

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 14) 2020

Directions for Gatherings

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:

- 1 These Directions take effect at 24:00 (midnight) on 30 March 2020 and remain in force until the earlier of the following:
 - (a) a declaration under section 50(2) of the Act is no longer in force;
 - (b) 24:00 (midnight) on 20 April 2020.

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 The following directions are revoked:
 - (a) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 4) 2020;
 - (b) directions 4(n) and 7 and the example for direction 4(n) of COVID-19 Directions (No. 10) 2020.

Note for direction 2(b)

The new limits on gatherings means that outdoor activities will now be limited to a maximum of 10 people.

- 3 In these Directions:

indoor means an area, room, vehicle or place 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.

outdoor means an area or premises that is not indoors.

- 4 These Directions are to be applied in conjunction with my COVID-19 Directions (No. 15) 2020 (Directions to Close Public Places, Services and Activities and Activities), except that these Directions prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
- 5 An occupier of an outdoor place must not allow a gathering of more than 10 people to occur on, in or at a single undivided area of the place.
- 6 An occupier of an indoor place must not allow a gathering to occur on, in or at a single undivided area of the place if:
 - (a) the gathering has more than 10 people; or
 - (b) the density of people present is more than one person per 4 m² of the area.
- 7 The operator of a vessel:
 - (a) must not allow a gathering of more than 10 people on the vessel, including the operator; and
 - (b) must not allow the density of people present to be more than one person per 4 m² of the deck area.
- 8 A person must not attend a gathering referred to in direction 5, 6 or 7.
- 9 The following gatherings are exempt from directions 5, 6 and 8:
 - (a) a gathering of people who all live in the same residence;
 - (b) a gathering for the purpose of conducting emergency services.
- 10 Gatherings at the following places are exempt from directions 5, 6 and 8:
 - (a) an airport for its normal business or operation;
 - (b) a medical or health service facility;
 - (c) a residential facility, as defined in section 2 of the *Disability Services Act 1993*, for its normal business or operation;

- (d) a prison, correctional centre, Youth Detention Centre or other place of custody or detention for its normal business or operation;
- (e) a court or tribunal for its normal business or operation;
- (f) the Legislative Assembly precinct as defined in section 14 of the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act 1992* for its normal business or operation;
- (g) a food market, supermarket, grocery store, retail store or shopping centre for its normal business or operation;
- (h) a school, university or other educational institution for its normal business or operation;
- (i) a child care facility for its normal business or operation;
- (j) an office building, factory, mine or construction site for its normal business or operation;
- (k) a hotel, motel, mining accommodation or other place of accommodation for its normal accommodation business or operation;
- (l) a gathering in a private motor vehicle or in a commercial passenger vehicle as defined in the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991*;
- (m) a place where people may be transiting through the place or for the purpose of, or related to, transportation, including travelling in vehicles or gathering at a garage or public transportation facility such as a station, platform or stop.

Example for direction 10(m)

Smith Street Mall in Darwin.

- 11 For the purposes of direction 10(h), a gathering that involves members of the community in addition to staff and students is taken to be not necessary for the normal business or operation of the institution.

- 12 A place, person or class of persons is exempt from directions 5, 6, 7 or 8 if I have granted that place, person or class a specific exemption in writing.

Notes for Directions related to COVID-19

- 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

Chief Health Officer