



MEDIA RELEASE

“Stay Safe, Stay on Country, Care for Family and Get Vaccinated!”

An important message to community members in the Greater Katherine area from the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory (AMSANT) and the Northern, Tiwi and Anindilyakwa Land Councils

On Sunday 21 November the Chairmen and CEOs of the Northern, Tiwi and Anindilyakwa Land Councils and AMSANT held an urgent meeting in Darwin to send a strong message about the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the Katherine region, particularly at the Robinson River community in the Gulf and the Binjari and Rockhole communities near Katherine.

AMSANT and all of the Land Councils, in particular the Northern Land Council, have been receiving many calls and requests for information and advice from people concerned about potential spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Today’s meeting authorised the following statement for attribution to AMSANT and the three Top End Land Councils:

“The Land Councils and AMSANT are confident that the NT government is taking all appropriate steps to protect the community members at the Binjari and Rockhole communities and they are satisfied with the earlier responses at Robinson River and Katherine township.

The broader community in the Katherine region and beyond should take appropriate steps to make sure that COVID-19 does not spread to any other Aboriginal communities in the Katherine region and beyond. If you have been in Katherine after 7 November you must get tested.

This virus is coming for us Aboriginal people so we need to do the right things to stop it spreading.

Community members in and around the Katherine region should follow these three steps:

- **Stay Put** – as NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi said earlier this week: ‘Countrymen and whitefellas need to stop moving in and out of Aboriginal communities,’
- **Wear a Mask** if you are in Katherine, Robinson River, Binjari or Rockhole communities and the Roper Gulf and West Daly local government areas,
- **Get Vaccinated** as soon as you can.

The best thing that Aboriginal people can do is ‘*Stay Safe, Stay on Country, Care for Family and Get Vaccinated.*’” For up-to-date information go to: <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

21 November 2021.

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