

Schools – childcare, primary and secondary including years 11 and 12

Remote learning for all students other than the children of essential workers and those whose learning cannot be supported at home.

Post-compulsory education

Remote learning for all students, unless programs cannot be run from home or reasonably be delayed or completed remotely (e.g., exams or maintenance of essential research activities).

NWSS:

- As above

Aged care and hospitals

Visits to aged care and hospitals will be restricted, including the number of visitors and visit frequency and length. Masks will be required.

For NWSS:

- As above

Businesses

All open businesses (with or without restrictions) require a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

For NWSS:

- Will have COVID-19 safety plans to be followed at all times

Open – essential businesses and services.

Click and collect (where possible) of time-critical items only.

For example:

- Essential retail e.g., supermarkets, post offices, newsagents – density limits will apply and click and collect to be used where possible
- Essential services e.g., repairs, laundry, legal, financial, journalism, waste management, pest control, telecommunications, security, removalists – with remote services provided where possible
- Emergency services, including compliance and enforcement
- Health and community services
- Veterinary and animal care
- Primary and secondary schools, with restricted attendance
- Childcare
- Farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, irrigation, permaculture, apiculture, grains, fibre production, dairy, commercial fishing, aquaculture
- Factories and facilities supporting manufacture, production, and processing
- Public and commercial transport (including freight, logistics and supply chain operators) and related premises
- Provision of utilities e.g., electricity, gas, water, and sewerage
- Forestry, mining, and mineral processors

For NWSS:

- Will educate clients and families on the lockdown situation as much as possible
- Will monitor the support needs of clients who may not be able to go to their places of work
- Will continue to provide support to all clients living in shared homes
- Will continue to provide support to high support clients living in private homes
- Will notify staff on when, where, and how they are to provide continuing essential support in private homes

Open – with restrictions

- Restaurants, cafes, and licensed premises – takeaway only
- Accommodation – for certain travellers only

- Community centres, neighbourhood houses etc – for essential voluntary services, such as food banks and homelessness
- Construction and civil construction

For NWSS:

- As above

Closed

Any business not listed as open (with or without restrictions) should be assumed to be closed.

This includes:

- Beauty therapy, hairdressing, tanning, waxing, manicure or other nail treatments, tattoos, ear and body piercing, body modification and other similar services
- Spas and float spas
- Massage parlours
- Tourism and tours
- Sports, gyms, and swimming pools
- Indoor and outdoor amusement parks, arcades, play centres, skates parks and playgrounds
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, gaming and other gambling venues, night clubs & strip clubs
- Galleries, museums, national institutions, historic sites, and similar premises
- Concert venues, theatres, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums, and similar premises
- Racing, gaming, or gambling premises
- Real estate – auctions and property inspections
- Public events

NWSS:

- Will close recreational and social activities when necessary

Travel to Tasmania

Tasmanian residents will be able to return to Tasmania subject to existing requirements for low, medium, and high-risk arrivals.

People arriving from low-risk areas will be required to comply with the lockdown measures. People who have been in medium and high-risk areas will quarantine.

Non-residents will not be permitted to enter the state.

NWSS:

- Will require staff returning from low and high-risk areas to notify Service Coordinators and arrange a COVID test before returning to work. Proof of a negative COVID test will be required to return to work

Travel within Tasmania

A lockdown may be applied to the whole state or to a regional area only.

If a region is in lockdown, there may be restrictions on reasons for travelling in and out of the area. Restrictions on travel to King Island, Flinders Island and the Furneaux Group of Islands may be introduced.

NWSS:

- As above

More details at www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/lockdown-plan