

Northern Territory of Australia  
*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*  
**COVID-19 Directions (No. 8) 2020**

I, Hugh Crosbie Heggie, Chief Health Officer, under section 52 of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*, consider it necessary, appropriate or desirable to take action to alleviate the public health emergency in the Territory, declared by instrument entitled "Declaration of Public Health Emergency", dated 18 March 2020, by making the following directions:

**Directions for Territory Border Restrictions**

- 1 These Directions take effect on and from 16:00 on 24 March 2020 and have effect while the public health emergency declaration is in force.

*Note for direction 1*

*These Directions will remain in force during any subsequent extensions of that declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Public and Environmental Health Act 2011.*

- 2 In these Directions:

**quarantine**, see direction 8.

**social distancing measures**, see direction 9.

- 3 The following Directions are revoked:

- (a) "COVID-19 Directions (No. 1) 2020":
- (b) "COVID-19 Directions (No. 3) 2020".

- 4 Every person entering the Territory must, in a written or electronic form approved by me, declare the following information:

- (a) details of the places where the person has been during the previous 30 days;
- (b) the person's contact details;
- (c) details of where the person intends to stay while in the Territory;
- (d) if the person is exempt under direction 10 or 12 – the details of the social distancing measures and quarantine arrangements the person intends to take while in the Territory.

- 5 The form must be submitted:
  - (a) to a police officer at the place of entry; or
  - (b) to another person, or in another manner, approved by me.
- 6 Every person entering the Territory must submit, at the place of entry, to a screening procedure approved by me for COVID-19 conducted by a police officer or other person approved by me.
- 7 Every person entering the Territory must:
  - (a) travel directly from the place of entry to a place that is suitable for the person to reside in for a period of 14 days; and
  - (b) remain quarantined in that place and practise social distancing measures for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day after arrival.
- 8 A person who must remain quarantined in a place:
  - (a) must not leave that place except:
    - (i) for the purpose of obtaining medical care, including testing or assessment for infection with COVID-19; or
    - (iii) in an emergency; and
  - (b) must not permit any other person to enter that place unless:
    - (i) the other person usually resides at the place and practises social distancing measures; or
    - (ii) the other person is also complying with this direction for the same 14-day period; or
    - (iii) the other person is entering to deliver medical care or medical supplies; or
    - (iv) the other person is entering for an emergency or other urgent circumstances.
- 9 A person who is required to take social distancing measures must:
  - (a) take all reasonable steps to sleep in a room separate from any other person; and

- (b) take all reasonable steps to stay at least 1.5 m away from any other person; and
- (c) regularly check for symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, coughing, sore throat, muscular pains, shortness of breath or unexpected tiredness; and
- (d) if the person displays a symptom referred to in paragraph (c) – contact the COVID-19 Hotline or a medical practitioner to determine whether to be tested or assessed for infection with COVID-19; and
- (e) comply with any directions given by the COVID-19 Hotline or a medical practitioner.

*Note for direction 9*

*The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 020 080.*

- 10 Despite direction 7, the following persons are exempt from direction 7:
- (a) active Australian military personnel required to be on duty in the Territory, if the personnel practise social distancing measures while in the Territory;
  - (b) a member of the Commonwealth Parliament who is ordinarily resident in the Territory, if the member practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
  - (c) a health practitioner, as defined in section 8(3) of the Act, who is requested by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health to come to the Territory to perform functions;
  - (d) any person providing services for the transport or freight of goods and related logistics into, within and out of the Territory, if the person practises social distancing measures and complies with direction 11 while in the Territory;
  - (e) a member of the crew of a ship that is delivering persons, transporting goods or providing related logistics into, within and out of the Territory, if the member practises social distancing measures and complies with direction 11 while in the Territory;

- (f) a member of a flight crew, if the member practises social distancing measures and complies with direction 11 while in the Territory;
- (g) a specialist required to provide services needed for the continuity of industry or business and the maintenance of competitive operations if:
  - (i) the specialist's skills are difficult to obtain in the Territory; and
  - (ii) the service must be provided without delay; and
  - (iii) the specialist must be physically present in the Territory to provide the service; and
  - (iv) the specialist practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (h) a person responsible for the necessary maintenance or repair of power, water, communications and other infrastructure critical to the Territory, if the person practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (i) a law enforcement officer or emergency service worker who is required to be on duty in the Territory, if the officer or worker practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (j) a person required for the administration of justice in the Territory, if the person practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (k) a paramedic, an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. or a member of the crew of Careflight or the Royal Flying Doctor Service who is providing medical transport to a person or returning to the Territory as soon as was practicable after providing medical transport to a person;
- (l) a paramedic or an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. who is ordinarily resident in the Territory and who is

requested by the Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. to return to perform functions in the Territory.

*Examples for direction 10(i)*

*A person working for Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Health, Australian Federal Police or Australian Border Force.*

- 11 While in the Territory and not working, a person who is exempt under direction 10(d), (e) or (f) must remain quarantined in a place for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day after arrival.

*Examples for direction 11*

- 1 *A truck driver can stay in the truck.*
- 2 *A member of a ship's crew can stay on the ship.*
- 3 *A member of a train's crew can stay on the train.*

- 12 Despite direction 7, a person or class of persons is exempt from direction 7 if I have granted the person or class an exemption from that direction, in writing, on the grounds that the person or class:

- (a) is essential for the proper functioning of the Territory; or
- (b) needs an exemption to avoid unusual, undeserved or disproportionate hardship; or
- (c) is governed by a COVID-19 management plan, imposed by the employer of the person or class of persons, to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to the public.

*Example for direction 12(b)*

*A person in Avon Downs or another place close to the border may be need to move across the border to obtain critical goods and services.*

*Example for direction 12(c)*

*An employee of a commercial fishing, mining, energy or agricultural business that has a plan, approved by the Chief Health Officer, on managing transmission of COVID-19 among its employees and preventing its transmission to the community.*

- 13 Despite directions 10 and 12, a person is not exempt from direction 7 if the person's screening under direction 6 shows the person is suspected of being infected with COVID-19.

- 14 Nothing in these Directions prevents a person entering the Territory from:
- (a) immediately leaving the Territory and not proceeding into the Territory; or
  - (b) any time during the required period of quarantine, leaving the Territory by the same vehicle in which the person arrived; or
  - (c) in the case of a person who arrives on a flight and does not leave the airport – leaving the Territory on a flight.
- 15 A person who must remain quarantined in the Territory must not leave the Territory on a flight, except:
- (a) in the circumstances specified in direction 14(c); or
  - (b) for the purpose of obtaining medical care; or
  - (c) for an emergency.
- 16 If these Directions are inconsistent with an advice, order or notice under the *Notifiable Diseases Act 1981*, the advice, order or notice prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.
- Example for direction 16*
- A person may be ordered under the Notifiable Diseases Act 1981 to isolate for a period longer than 14 days to undertake a specific course of medical treatment.*
- 17 Any person who was required, under Part 2 of "COVID-19 Directions (No 1) 2020", to remain in premises after arriving in the Territory from a place outside Australia must continue to remain in those premises for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day after arrival in accordance with direction 8 of these Directions.

*Notes for COVID-19 Directions*

- 1 *Section 56 of the Public and Environmental Health Act 2011 provides for an offence for failing to comply with a direction given by the Chief Health Officer under section 52(3) of that Act.*
- 2 *The maximum penalty for this offence is 400 penalty units.*
- 3 *A person is not guilty of this offence if the person has a reasonable excuse.*

Dated

Chief Health Officer