

## Do you need an ambulance?

(Extracted 30/3/2020 from the Health Direct website <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/calling-triple-zero> )

While every triple zero (000) call is given assistance, it is important to remember that this number is for emergencies only.

Most triple zero (000) calls for ambulances do not need a stretcher ambulance or paramedic. This means ambulances and paramedics can get tied up with non-emergency situations - and this could cost someone their life.

You should call triple zero (000) and request an ambulance in the following situations:

- [chest pain](#) or chest tightness
- sudden onset of weakness, numbness or paralysis of the face, arm or leg
- [breathing difficulties](#)
- unconsciousness
- uncontrollable bleeding
- a sudden collapse or unexplained fall
- unexplained fitting in adults
- injury from a major car accident
- a fall from a great height
- serious assault, including stabbing or shooting
- severe [burns](#), particularly in young children
- infants who are [fitting](#) or have an ongoing fever.

The CFR service is continuing to operate on the island in response to a triple zero (000) call.

If you are not faced with an emergency, but you are concerned about other health issues, including coronavirus symptoms, you should go to Health Direct for advice. Their website, full of the latest information is

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/>

or you can speak directly to a registered nurse on their 24-hour phone number: [1800 022 222](tel:1800022222)

You may be able to avoid trips off the island by making bulk-billed medical appointments via the Telehealth phone / video link.

See this article, published by the ABC on 30/3/2020, and ask your Doctor.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-30/what-is-telehealth-explainer-coronavirus-covid-19/12101316>

For information related to medicines and prescriptions you can also refer to the NPS website <https://www.nps.org.au/coronavirus>