

Community Action Plan

Walgett Local Emergency Management Committee

WALGETT COMMUNITY RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT TOURING VISITORS TO WALGETT ONLY STOP WHERE ESSENTIAL, AND WHERE LAWFUL VISITORS DECIDE TO STOP THEY COMPLY WITH COVID 19 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES/ACTIONS ON SUCH VISIT

Thursday 31 December 2020 (V33)

Review Date: 7 February 2021

LEGEND:

ACLO	Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
DCJ	Department of Communities and Justice
DEG	Dharriwaa Elders Group
HSM	Health Services Manager (NSW Health)
LALC	Local Aboriginal Lands Council
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LGA	Local Government Area
PHO	Public Health Order
PHU	Public Health Unit (NSW Health)

COMPLETE

OUTSTANDING

ONGOING

PIFAC Public Information Functional Area Coordinator

RMS Roads & Maritime Services

WAMS Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service

Level 1: Prepare: COVID-19 has not entered the community

Level (1. Prepare: Covid-19 has not entered the community)	Action (Reviewed weekly)	Responsibility/Status (Reviewed Weekly)
(1) Community entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases applied:	1.1 Namoi & Gingie Missions are self monitoring those attending and leaving the Missions. 1.2 Signs erected at the entrances to the Mission advising visitors are not welcome at present. 1.3 RMS Signage on roadway entering community erected warning residents only allowed entry – placed on the Castlereagh Highway. 1.4 Communication to community through discussion, flyers, social media that non-residents not welcome. 1.5 Returning workers/professionals to the community	LALC - complete LALC – complete – the LALC have determined that signs are not required. Council/RMS - complete NSW Health/Community Leaders / WAMS / LALC/NSW Police/Dharriwaa Elders Group – in process/distribution of material including posters, social media postings, mail drop Employers/organisation to monitor the health and welfare of their employees

COMPLETE

OUTSTANDING

ONGOING

Level (1. Prepare: Covid-19 has not entered the community)	Action (Reviewed weekly)	Responsibility/Status (Reviewed Weekly)
	1.6 Police to consult with LALC and/or Community leaders as to current status of community and any response required.	Police/LEMC LEMC's conducted Tues, LALC, WAMS, DEG extended invitation to attend & participate in LEMC meetings
(2) Public Health Order requested to enforce residents only entry	2.1 LEMC consider PHO application for non-residents exclusion.	LEMC Discussed. Application for a PHO not required at this stage. Current NSW Health Order – Stay at Home sufficient at present. Stay at home not currently required unless symptoms of Cold/flu are present.
(3) Police assist in enforcement of PHO.	3.1 Police requested to set up roadblock at entrance to community to only allow residents and essential services to have access egress.	Police Discussed. Application for a PHO not required at this stage. Current NSW Health Order – Compliance with current orders sufficient at present.
(4) No Public Health Order	4.1 Above strategies could still apply however police utilise current legislation of 'non essential travel' to stop and enforce non residents entering the community. 4.2 Police could also utilise NSW legislation relating to the offence of 'trespass' if non residents were in the community and had been requested to leave by LALC.	Police – Non-essential travel currently allowed. Police focus on current PHO's including Victorian travellers Police/LALC (LALC to provide Police with the name of community liaison contact – should police be required to assist)
(5) Signage placed at Entrance to Community reinforcing PHO or LALC rule about non residency exclusion	5.1 Large Signs to be made and erected at Entrance to Community – warning of exclusion and offence to enter	LALC/Council Signage placed at the entrance of Gingie & Namoi Missions re visitors not currently welcome. Advisory RMS

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		signs placed on the Castlereagh Hwy for the attention of motorists entering Walgett
(6) Restricted Access Education and Awareness	6.1 Inform and prepare community – flyers, posters, social media updates to advise that the community is in lock down and all visitors must register with the LALC for entry to the community.	LALC – Neither Mission has gone to the point of administering a register however communication in all mediums has been distributed and discussed within both Missions at Walgett complete
(7) Health Education and Awareness	7.1 Display public health messages on social media and in community spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice good hygiene: wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face. • Physical distancing encouraged 	LALC/WAMS/NSW Health/NSW Police Completed and updated regularly Via use of social media, pamphlets, posters, mail drop, council newsletter
(8) Funeral Risk Assessment	8.1 Inform community that Funerals are high risk for non-residents attending community. Sensitive consultation and collaboration with family, LALC, Funeral Home and Police.	Community Leaders, LALC, Funeral Director, Police, ACLO's Completed and will continue to be addressed upon notification of funerals in the future. (Communication and adherence to date has been effective) Up to 300 people including children can attend a funeral or memorial service or a gathering that follows a funeral or memorial service. There should be no more than 1 person per 2 square metres indoors. There should be no more than 1 person per 2 square metres outdoors. Up to 50 performers can sing indoors.

