

Northern Territory of Australia  
*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

**COVID-19 Directions (No. 24) 2020**  
**Directions for Aged Care Facilities**

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 5.00 pm on 23 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 My COVID-19 Directions (No. 2) 2020 are revoked.
- 3 In these Directions:  
**aged care facility** means a facility in the Territory that provides "residential care" as defined in section 41-3 of the *Aged Care Act 1997* (Cth).
- 4 Subject to directions 5 to 9, a person must not enter or remain on the premises of an aged care facility unless the person is one of the following:
  - (a) an officer, employee or contractor of the facility;
  - (b) a person providing goods or services necessary for the operation of the facility;
  - (c) a person providing health, medical or pharmaceutical goods or services to a resident of the facility;
  - (d) a person providing care and support to a resident of the facility;
  - (e) a person providing end of life support to a resident of the facility;

- (f) a person required for emergency management or law enforcement;
- (g) a prospective resident of the facility;
- (h) a legal practitioner providing legal services to a resident of the facility;
- (i) a person performing regulatory functions or duties in relation to the facility, including an inspection of the facility.

*Examples for direction 4(h)*

*A legal practitioner entering the premises of the facility:*

- (a) to take instructions from a client who is a resident of the facility; or
- (b) for the purpose of executing a will by a client who is a resident of the facility.

- 5 A person who has been in contact with a person infected with COVID-19 must not enter or remain on the premises of an aged care facility within 14 days of the contact.

*Note for direction 5*

*My COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020 or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions apply to a person who may have been infected with COVID-19, which includes a person who has been in close contact with a person who is or is suspected to be infected with COVID-19.*

- 6 A person must not enter or remain on the premises of an aged care facility if the person:
- (a) has a body temperature higher than 37.5 degrees; or
  - (b) has symptoms of coughing, sore throat, fatigue, shortness of breath or other symptoms of respiratory illness; or
  - (c) has not been vaccinated this year against influenza, if the vaccination was available to the person; or
  - (d) is under the age of 16, other than a person referred to in direction 4(e).
- 7 A person referred to in direction 4(d) must not remain on the premises of an aged care facility for more than 2 hours a day.

- 8 The proprietor of an aged care facility must take all reasonable steps to ensure that visits by persons referred to in direction 4(d) are limited to one person alone, or 2 persons together, per day, per resident of the facility.
- 9 The proprietor of an aged care facility must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person does not enter or remain on the premises of the facility if the person is prohibited from doing so under these Directions.
- 10 Nothing in these Directions prohibits a resident of an aged care facility from entering and remaining on the premises of the facility.

*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 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