



Northern Territory of Australia

*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

## **COVID-19 Directions (No. 53) 2021: Directions for Quarantine Workers**

I, Hugh Crosbie Heggie, 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 at the time 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 My COVID-19 Directions (No. 12) 2021 are revoked.

- 3 In these Directions:

**quarantine facility** means a quarantine facility specified in my COVID-19 Directions (No. 52) 2021, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

**quarantine worker** means a person referred to in direction 4.

- 4 These Directions apply in relation to any person whose employment involves carrying out functions or providing services necessary for the ordinary operation of quarantine, including the following persons:

- (a) a person who works at a quarantine facility;

- (b) a person who works at a place approved by me for the purposes of quarantine;
- (c) a person who works at commercial visitor accommodation used as a suitable place for quarantine under my COVID-19 Directions (No. 8) 2021, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions;
- (d) a person who transports another person who must quarantine to or from a quarantine facility or other place for the purposes of quarantine;
- (e) a person who is employed to provide cleaning services for an aircraft or motor vehicle after the aircraft or motor vehicle has transported another person who must quarantine;
- (f) a person who screens or processes a person who must quarantine at an airport or a border of the Territory;
- (g) a person identified in a COVID-19 testing procedure approved by me.

## **Part 2      Quarantine workers prohibited from working at other workplaces**

5      A quarantine worker who works at a quarantine facility must not work at another workplace unless approved by me.

## **Part 3      Testing quarantine workers**

6      A quarantine worker must submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure approved by me and conducted in accordance with these Directions.

7      The COVID-19 testing procedure must be conducted at the times, places and frequencies determined by me.

8      The employer of a quarantine worker must ensure that the worker does not attend work unless the worker complies with these Directions and any other of my COVID-19 Directions applicable to the worker.

- 9 A quarantine worker and the employer of a quarantine worker must provide the following information to me or an authorised officer on request:
- (a) the quarantine worker's first and last name;
  - (b) the name of the employer of the quarantine worker;
  - (c) a telephone number, address, email address or other means to contact the quarantine worker and the employer;
  - (d) the dates and times of work for the quarantine worker;
  - (e) any further information necessary for the purposes of compliance with these Directions or for contact tracing.

#### **Part 4 Mandatory quarantine**

- 10 If a quarantine worker fails to comply with the COVID-19 testing procedure under Part 3, the worker must:
- (a) travel directly to a place specified by me and as directed by an authorised officer; and
  - (b) remain quarantined in that place for the period starting from the time of non-compliance and ending at 12:00 (noon) on the 14th day after the day of non-compliance.
- 11 A quarantine worker quarantined under direction 10 is not required to remain in quarantine if:
- (a) the worker later submits to the COVID-19 testing procedure; and
  - (b) the testing procedure indicates the worker is not infected with COVID-19.

## Part 5 COVID-19 vaccination

- 12 A quarantine worker must not attend work if the worker has not had:
- (a) on or before 15 October 2021 – the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, if the worker was able to receive it; and
  - (b) on or before 26 November 2021 – the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, if the worker was able to receive it.
- 13 Despite direction 12, a quarantine worker who is fully vaccinated may attend work.
- 14 A quarantine worker must give the worker's employer evidence that the worker:
- (a) has had the first and second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with direction 12; or
  - (b) otherwise – is fully vaccinated.


*Example for direction 14*

*The worker's COVID-19 digital certificate by the Australian Government.*

- 15 The employer of a quarantine worker must keep a record of the information provided under direction 14 and the employer must provide the information to me or an authorised officer on request.

### *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 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 these Directions with a fine equal to 32 penalty units for an individual and 160 penalty units for a body corporate.*

 Digitally signed by Dr Hugh Heggie  
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Chief Health Officer

Dated