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		<p>There will be no limit to singers who can perform outdoors.</p> <p>A COVID-19 Safety Plan will be required to be completed and submitted.</p>
(9) Residents become ill or show symptoms of Covid-19	9.1 Self-isolate and inform health	Community members, Health
(10) Fever Clinics	11.1 The conduct of COVID-19 testing for community who currently have, or have recently had any of these symptoms even if they were mild; fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, cough tiredness, chills, body aches, headache, runny nose, muscle pain. Flyers have been distributed through community by NSW Health advising of the testing.	NSW Health, Walgett Rural and Remote Medical Service GP Surgery.
(11) Police pre shift Health screening	12.1 As at 20/05/2020 all Police (sworn and unsworn staff) commencing their rostered shift at Walgett & Lightning Ridge Police Station undergo Covid-19 pre-screening check by means of an infra red thermometer.	NSW Police – Sgt/Shift Supervisor
(12) Tourists in primitive campsites within the LGA	13.1 The LGA COVID safety plan is displayed on all public amenities blocks throughout the Walgett Shire in addition to personal hygiene posters and physical distancing posters. 13.2 Walgett Shire Council staff are cleaning the amenities blocks daily.	Walgett Shire Council (ongoing)

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Level (1. Prepare: Covid-19 has not entered the community)	Action (Reviewed weekly)	Responsibility/Status (Reviewed Weekly)
(13) Community PPE (Face Masks)	<p>14.1 All community stakeholders, Govt Agencies and NGO's to provide ongoing consistent messaging regarding the current restrictions; Physical distancing, Personal hygiene, presentation at a medical service if an individual is displaying symptoms of COVID</p> <p>14.2 All community stakeholders, Govt Agencies and NGO's to provide messaging to the community advising individuals to purchase their own supply of face masks.</p> <p>14.3 Disseminate a Resource Guide on making your own mask and the requirements surrounding washing of the mask</p> <p>14.4 1000 Health Care packs containing personal sanitation products including face masks to be distributed to 11 discreet communities to identified vulnerable community members.</p>	<p>All LEMC and community stakeholders Ongoing utilising all available mediums</p> <p>All LEMC and community stakeholders Ongoing utilising all available mediums.</p>
(14) NSW Education – School campuses	<p>NSW Health requires schools to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> exclude students and staff with even mild symptoms of COVID-19 <input type="checkbox"/> encourage immediate testing for any symptomatic child(ren) or staff <input type="checkbox"/> prohibit return to school for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 until a negative COVID test result has been reported <input type="checkbox"/> ensure that adults maintain physical distancing at all times 	NSW Education.

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Level (1. Prepare: Covid-19 has not entered the community)	Action (Reviewed weekly)	Responsibility/Status (Reviewed Weekly)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ensure good hand hygiene at all times (e.g. upon entry to the school, entry to the classroom and upon exit of the classroom)	
(15) Community Safety - Distribution of Face Masks and hand sanitiser procured by the SEOCON to members of Walgett, Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge communities	Quantities of masks and hand sanitiser to be provided to LALC's at Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri for distribution to members of the community.	Completed – PPE delivered to Walgett LALC on 24/09/2020 for distribution to the two Missions and identified persons in the townships.

Agency	Engagement Activities	Outcome / Issues
NSWPF	Continued community engagement via HV presence in the commercial area.	Completed – ongoing
	ACLO's engaged and visiting Walgett Reserves/Missions, Wollie Reserve @ Collarenebri. Meeting with families who are preparing funerals	Completed - ongoing
	Warnings/Enforcement of COVID-19 health restrictions	Completed – ongoing
	2WEB Radio interviews by the Commander weekly	Completed – ongoing weekly media engagement
		Commenced 21/05/2020

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Agency	Engagement Activities	Outcome / Issues
	YLO/Youth Command – Delivery of Food hampers received from charity organisations	
NSW Health	Flyer distributed throughout community regarding 'Testing for COVID-19 in Walgett'	Completed
WAMS	Ongoing engagement via mobile welfare checks with the vulnerable members within the community. Vaccine Clinics – COVID-19/Hygiene education provided during process Assisting LALC with Food Box deliveries	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing assisting with IGA Food Deliveries on Thursday & Friday
DEG	Assisting with delivery of fresh fruit and vegetables to the vulnerable members of the community. Checking in and conducting welfare checks with community	Completed - Ongoing Ongoing
Community Action Plan Information Sheet	One page information sheet outlining CAP distributed throughout the community	LEOCON – distributed to LEMC members for distribution - Completed

Level 2: Confirmed Cases in Community

Level 2: Confirmed Cases in Community	Action	Responsibility / Status
(1) Restrictions on Access/Egress increased	1.1 RMS Signage on roadway entering community erected warning residents only allowed entry – placed on the Castlereagh Highway.	Council / RMS

