

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

CONSOLIDATED VERSION - COVID-19 Directions (No. 3) 2022 as amended by COVID-19 Directions (No. 6) 2022

Directions for Exclusion Zones

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:

- 1 These Directions take effect at the time they are made and remain in force until the public health emergency declaration ceases to be 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. 83) 2021 are revoked.
- 3 These Directions are subject to my COVID-19 Directions (No. 131) 2021 (as amended), or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

- 4 In these Directions:

essential worker, see direction 3 of my COVID-19 Directions (No. 131) 2021 (as amended from time to time) or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

exclusion zone means a specified area of the Territory:

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

- 5 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 5

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.

- 6 To avoid doubt, these Directions do not limit a right under section 71(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).
- 7 A person must not travel to or enter an exclusion zone unless:
- (a) the person resides in the exclusion zone or is an essential worker entering the exclusion zone for the purposes of work; and
 - (b) a negative result is obtained from the testing procedure conducted by the person in accordance with direction 8.
- 8 A person mentioned in direction 7 must, within 24 hours before travelling to or entering an exclusion zone, submit to a rapid antigen test.

Note for direction 8

A person who tests positive for infection with COVID-19 may be subject to my COVID-19 Directions (No. 4) 2022, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

- 9 A person who self-administers a rapid antigen test under direction 8 must:
- (a) use a rapid antigen test approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration; and
 - (b) follow the manufacturer's instructions on storage and administration of the test; and
 - (c) after taking the test – retain photos of the test result, the packaging displaying the batch number and a document identifying the person; and
 - (d) on the day the test was taken, complete an approved online declaration that the person has fulfilled the conditions specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) for that test.

Example for direction 9(c)

A photo of the person's driver's licence or other form of ID.

- 10 Despite direction 7, a person may transit through an exclusion zone if:
- (a) the person travels on a major thoroughfare that transits through the

exclusion zone; and

- (b) the person is only stopping for food, fuel, medical necessity or accommodation and does not enter premises unrelated to those purposes; and
- (c) the person practices regular hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitiser while in the exclusion zone; and
- (d) the person takes all reasonable measures to stay at least 1.5 m away from other people, subject to an essential worker's requirements at work.

Notes for COVID-19 Directions

- 1 *Section 56 of the Act provides for an offence for failing to comply with a direction given 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.*