



## NOTICE TO COMMUNITY

**Number:** IOTA-2023-08 **Date:** 22 February 2023

**Relevant:** Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

**Topic:** IOT COVID-19 Weekly Update – 15 February to 21 February 2023

	Christmas Island	Cocos (Keeling) Islands
<b>New Cases: (week)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Recovered Cases:</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Cases in Hospital</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

COVID-19 is present in the community and Australia will continue to experience significant numbers of positive cases. If you are experiencing symptoms, it is strongly recommended that you stay home to protect the community. Continue maintaining a safe distance from others and hold gatherings outdoors if possible. Practise good hand hygiene, wear a mask in public places, cover your coughs and sneezes, stay home if sick and get tested if you develop symptoms or have been in contact with someone recently infected with COVID-19.

The recommended time frame to stay home for confirmed COVID cases is five days or while your symptoms remain. So, if symptoms last longer, please stay away from others until your symptoms clear. Following infection, you should wear a mask in public for another week. People may still test positive on a RAT following infection - this is referred to as viral shedding – you are no longer infectious once symptoms have gone.

Cases will be advised to stay away from the health service for seven days if they test positive – phone consultations can be offered as needed. In the event of a medical emergency, if you are COVID-19 positive, please inform the Health Service prior (if possible), or on arrival, to ensure additional protective infection control measures can be taken.

COVID-19 is a notifiable disease. Please register all cases with IOTHS not WA. Vaccination remains the best protection against severe disease so please contact the health service for bookings or if you require further information.

**Christmas Island – 08 9164 8333**

**Cocos Keeling West Island Clinic – 08 9162 6655**

**Cocos Keeling Island Home Island Clinic – 08 9162 7609**

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-what-you-can-and-cant-do>