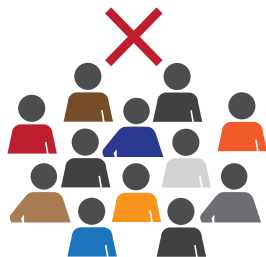


FACT Sheet on potential Public Health Orders for designated remote locations

What the restriction will mean for residents

- Some remote communities have asked to have further legal restrictions similar to the Public Health Order restricting access **to and from** Lord Howe Island.

- NSW already has state-wide Public Health Orders in place to restrict all non-essential activity and gatherings. <https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>



- Any further restrictions for individual towns and locations could restrict residents from returning freely. Exemptions apply for essential travel such as medical appointments could be given.

- Residents returning to the community must self-isolate for 14 days upon return.**



- All restrictions on isolation, daily movement, social distancing, non-essential activities and gatherings and ceremonies including funerals **will still apply** even if these additional Orders are put in place.



- Penalties will still apply - up to \$11,000 and 6 months in prison for individuals.



- A person will need to be appointed to monitor and approve people entering an area. This could be a government official or could be a nominated community member.



- Some towns have major highways running through them. Exemptions may allow for transit through areas by car, train or other vehicle with no interaction with the community.

Issues communities need to consider before requesting these additional restrictions:

- Applying additional Public Health Orders to geographic areas will not guarantee that community will be protected from COVID-19. The virus may already be present or may still be brought in through essential workers and services providers.
- Planning and preparation by services and community for how infections will be managed is essential.
- The geographic area the order would apply to - a whole town or a region practically.
- The restrictions would prevent family members outside of the defined area from visiting, and would prevent people within the area visiting families outside.
- The Restrictions would prevent travel for shopping as well as attendance at events outside of the defined area including as funerals.
- Essential health and others services e.g police, education, domestic violence, council, food fuel delivery services can be made exempt.
- If anyone who has left the community re-enters they need to self-isolate for 14 days. If people cannot do this at home according to NSW Health Guidelines what facilities are available in the community to enable community members to self-isolate eg motel, caravan park etc.
- Who should approve residents exiting and re-entering a community? A government official or a community leader? Noting that the main reason for applying this is that people do not leave.
- Are community members well aware of what the restrictions mean in term of their daily lives?
- Consultation will need to occur with the broader community, including local councils.**