

This is the Plain English script the corresponding Yolŋu matha radio program is based on. It is not an exact translation of the recording. It is provided here primarily to give non-Yolŋu matha speakers an understanding of the resource content.

The accuracy of the content has been confirmed by the Department of the Chief Minister (DCM), in its role as the head of the Public Information Group for East Arnhem Land. This version was last updated on July 9, 2020.

New Coronavirus Laws to Stop People Travelling from Melbourne

The NT Government has made new laws to stop people from Melbourne and other places bringing coronavirus into the NT.

A person who travelled from Melbourne to Darwin in July has coronavirus. This man is the first one with coronavirus in the NT for two months. Doctors had not found anyone else sick with coronavirus in the NT since Easter.

The man came to Darwin from Melbourne on Monday. He felt sick when he arrived in Darwin, and called doctors to get a coronavirus test. The test shows the man has coronavirus. He is now in quarantine at Royal Darwin Hospital, away from other people.

Lots of people in Melbourne are still getting sick from coronavirus. In July, doctors were finding over 100 new people with coronavirus in Melbourne every day. In the first week of July, 2 people in Melbourne died from coronavirus – a 60 year old man and a 90 year old man.

The NT Government is very worried about someone from Victoria coming to Darwin and spreading coronavirus in the NT.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner says starting from July 17, everyone coming from Victoria to the NT will be forced to quarantine for two weeks.

Police and army personnel will still be at the airports and on the roads coming into the NT. They will be asking people, 'Where are you coming from?' If someone has been in Melbourne, or any other place where lots of people are spreading coronavirus, police will take them to stay in a special quarantine building for two weeks. The main quarantine building is in Howard Springs. People might also stay in quarantine places in Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek or Nhulunbuy. They cannot quarantine in a Yolŋu community.

And they will get tested for coronavirus. If they refuse to get tested, they will stay inside in quarantine for another 10 days – 24 days all together – so we know they are not sick and can't make anyone else sick.

This story tells us that we need to be very careful, this coronavirus is not finished and it might come to Darwin or Arnhem Land. Someone in Melbourne might be sick, fly to Darwin, and spread that virus to other people. Then one of those people might fly or drive to Nhulunbuy, and bring the virus to Arnhem Land.

To stay safe, Yolŋu need to put up our own barriers. We can do this by following a physical distancing pathway:

- We will stand or sit 1.5m from anyone we don't live with
- We will not shake hands or touch hands with anyone we don't live with.

We will also wash our hands with soap often.

And if you feel sick, like this:

- Fever, chills or sweating
- Sore throat
- Dry cough
- Runny nose
- Shortness of breath

call up the clinic. Do not go there, because if you are sick, you might make the clinic workers sick. Just call them up first, and they will tell you what to do.