



As at 8:00am on the 4th September 2020 there are **NO cases** in the Cocos Keeling Islands.

 A map showing Western Australia (WA) and the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT). WA is highlighted in green with a checkmark, and the IOT is highlighted in red with the word 'RESTRICTED'. Dotted lines with airplane icons connect Perth to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Administrator of Christmas Island
Administrator of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Travel to and from the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT)

- Travel between WA and IOT by air only. Exempt from quarantine requirements, **if you haven't been outside WA or the IOT in the past 14 days.**
- Travel restrictions remain in place.** Travellers from outside WA are assessed on a case by case basis. Restrictions are under ongoing review.
- All people travelling into WA must apply for entry approval. Apply here: www.g2gpass.com.au
- All people travelling to the IOT must apply for entry approval. Apply here: www.bit.ly/IOT-Traveller-Form
- If you travel to the IOT on a sailing vessel, **you must quarantine for 14 days.**

IOT COVID-19 response update

In meetings which took place this week, the Emergency Management Committees of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands have endorsed three measures proposed by the COVID-19 subcommittee for the ongoing protection of the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT), its communities and economies.

These included:

Support for extension of the IOT States of Emergency

- The IOT State of Emergency (SoE) were declared on 18 March 2020. The next assessment date for further Ministerial extension is at 17 September 2020.
- It is expected the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC), which comprises all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by Australian Chief Medical Officer, will recommend to governments that the current States of Emergency be extended until 17 December 2020.
- Maintaining the States of Emergency does not prevent the lifting of travel restrictions.
- Any emergency declaration extensions would continue to support the WA-IOT travel zone and the return of travellers to the CKI in a safe and controlled way.

Alignment with WA's COVID restriction staging timeframes

- Throughout the COVID response, the subcommittee has reviewed and aligned with Western Australia's measures and restrictions wherever possible and relevant, along with national protocols and medical advice. The WA border controls have supported the protection of the CKI.
- In line with this, and in recognition of the WA-IOT travel zone, going forward the Office of the Administrator will seek to align our staged adjustment of COVID measures and restrictions with the WA timeframes. The next milestone date for WA stage review is 24 October 2020. Unless



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there is an urgent situation requiring response, the current CKI measures will be maintained until 24 October 2020, in alignment with WA.

Maintaining restrictions on travellers from outside the WA/IOT travel zone

- In line with the WA-IOT travel zone, there will continue to be restrictions on returning residents and essential critical workers from other jurisdictions outside of WA. All applications will be assessed based on their individual circumstances and the risks in the jurisdiction from which they are travelling.
- Where residents apply for permission to travel and then return from outside of the WA-IOT travel zone, this will only be considered on limited compassionate grounds and in line with the strict border and entry requirements.
- Where people depart CKI and travel outside WA, there is no assurance of an approval to return to the IOT.
- Decisions for travel approval to the IOT from outside the IOT/WA travel zone, will be made close to the travel date to allow monitoring and risk assessments on the changing COVID-19 environment.

Limited compassionate grounds

Where a returning resident has travelled outside the IOT/WA travel zone on compassionate grounds, the following applies:

- The returning resident will need to provide evidence of their compassionate travel, including details of a medical emergency or life expiring event, funeral or death of a family member or a wedding for which they travelled.
- In the case of a medical emergency or life expiring event, a close family member includes brother, sister, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather.
- In the case of a funeral or death, a close family member includes brother, sister, mother, father, grandfather, grandmother or the sibling of a brother or sister.
- In the case of a wedding, a sibling or direct descendant, that being a brother or sister and a son or daughter.

Territory Controller updates

As the COVID-19 response continues and the Office of the Administrator align with the WA timetable for review of measures, it is intended to move to fortnightly updates from the Territory Controllers on our local response, preparedness and measures.

As always, the Office of the Administrator will issue communications on urgent or time critical matters as needed. Individual queries can be directed to iotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au

Be COVIDSafe, keep COVID-free

There are still no cases of COVID-19 in the CKI. However, with the community transmission on Australia's east coast, it is a timely reminder to be COVIDSafe.

COVIDSafe means maintaining at least 1.5 metres between you and others at all times, regularly washing your hands with soap, staying at home if you're sick and getting tested if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.

If you have previously been tested for COVID but start to feel sick again, get re-tested. Stay at home while you wait for your results.

