



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 58) 2021: Directions for persons sharing accommodation with persons undergoing quarantine

I, Charles Hawkhurst Pain, Acting Chief Health Officer, under section 52 of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011* (the **Act**), 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, (the **public health emergency declaration**), by making the following directions:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

- 1 These Directions take effect when they are made and remain in force while the public health emergency declaration is in force.

Note for direction 1

These Directions will remain in force during any subsequent extensions of the duration of that declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Act.

- 2 In these Directions:

aged care facility, see my COVID-19 Directions (No. 48) 2021 as amended from time to time, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

Border Directions means my COVID-19 Directions (No. 8) 2021 as amended from time to time, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

COVID-19 high vaccination zone means a specified area of the Territory:

- (a) determined by me from time to time; and
- (b) published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au.

COVID-19 hotspot, see my Border Directions.

person undergoing quarantine means a person who is in quarantine in accordance with Part 3 of my Border Directions.

- 3 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 3

A person may be ordered under the Notifiable Diseases Act 1981 to isolate for longer than the quarantine period or to undertake a specific course of medical treatment.

- 4 To avoid doubt, these Directions do not limit a right under section 71(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).

- 5 These Directions, other than directions 7 and 8, apply in relation to a person who shares accommodation with a person undergoing quarantine during a period:

- (a) beginning on the day the person begins sharing accommodation; and
- (b) ending at the time the person undergoing quarantine is no longer required to quarantine in accordance with Part 3 of my Border Directions.

- 6 Directions 7 and 8 apply in relation to a person who shares accommodation with a person undergoing quarantine during a period:

- (a) beginning on the day the person begins sharing accommodation; and
- (b) ending at the end of the 3rd day after the day the person undergoing quarantine is no longer required to quarantine in accordance with Part 3 of my Border Directions.

Part 2 Requirements for accommodation shared with persons undergoing quarantine

Division 1 Testing requirements

- 7 A person must submit to an approved testing procedure for COVID-19 infection that is conducted:
- (a) by one of the following:
 - (i) an authorised officer;
 - (ii) a health practitioner as defined in section 5 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law;
 - (iii) another approved person; and
 - (b) at the time and place specified by me.
- 8 A person must submit to the testing procedure for COVID-19 at the following times:
- (a) the day the person begins sharing accommodation with the person undergoing quarantine;
 - (b) if the person undergoing quarantine is required to quarantine for 14 days, the 3rd day, 5th day, 7th day and 12th day after the day the person begins sharing accommodation with the person undergoing quarantine;
 - (c) if the person undergoing quarantine is required to quarantine for a period of less than 14 days, each day the person undergoing quarantine must submit to a testing procedure after the day the person begins sharing accommodation with the person undergoing quarantine;
 - (d) the 3rd day after the day the person undergoing quarantine is no longer required to quarantine in accordance with Part 3 of my Border Directions;
 - (e) any other time required by me during the period that the person undergoing quarantine is required to quarantine in accordance with Part 3 of my Border Directions.

Example for direction 8(c)

A person who stays in an apartment with a person undergoing quarantine for a period of 10 days must submit to a test on all of the days the person in quarantine must be tested.

Note for direction 8

A person who usually lives in accommodation where a person undergoing quarantine is staying but who is absent when the period of quarantine begins and only begins sharing accommodation with the person undergoing quarantine on the 3rd day of quarantine will be required to submit to the testing procedure for the remainder of the period of quarantine.

Division 2 Accommodation requirements

9 A person must not permit any other person to enter the shared accommodation premises unless the other person:

- (a) usually resides at those premises or is the person undergoing quarantine or both; or
- (b) is entering for medical purposes, including delivering medical supplies, providing medical care and testing or assessing for infection with COVID-19; or
- (c) is entering in an emergency or for another urgent reason.

Notes for direction 9(a)

- 1 *A person who usually lives in accommodation where a person undergoing quarantine is staying but who is absent when the period of quarantine begins will be permitted to enter the shared accommodation.*
- 2 *The person will be subject to these Directions from the day the person enters the shared accommodation until the end of the period of quarantine.*

Division 3 Symptom check requirements

10 A person must take the following measures:

- (a) regularly checking for symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, coughing, sore throat, muscular pains, shortness of breath, unexpected tiredness, loss of and altered sense of taste and loss of sense of smell;
- (b) if the person displays a symptom referred to in paragraph (c) - contacting the COVID-19 Hotline or a medical practitioner to determine whether to be additionally tested for infection with COVID-19.

Note for direction 10

The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 490 484.

Division 4 Travel requirements

- 11 A person must not leave the COVID-19 high vaccination zone.
- 12 A person must not enter premises of the following located within the COVID-19 high vaccination zone:
- (a) a hospital, unless the person is entering the hospital in an emergency or for another urgent reason;
 - (b) a residential facility within the meaning of section 2 of the *Disability Services Act 1993*;
 - (c) a custodial correctional facility within the meaning of section 11 of the *Correctional Services Act 2014*;
 - (d) a detention centre within the meaning of section 5 of the *Youth Justice Act 2005*;
 - (e) an aged care facility;
 - (f) an Aboriginal Town Camp that is not located on Aboriginal land within the meaning of section 3(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)*.
- 13 Nothing in these Directions prevents a person from leaving the Territory.

Part 3 End of quarantine

- 14 Despite directions 5 and 6, these Directions cease to apply in relation to a person if:
- (a) the person undergoing quarantine is in quarantine by reason only of an area being a COVID-19 hotspot; and
 - (b) that area ceases to be a COVID-19 hotspot.

Notes for COVID-19 Directions

- 1 *Section 56 of the Act provides for an offence for failing to comply with a direction given by me under section 52(3) of the 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.*

- 4 *An infringement notice may be given for failing to comply with these Directions with a fine equal to 32 penalty units for an individual and 160 penalty units for a body corporate.*

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Acting Chief Health Officer

Dated