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Level 2: Confirmed Cases in Community	Action	Responsibility / Status
	1.2 Police concentrate on vehicle stops and other access locations to community to reduce non-resident attendance.	NSW Police
(2) Community Information	<p>2.1 High-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 50 or those with other existing medical conditions).</p> <p>2.2 Further re-enforcement of hygiene practices and social distancing through flyer drop, social media and community leaders</p> <p>2.3 Utilise SMS to distribute community messaging surrounding heightened awareness re hygiene, social distancing & gathering.</p> <p>2.4 Recommend via public information that community only undertake essential travel whilst positive cases remain in the community</p>	<p>LALC/Community Leaders/NSW Health/NSW Police/ACLO's</p> <p>LEMC & Community organisations. Forward further written messaging via post office box drops and availability at Health Services & shopping outlets. Messages updated on social media platforms.</p> <p>LEMC/PIFAC</p> <p>LEOCON/NSW Health – utilising flyers/social media platforms/radio. One consistent, clear and concise message conveyed to community.</p>
(3) Isolation of patients	3.1 Positive COVID-19 sample. Patient treatment & tracing.	NSW Health/PHU – Upon positive notification a comprehensive 8-10 page questionnaire is to be completed. PHU will obtain assistance from WAMS and/or HSM to conduct in field questionnaire if deemed required.

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Level 2: Confirmed Cases in Community	Action	Responsibility / Status
	<p>3.2 If able to isolate in community, then self-isolation to take place. (Family within residence to also isolate).</p>	<p>PHU – will follow up with close consultation with the clients doctor who ordered the swab.</p> <p>PHU – make a determination of all high risk contacts (any person who had greater than 15 minutes face to face or longer than 2 hours cumulative in the infective period.</p> <p>PHU – Those contacts are placed into isolation for 14 days from last contact and observed and NOT SWABBED unless symptomatic. They must remain in isolation for 14 days and are contacted daily by PHU as in the case of a welfare contact.</p> <p>NSW Health/DCJ – Public Health Unit will provide patient with information and guidance about self isolation at home.</p> <p>Walgett IGA will take telephone grocery orders – delivery will be undertaken by WAMS staff.</p> <p>WAMS/IGA/Australia Unity/NSW Health/SES will assist with meal, grocery, pharmaceutical provision & delivery and address welfare whilst isolated.</p> <p>PHU will contact self isolating patients/families daily.</p>

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Level 2: Confirmed Cases in Community	Action	Responsibility / Status
	<p>3.3 Conduct of welfare checks when patient does not have a telecommunications device.</p> <p>3.4 If unable to self-isolate in community, but not requiring hospitalisation, then accommodation arranged by DCJ/Health.</p>	<p>Service NSW – 137788 – provision of essential household items. Provision of a basic food pack of non perishable items that will last 14 days. (only where grocery delivery arranged through IGA is not possible/available) (Refer to DCJ 'Welfare Services Functional Area Response to COVID-19)</p> <p>Police will conduct checks on isolated patients to ensure compliance with isolation orders</p> <p>PHU/NSW Health – PHU will co-ordinate the attendance of Aboriginal health workers, PHU staff, Ministry of Health staff – decided on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Public Health Unit – COVID-19 Alternate Isolation Accommodation (AIA) Access. In collaboration with the Online booking system the PHU has establish accommodation links at the following locations;</p> <p>Broken Hill Balranald Wilcannia Bourke Cobar</p>

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Level 2: Confirmed Cases in Community	Action	Responsibility / Status
	3.5 Mobile Testing Clinic (Drive Through Clinic)	<p>Walgett Dubbo Orange Bathurst Condobolin Parkes Lightning Ridge</p> <p>PHU will provide client & family with; Home isolation information & briefing; contact details for PHU; Arrangements for mediations, food, room cleaning & hygiene; daily follow up. WAMS will assist with food/pharmacy deliveries.</p> <p>Telephone grocery orders can be made through Walgett IGA – delivery by WAMS</p> <p>PHU/HSM will co-ordinate the establishment of a drive through clinic to enable broader community testing. Clinics conducted to date in Walgett & Lightning Ridge with further planned dates. Future dates advertised via Western NSW Local Health District Facebook page, shared on other agencies social media and posters placed in key infrastructure advertising the clinic dates.</p>

