

Northern Territory of Australia

*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

**COVID-19 Directions (No. 46) 2020**

**Commercial Vessels – Crew Directions**

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 00:01 on 17 July 2020 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 extensions of the duration of that declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Act.*

- 2 In these Directions:

**commercial vessel**, see direction 3.

**COVID-19 hotspot** means a specified area of Australia determined by me from time to time and published on the website [coronavirus.nt.gov.au](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au).

**crew member**, see direction 4.

**PPE** means personal protective equipment (at a minimum, a face mask) intended to provide protection against transmission of infection by COVID-19, as appropriate for the circumstances.

**quarantine period**, in respect of a crew member, means:

- (a) for a crew member who enters the Territory on a commercial vessel, the shorter of:

- (i) the period during which the crew member is in the Territory; or
  - (ii) the period beginning when the last of the events mentioned in direction 14(a) occurred and ending at 12:00 (noon) on the 14th day after that event occurred; and
- (b) for a crew member who enters the Territory to join a commercial vessel, the period beginning when the crew member enters the Territory and ending at 12:00 (noon) on the 14th day after the entry into the Territory.

***social distancing measures***, means the measures required under direction 25.

3 In these Directions, a ***commercial vessel*** is a vessel, other than a cruise ship, involved in a commercial activity, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) a fishing vessel;
- (b) a vessel carrying freight or a vessel supporting the movement of freight;
- (c) a vessel involved in pipeline or petroleum industries;
- (d) a vessel involved in the provision of port services or maintenance services;
- (e) a vessel transporting marine pilots or marine surveyors;
- (f) a government vessel.

4 In these Directions, ***crew member***, of a commercial vessel, means a person engaged in the operation of the vessel, or providing services to support the operation of the vessel, and includes:

- (a) an accredited veterinarian, or a person who handles stock, on board a livestock carrier; and

- (b) a government official who is required to be aboard a vessel to perform duties in the regulation of an industry, as an authorising body or an enforcement agency.
- 5 For these Directions, a person who arrived in a State or another Territory from outside Australia within 14 days before entering the Territory is taken:
  - (a) to enter the Territory from a place outside Australia; and
  - (b) not to enter the Territory from a State or another Territory.
- 6 For these Directions, a person is taken not to have been in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot if the person has been in the area only in one or more of the following circumstances:
  - (a) the person travelled through the area in or on a motor vehicle, public transport or a bicycle and did not leave the vehicle, disembark the public transport or dismount the bicycle while in the area;
  - (b) the person was only at an airport located in the area;
  - (c) the person:
    - (i) travelled through the area by motor vehicle, public transport or bicycle directly to or from an airport located in the area; and
    - (ii) remained in the vehicle, or on the public transport or bicycle while in the area except when entering or leaving the airport.
  - (d) the person:
    - (i) either:
      - (A) arrived by aircraft at an airport located in the area and travelled directly from the airport to a hotel that is within 5 km of the airport; or

- (B) travelled by motor vehicle or public transport from outside the area to a hotel in the area that is within 5 km of an airport and did not leave the vehicle or disembark the public transport except to enter the hotel; and
- (iii) after checking in to the hotel, did not leave the person's hotel room until departing the hotel to travel to the airport, except in an emergency; and
- (iv) travelled directly from the hotel to the airport and departed the area by aircraft.

*Examples for direction 6*

- 1 *A person who travels by car through an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot but stops in the area to refuel the car or drop an item in a friend's mailbox, has been in the area.*
- 2 *A person who rides a bicycle through an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot and stops in the area to buy a drink has been in the area.*
- 3 *A person who flies into an airport located in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot, remains at the airport during a 6 hour stopover and then departs the airport on an aircraft, is taken not to have been in the area.*
- 4 *A person who flies to an airport that is located in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot, takes a taxi from the airport to a hotel that is 5 km away from the airport and also located in the area that is a COVID-19 hotspot, checks in, orders room service and remains in the hotel room overnight, checks out the following day, travels directly back to the airport and takes a flight out of the area, is taken not to have been in the area.*

- 7 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 7*

*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.*

- 8 To avoid doubt, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, apply to any person who is notified by an authorised officer or health practitioner that the person is infected with COVID-19.

