

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 4) 2020

I, Hugh Crosbie Heggie, Chief Health Officer, under section 52 of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*, consider it necessary, appropriate and 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 Gatherings

- 1 These Directions 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 Part 1 of my "COVID-19 Directions (No. 1) 2020" is revoked.

- 3 In these Directions:

indoors means an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent or temporary or open or closed.

outdoors means an area or premises that is not indoors.

- 4 An occupier of a place must not allow the following gatherings to occur on, in or at a single undivided area of the place:

- (a) a gathering of 500 or more people outdoors;
- (b) a gathering of 100 or more people indoors;
- (c) a gathering of fewer than 100 people indoors unless:
 - (i) the density of people present does not exceed 1 person per 4 m² of the indoor area; or

- (ii) the gathering is at a person's private residence; or
- (iii) the gathering is in a private vehicle or in a commercial passenger vehicle as defined in the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991*.

5 A person must not attend a gathering referred to in direction 4.

6 Directions 4 and 5 do not apply to a gathering of people on, in or at any of the following places or for any of the following purposes:

- (a) at an airport for its normal business or operation;
- (b) for the purpose of, or related to, public transportation, including travelling in vehicles or gathering at a public transportation facility such as a station, platform or stop;
- (c) a medical or health service facility for its normal business or operation;
- (d) for the purpose of conducting emergency services;
- (e) a residential facility, as defined in section 2 of the *Disability Services Act 1993*, for its normal business or operation;
- (f) a prison, correctional centre, Youth Detention Centre or other place of custody or detention for its normal business or operation;
- (g) a court or tribunal for its normal business or operation;
- (h) the Legislative Assembly for its normal business or operation;
- (i) a food market, supermarket, grocery store, retail store or shopping centre for its normal business or operation;
- (j) a school, university or other educational institution for its normal business or operation;
- (k) a child care facility for its normal business or operation;
- (l) an office building, factory, mine or construction site for its normal business or operation;

- (m) a hotel, motel, mining accommodation or other place of accommodation for its normal business or operation;
- (n) a place where 500 or more people may be present for the purpose of transiting through the place;
- (o) any place specified as exempt from direction 4 or 5 by me in writing.

Example for direction 6(n)

Smith Street Mall in Darwin.

Note for direction 6

The exclusions specified in direction 5 are subject to constant review and are expected to change as circumstances require.

- 7 For the purposes of direction 6(j), a gathering that involves members of the community in addition to staff and students is taken to be not necessary for the normal operation of the institution.

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 22 March 2020

Chief Health Officer