Wash your hands to stop the spread - clean hands keep you healthy and help stop the spread of germs. Regularly wash your hands for 20–30 seconds with soap. Remember to wash in between your fingers, the back of your hands and your thumbs.



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Always wash your hands after using the bathroom, when you're preparing food, before or after eating, and after you have been out.

Hand sanitiser is a good alternative when soap and water aren't available.



IOT travel application statistics

You may find it interesting to know that since the IOT WA travel zone was announced on 24 July 2020, the Office of the Administrator has received more than 2,000 applications from WA residents to travel to the IOT. Of those applications, 44% applied to travel to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and 56% applied to travel to Christmas Island.

Applications for travel to Cocos (Keeling) Islands are as follows:

- Travelling for leisure 78%; and
- Travelling for work 22%.

FUTURE UPDATES:

To coincide with the next regular update from the Territory Controller, the next Shire update will be on **Thursday 17th September 2020**. If an urgent notification between the regular update is required, it will be provided to the community via email or social media.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Sailing vessels - The travel zone exemptions only relate to air arrivals. Anyone arriving by sailing vessel to CKI will still need to quarantine, regardless of where they come from (including WA).
- The State of Emergency will remain in effect until 17 September 2020. See **State of Emergency Extension media release:** <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/marino/media-release/safety-paramount-our-iot-communities>. **Having the State of Emergency in place does not prevent the lifting of travel restrictions.**
- Charter vessels and buses are exempt from physical distancing requirements, as long as strict hygiene and cleaning requirements are followed and customer records kept.



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- Medical Screening at IOTHS - The CKI Community is reminded that they must complete mandatory medical screening immediately upon entering the IOT Health Services. Upon completion of the screening questions, IOTHS staff will then direct you to the appropriate health service area.
 - Social gathering limitations at indoor and outdoor locations increased to 100 people. In localities where there is room for more than 100 people, provided the venue can support multiple divided spaces: up to 300 people maximum are permitted to gather: three separate areas of 100 people.
 - COVIDSafe app – see Fact Sheet: https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_COVIDSafe_App_Fact_Sheet.pdf
 - Community members support businesses and venues by providing their contact details upon entering the premises, to support contact tracing if and when required.
 - **Managing Stress and Anxiety, or Family Conflict or Violence** - A factsheet on Managing Stress and Anxiety can be found on the Shire website at https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/Managing_Stress_and_Anxiety.pdf
Family welfare services in the CKI are available for support and advice for anyone experiencing family conflicts or violence, or who is worried about how potential self-isolation or changes to your routine due to COVID-19 will impact on your safety and well-being.
If you need support in discussing Family Conflict or Violence, please contact the health services, our social worker or police on the following numbers.
 - Home Island Clinic – 9162 7609
 - West Island Clinic – 9162 6655
 - Cocos Community Policing Team 9162 6600
- If you feel unsafe or are concerned for someone's safety, please call 000*
- If you are showing any **symptoms** such as **fever, dry cough, sore throat, tiredness** or **shortness of breath**, please **phone ahead** to:
 - Home Island Clinic – 9162 7609
 - West Island Clinic – 9162 6655

FURTHER INFORMATION AND FACTSHEETS:

Additional and more detailed information is available. Please email covid19questions@cki.cc and we can provide detailed responses.

Factsheets on the following are available on the Shire's website – see links below.

1. Travelling to WA factsheet: https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_HOW_TO_COMPLETE_THE_WA_APPLICATION_Fact_Sheet_Updated19082020.pdf
2. Travelling to CKI Fact Sheet: https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_TRAVELLING_TO_COCOS_KEELING_ISLANDS_Fact_Sheet.pdf
3. Travelling to CI & CKI: https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_TRAVELLING_TO_CHIRSTMAS_ISLAND_COCOS_KEELING_ISLANDS.pdf
4. COVIDSafe app Fact Sheet: https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_COVIDSafe_App_Fact_Sheet.pdf



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5. Testing for COVID-19 Guidelines – https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_Testing_for_COVID-19_Guidelines.pdf
6. Frequently Asked Questions - https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_FAQs.pdf
7. COVID-19 Environmental Cleaning for Workplaces (non Healthcare settings) - https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Environmental_Cleaning_for_Workplaces_non_Healthcare_settings.pdf
8. **Cleaning Procedures** - Some useful cleaning references:
Safe Work Australia Cleaning Checklist
https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/COVID-19_Cleaning-Checklist_26May2020.pdf



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