## **Part 2      Crew member entering Territory**

- 9      These directions apply in relation to a person:
- (a)    who is a crew member of a commercial vessel that enters the Territory; and
  - (b)    who enters the Territory:
    - (i)     on the vessel; or
    - (ii)    in order to join the vessel in the Territory.
- 10     On entering the Territory, each crew member must submit, at the place of entry, to a screening procedure approved by me for COVID-19 conducted by an authorised officer or another person approved by me.
- 11     If a screening procedure indicates a person is potentially infected with COVID-19, the person must comply with:
- (a)    my COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020 for potentially infected persons, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions; and
  - (b)    these Directions, to the extent they are applicable.
- 12     On entering the Territory, each crew member must, in a written or electronic form approved by me, declare the following information:
- (a)    details of the places where the crew member has been during the 28 days prior to entering the Territory;
  - (b)    whether or not the crew member has, during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory, been in an area that is, on the date of the crew member's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot;
  - (c)    the crew member's contact details;
  - (d)    details of where the crew member intends to stay while in the Territory;
  - (e)    details of the quarantine measures and social distancing measures the crew member intends to take while in the Territory, if:

- (i) the crew member has entered the Territory from a place outside Australia; or
  - (ii) the crew member has, during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory, been in an area that is, on the date of the crew member's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot.
- 13 The form must be submitted:
  - (a) to an authorised officer at the place of entry; or
  - (b) to another person, or in another manner, approved by me.
- 14 On entering the Territory on a commercial vessel, each crew member must produce, to an authorised officer or another person approved by me, documentary evidence of the time that has elapsed since the last of the following events occurred:
  - (a) the vessel last berthed in a foreign port, or an Australian port that is, on the day of the crew member entering the Territory, within an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot;
  - (b) a person joined the vessel who, within 14 days before joining the vessel:
    - (i) had been to an area that was, on the day of the crew member entering the Territory, a COVID-19 hotspot; or
    - (ii) had been in a place outside Australia;
  - (c) there was personnel interaction or interchange between the vessel and another vessel or a facility outside of Australian waters or at a port that is within an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot on the day of the vessel's entry into the Territory.

*Example for direction 14*

*A copy of, or extract from, the vessel's log.*

*Examples of other vessels or facilities for direction 14(c)*

1 *An offshore oil rig or production platform.*

2 *A vessel used for laying an undersea pipeline.*

- 15 Direction 16 applies to each crew member:
- (a) who enters the Territory, other than by commercial vessel, to join a vessel in the Territory; and
  - (b) who:
    - (i) enters the Territory from a place outside Australia; or
    - (ii) has been, within 14 days before entering the Territory, in an area that, on the day the crew member enters the Territory, is a COVID-19 hotspot.
- 16 On entering the Territory, the crew member must produce to an authorised officer or another person approved by me;
- (a) a letter from the crew member's employer, on company letterhead, stating the crew member's name, occupation, work-related reason for travel and location where the work is to be conducted; and
  - (b) a letter from the port authority for the place at which the crew member is to join the vessel, indicating that the vessel is expected to be at that port at the relevant time; and
  - (c) a copy of the crew member's maritime security card, if the crew member holds one; and
  - (d) a copy of the employer's COVID-19 management plan or staff procedures.

### **Part 3 Quarantine requirements**

#### **Division 1 Crew member enters Territory on a vessel**

- 17 This Division sets out the quarantine requirements that apply to a crew member who enters the Territory on a commercial vessel if one or more of the following circumstances apply:
- (a) within 14 days before entering the Territory, the crew member had been in an area that is, on the day of the crew member's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot;

- (b) the crew member entered the Territory from a place outside Australia;
- (c) less than 14 days has elapsed since the last of the events mentioned in direction 14(a) to (c) occurred.

18 The crew member:

- (a) must remain quarantined on the vessel or, if the vessel is not available to be used for accommodation, at hotel accommodation for the period beginning at the time of arrival and ending at 12:00 noon on the 14th day after the last of the events mentioned in direction 14(a) to (c) occurred; or
- (b) subject to direction 22:
  - (i) may depart the Territory by aircraft before the quarantine period has expired, by proceeding directly to the airport for the purposes of the flight, practicing social distancing measures while in the Territory; or
  - (ii) may depart the Territory by sea, before the quarantine period has expired, on the same vessel or, if on another commercial vessel, by proceeding directly to that vessel, practicing social distancing measures while in the Territory; or
  - (iii) if the crew member is a Territory resident – may return to the crew member's place of residence and remain in quarantine at that place until the quarantine period has expired.