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Level 2: Confirmed Cases in Community	Action	Responsibility / Status
	<p>3.6 Health to arrange cleaning contractor, and maximise hygienic processes upon cessation of quarantine requirements</p> <p>3.7 Patient requiring hospitalisation at Walgett MPS (WMPS)</p>	<p>NSW Health</p> <p>WMPC has the capacity to hospitalise and isolate 3 patients in the short term. Upon assessment if a patient is deemed to require hospitalisation they will be transferred via arrangements made with Patient flow to a larger hospital i.e Orange Base Hospital.</p>
(4) Rapid Response Clinic	4.1 A rapid response clinic would be deployed and established in community to facilitate broader voluntary testing of community members.	NSW Health responsible for coordinating deployment of resources to community to enable broader COVID testing
(5) Funeral Risk Assessment	<p>5.1 Inform community that Funerals are high risk for non-residents attending community.</p> <p>5.2 Sensitive consultation and collaboration with family, LALC, Funeral Home and Police.</p>	<p>Community Leaders, LALC, Funeral Director, Police, ACLO's</p> <p>Completed and will continue to be addressed upon notification of funerals in the future. (Communication and adherence to date has been effective)</p>

Level 3: Elimination – virus is not contained

Level 3: Elimination – virus is not contained	Action	Responsibility / Status
(1) Community to self-isolate	1.1 Community to self-isolate in their own homes.	Health/LALC – via public information and use of staff and Aboriginal Liaison Officers from NSW Health/WAM's/NSWPF/Council the

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Level 3: Elimination – virus is not contained	Action	Responsibility / Status
	<p>1.2 School to close</p> <p>1.3 Food and essential supplies to be obtained and distributed to individual homes</p> <p>1.4 Health care to demonstrate strong co-ordination and priority of patients at risk.</p>	<p>community will be strongly advised to self isolate.</p> <p>Education – Principals to liaise with Dept of Education to determine most appropriate course of action given the extent of spread that the community may be suffering.</p> <p>Health/DCJ – via the partnership established with the Walgett IGA food provisions will remain ongoing – with the assistance of WAMS who have provided an undertaking to assist with delivery. Contingency - if Walgett IGA staff become COVID-19 positive patients impacting on the store's operation food delivery can be provided by Coonamble and Lightning Ridge IGA stores.</p> <p>NSW Health will undertake triaging processes</p>
(2) Public Health Order requested to restrict and control community movement	2.1 LEMC consider PHO application	LEOCON via consultation with LEMC participants & REOCON.

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Level 4: Community Consultation – Each 7 days

Level 4: Community Consultation – Each 7 days	Action	Responsibility / Status
LEMC	Meeting conducted 26/03/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 31/03/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 02/04/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 07/04/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 09/04/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 16/04/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 21/04/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 28/04/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 05/05/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 12/5/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 19/05/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 26/05/2020	Complete
LEMC	Desktop Exercise conducted 28/06/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 02/06/2020	Complete
LEMC	Email to LEMC 10/06/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation via Email 16/06/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 23/06/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 02/07/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation via Email 07/07/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation via Email 10/07/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 21/07/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting with NSW Health/WAMS 30/07/2020	Complete

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Level 4: Community Consultation – Each 7 days	Action	Responsibility / Status
LEMC	Meeting conducted 05/08/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 12/08/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 18/08/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 26/08/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 01/09/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 10/09/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 17/09/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 24/09/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 01/10/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 07/10/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 14/10/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 21/10/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 29/10/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 05/11/2020	Complete
LEMC	Meeting conducted 11/11/2020	Complete
LEMC	Consultation 19/11/2020	Complete

Attendance Register

Agency	Name	Position
NSWPF	Superintendent Andrew Hurst	Commander, Central North Police District
NSWPF	Inspector Trent Swinton	LEOCON, Walgett LGA
Walgett Shire Council	Michael Urquhart	LEMO, Walgett LGA
NSW Health	Vicky Scott	HSM Lightning Ridge

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Agency	Name	Position
NSW Health	Lynn Harris	HSM Walgett
NSW Health	Suzanne Mahoney	HSM Collarenebri
NSW Health	Sandra Suey-Thorne	
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service	Christine Corby	CEO
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service	Jacqui Bourke	Practice Manager
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service	Danielle Fletcher	A/Manager Chronic Disease Unit
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service	Whitney Skuthorpe	
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service/Elder	Bill Kennedy	Chairperson
Walgett Aboriginal Lands Council	Nicole Shepherd	LALC
Lightning Ridge Aboriginal Lands Council	Alan Cobb, Petrina Brown	LALC
NSW Ambulance		
NSW SES	Brett Gay	Lightning Ridge Unit Commander
Dept of Communities and Justice	Julieanne Carroll	Manager Client Services, Bourke Grouping
NSW Health	Tim Brokenshire	Manager Environmental Health & Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Regional NSW	Sarah Barton	Senior Coordination Officer
Dharriwaa Elders Group	Wendy Spencer	Project Coordinator
Education	Stewart Vidler, Paul Champion, Donna Fiechtner	Principals; Walgett Community College, St Joseph's Primary Walgett
Transport NSW	Belinda Roberts	
Aboriginal Affairs	Stephen Howarth	
NSWPF	Kel Wise	Region Emergency Management Officer – Western Region