

COVID Safe: minerals industry remote communities' engagement transition

Careful planning and stakeholder engagement are critical to a safe transition as public health travel restrictions to protect vulnerable populations are gradually lifted.

The minerals industry will maintain stringent health and hygiene standards to keep workers, families and communities safe. This framework aims to assist site planning with remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by highlighting areas to consider when updating shared health and hygiene precautions. It supports the [Australian Government Remote framework – conditions for easing remote area travel restrictions](#). Further resources are available at <https://minerals.org.au/communities>.

	Areas to consider as part of planning
Mine and communities outside of areas subject to public health travel restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain health and hygiene protocols and site health plans, including arrangements for fast response if a case is suspected. Engage and support local health systems. • Engage vulnerable workers to develop shared return-to-work plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider official public health advice, family, cultural and other responsibilities as well as individual and community health risks, preferences and opportunities. • Continuously update engagement protocols in host communities, including specific protocols for vulnerable populations. Continuously monitor and update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Refer to official public health advice and consider specific health risks in consultation with individuals and local health services providers. • Contribute to internal business planning by communicating individual and community health risks and identifying new ways of working, including technology use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contribute to workforce planning arrangements • Contribute to local pandemic responses, including adjustment of local measures as needed and ensuring awareness of business approach, needs and planning.
Mine outside of areas subject to public health travel restrictions while communities inside areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain health and hygiene protocols and site health plans, including arrangements for a fast response if a case is suspected. Engage and support local health systems. • Update workforce safety, health and hygiene protocols to reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional measures that may be necessary to keep workers living in vulnerable communities safe from COVID-19. Continuously monitor and update. – Maintenance of measures for workers involved in travel for work. Review in line with public health advice. • Engage vulnerable workers to develop shared return-to-work-plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider official public health advice, family cultural and other responsibilities as well as individual and community health risks, preferences and opportunities • Develop shared medium-term engagement protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comply with official public health advice including physical distancing and advice from local health services providers – Consider specific arrangements for each community or stakeholder group, depending on preferences, risks and business needs. Communicate, monitor and update. • Contribute to internal business planning by communicating individual and community health risks and identifying new ways of working, including technology use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contribute to workforce planning arrangements • Contribute to local pandemic responses, including adjustment of local measures as needed and ensuring awareness of approach, needs and planning.
Mine and communities inside areas subject to public health travel restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain health and hygiene protocols and site health plans, including arrangements for a fast response if a case is suspected. Engage and support local health systems. • Update workforce safety, health and hygiene protocols to reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional measures that may be necessary to keep workers living in vulnerable communities safe from COVID-19. Continuously monitor and update. – Maintenance of measures to separate workers involved in travel for work. Review in line with public health advice. • Engage vulnerable workers to develop shared return-to-work plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider official public health advice, family and cultural responsibilities and individual and community health risks, preferences and opportunities • Develop shared medium-term engagement protocols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comply with official public health advice including physical distancing and advice from local health services providers. Continuously monitor and update. – Consider specific arrangements for each community or stakeholder group, depending on preferences, risks and business needs. Communicate, monitor and update. • Contribute to internal business planning by communicating individual and community health risks and identifying new ways of working, including technology use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contribute to workforce planning arrangements. • Contribute to local pandemic responses, including adjustment of local measures as needed and ensuring awareness of business approach, needs and planning.