*Note for direction 18*

*If more than 14 days has elapsed since the last of the events mentioned in direction 14(a) to (c) occurred, no quarantine requirements apply (provided the crew member has not been in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot during the 14 days). Accordingly, the crew member may disembark from the vessel and:*

- (a) *remain in the Territory; or*
- (b) *depart the Territory at any time by any means.*

- 19 If the vessel remains in port:
- (a) a crew member who is quarantining on board the vessel may disembark, wearing PPE, to perform essential vessel functions; and
  - (b) the crew member must otherwise remain on board the ship until the quarantine period has elapsed or the vessel sooner departs; and
  - (c) the crew member must wear PPE in public spaces on board the vessel while persons are on board who are not crew members.

## **Division 2 Crew member enters Territory to join vessel**

- 20 This Division applies to the following crew members who enter the Territory to join a commercial vessel in the Territory:
- (a) a crew member who has, within 14 days before entering the Territory, been in an area that, on the day the crew member enters the Territory, is a COVID-19 hotspot;
  - (b) a crew member who enters the Territory from outside Australia.
- 21 The crew member must quarantine for 14 days by:
- (a) travelling directly from the place of entry to a place of accommodation arranged by the crew member or the crew member's employer; and
  - (b) remaining quarantined in that place for the period beginning at the time of arrival and ending at 12:00 noon on the 14th day after entry.

### *Example for direction 21*

*A crew member who leaves a vessel in Melbourne, enters an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot, and then flies to Darwin, arriving at 11 pm on 18 July 2020 must remain in quarantine until 12:00 noon on 1 August 2020.*

## **Division 3 All crew members required to quarantine**

- 22 During the quarantine period applying to a crew member, the crew member must practise social distancing measures.

- 23 If required by me during the quarantine period, the crew member must submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure approved by me that is conducted:
- (a) by an authorised person or another person approved by me; and
  - (b) at the time and place specified by me.
- 24 Subject to direction 19, a crew member who must remain quarantined in a place under this Part:
- (a) must not leave that place except:
    - (i) for the purpose of obtaining medical supplies or medical care, including testing or assessment for infection with COVID-19; or
    - (ii) in an emergency; and
  - (b) must not permit any other person to enter that place unless the other person:
    - (i) usually resides at the place; or
    - (ii) is being quarantined at the same time; or
    - (iii) is entering for medical purposes, including delivering medical supplies, providing medical care and testing or assessing for infection with COVID-19; or
    - (iv) is entering because of an emergency or another urgent reason.

*Note for direction 24*

*A person in quarantine may be subject to further specific instructions from an authorised officer regarding the person's behaviour or the manner in which the person is to be quarantined. See section 53 of the Act and my COVID-19 Directions (No. 5) 2020, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.*

## Part 4      Miscellaneous matters

- 25      A person who must practise **social distancing measures** under these Directions must:
- (a)    take all reasonable steps to sleep in a room or other enclosed space separate from any other person, except another person who is also subject to social distancing measures; and
  - (b)    take all reasonable measures to stay at least 1.5 m away from other people; 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 25*

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

- 26      If a person to whom these Directions apply experiences any symptoms of infection with COVID–19, the person:
- (a)    must not board an aircraft or vessel; and
  - (b)    must contact the COVID-19 Hotline or a medical practitioner to determine whether to be tested or assessed for infection with COVID-19; and
  - (c)    must comply with any directions given by the COVID-19 Hotline or a medical practitioner.

*Note for direction 26*

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

## **Part 5          Revocation and transitional matters**

- 27      My COVID-19 Directions (No. 42) 2020 are revoked (the *revoked Directions*).
- 28      A crew member who was subject to the revoked directions immediately before the revocation must continue to comply with the revoked Directions, as if those Directions were not revoked.

### *Notes for these 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.*

Dated

Chief Health Officer