

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011
COVID-19 Directions (No. 31) 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, by making the following directions:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

- 1 These Directions take effect at 12:00 noon on 21 May 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:

commercial vessel, see direction 3.

crew member, see direction 4.

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

social distancing measures, see direction 5.

- 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:
 - (i) required to attend a vessel to perform duties in the regulation of an industry, as an authorising body or an enforcement agency; and
 - (ii) is not otherwise exempt from the requirement to quarantine.
- 5 A person who is required to practice **social distancing measures** must:
- (a) take all reasonable steps to sleep in a room separate from any other person; and
 - (b) take all reasonable steps to stay at least 1.5 m away from any other person; 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 5

The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 020 080.

- 6 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 6

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.

- 7 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 Exemption from quarantine on arrival in Territory

- 8 These directions set out the quarantine requirements that apply to a person who is a crew member on a commercial vessel that enters the Territory and who would otherwise be required to comply with my COVID-19 Directions (No. 32) 2020, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, in relation to 14 day quarantine.
- 9 On arrival in 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 30 days prior to the crew member's arrival in the Territory;
 - (b) the crew member's contact details;
 - (c) details of where the crew member intends to stay while in the Territory;
 - (d) details of the social distancing measures and quarantine arrangements the crew member intends to take while in the Territory.
- 10 The form must be submitted:
- (a) to a police officer at the place of entry; or

- (b) to another person, or in another manner, approved by me.
- 11 Each crew member entering the Territory must submit, at the place of entry, to a screening procedure approved by me for COVID-19 conducted by a police officer or another person approved by me.
- 12 For this Part to apply to a crew member, the crew member must produce to an authorised officer:
- (a) documentary evidence of the time that has elapsed since the last of the following events occurred:
- (i) the vessel last berthed in a foreign port, or an Australian port that is outside the Territory;
- (ii) a crew member joined the vessel from a place in Australia outside the Territory;
- (iii) there was personnel interaction or interchange between the vessel and another vessel or a facility outside of Territory waters; and
- (b) 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
- (c) if the crew member is to join a vessel in the Territory – 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
- (d) a copy of the crew member's maritime security card, if the crew member holds one; and
- (e) a copy of the employer's COVID-19 management plan or staff procedures.

Example for direction 12(a)

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

Examples for direction 12(a)(iii)

1 An offshore oil rig or production platform.

2 *A vessel engaged in laying an undersea pipeline.*

- 13 If less than 14 days has elapsed since any of the events mentioned in direction 12(a) occurred and the vessel remains in port:
- (a) a crew member may disembark, wearing PPE, to perform essential vessel functions; and
 - (b) the crew member must otherwise remain on board the ship until 14 days has elapsed; 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.
- 14 Subject to direction 19, if more than 14 days has elapsed since the last of the events mentioned in direction 12(a) occurred, the crew member may:
- (a) depart from the Territory at any time by any means; or
 - (b) if the crew member is a Territory resident – return to the crew member's place of residence.
- 15 If less than 14 days has elapsed since any of the events mentioned in direction 12(a) occurred, a 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 arrival; or
 - (b) subject to direction 18:
 - (i) may depart the Territory by aircraft before 14 days quarantine has elapsed, 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 14 days quarantine has elapsed, on the same vessel or, if on another 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 for the period beginning at the time of arrival and ending at 12:00 noon on the 14th day after arrival.

16 If a person enters the Territory to join a vessel as a crew member:

- (a) if the vessel is not available as accommodation at the time the person enters the Territory, the person:
 - (i) must quarantine at hotel accommodation for the period beginning at the time of arrival and ending at 12:00 noon on the 14th day after arrival; or
 - (ii) may, if the vessel becomes available for accommodation before 14 days quarantine has elapsed, join the vessel and:
 - (A) complete the crew member's 14 day quarantine on board the vessel; or
 - (B) depart the Territory; or
- (b) if the vessel is not in the Territory, the person:
 - (i) must quarantine at hotel accommodation for the period beginning at the time of arrival and ending at 12:00 noon on the 14th day after arrival; or
 - (ii) may sooner proceed directly to the airport for the purpose of taking a flight to where the person is to join the vessel outside the Territory; or
- (c) if the vessel is in a different port in the Territory, the person:
 - (i) must quarantine at hotel accommodation for the period beginning at the time of arrival and ending at 12:00 noon on the 14th day after arrival; or
 - (ii) may sooner proceed directly to the airport for the purpose of taking a flight to where the crew member is to join the vessel within the Territory; and

- (A) complete the crew member's 14 day quarantine on board the vessel; or
 - (B) depart the Territory; or
- (d) otherwise – the crew member must:
 - (i) proceed directly to the vessel; and
 - (ii) quarantine on board the vessel for 14 days or until the vessel sooner leaves the Territory.
- 17 A crew member who is quarantining on board a vessel in accordance with direction 16(a)(ii), (c)(ii) or (d)(ii) must, until 14 days quarantine has elapsed or the vessel sooner leaves the Territory:
 - (a) use PPE if the crew member disembarks from the vessel to perform essential vessel functions; and
 - (b) practice personal hygiene, including sanitising surfaces and common areas of the vessel that the crew member is using; and
 - (c) take reasonable steps to use separate facilities from other crew members; and
 - (d) practice social distancing measures.
- 18 If a crew member enters the Territory after leaving a vessel at a place outside the Territory, the crew member must quarantine for 14 days by:
 - (a) travelling directly from the place of entry to a place specified by me and as directed by an authorised officer; 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 arrival.

Example for direction 18

A crew member who leaves a vessel in Melbourne and flies to Darwin, arriving at 11 pm on 20 May 2020 must remain in quarantine until 12:00 noon on 3 June 2020.

- 19 A person who must remain quarantined 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:
- (i) the other person is entering to deliver medical supplies or medical care; or
 - (ii) the other person:
 - (A) usually resides at the place; or
 - (B) enters the place at the same time to remain quarantined for the same period; or
 - (iii) the other person is entering in an emergency or other urgent circumstances.

Note for direction 19

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.

- 20 If a person to whom these Directions apply experiences any symptoms of 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 20

The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 020 080.

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