

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011
COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020
Directions for Potentially Infected Persons

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 (the **public health emergency declaration**), by making the following directions:

- 1 These Directions take effect at 11.59 pm on 16 April 2020 and remain in force while the public health emergency declaration is in force.

Note for direction 1

The period the public health emergency declaration is in force has been extended under section 50(2) of the Act. These Directions remain in force during the periods of extension.

- 2 In these Directions:

medical officer means an authorised officer who is a medical practitioner or entitled to be registered as a medical practitioner.

- 3 A person must comply with these Directions if the person is notified by a medical officer that the officer:

(a) either:

- (i) suspects on reasonable grounds that the person is infected with COVID-19; or
- (ii) knows the person has been in close contact with a person whom the officer knows, or suspects on reasonable grounds, is infected with COVID-19; and

(b) considers that the person should undergo testing for infection with COVID-19.

- 4 The person must travel directly to a hospital, or another place, specified by a medical officer for testing for infection with COVID-19.

- 5 The person must:
- (a) submit to a test for infection with COVID-19 at the hospital or other place; and
 - (b) remain isolated in the hospital or other place until notified in writing, by me or my delegate, that the person no longer needs to remain isolated.
- 6 A person who must remain isolated in a place must not leave that place except:
- (a) for the purpose of obtaining medical care; or
 - (b) in an emergency.
- 7 If the person is notified by an authorised officer or health practitioner that the person is infected with COVID-19, these Directions cease to apply to the person.

Note for direction 7

My COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions will apply to the person if the person is infected with COVID-19.

- 8 To the extent of any inconsistency with directions 9 to 13 of my COVID-19 Directions (No. 19) 2020 or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, these directions prevail.

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 the offence is 400 penalty units.*
- 3 *A person is not guilty of the offence if the person has a reasonable excuse.*

Dated

Chief Health Officer