

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011
COVID-19 Directions (No. 16) 2020
Directions for Territory Border Restrictions

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, by making the following directions:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

- 1 These Directions take effect from 11:59pm on 1 April 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 subsequent extensions of the duration of that declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Public and Environmental Health Act 2011.

- 2 In these Directions:

quarantine, see direction 14.

social distancing measures, see direction 23.

- 3 (1) My COVID-19 Directions (No. 13) 2020 (the **revoked Directions**) are revoked.
- (2) Any person who was required under the revoked Directions to remain quarantined at a place after arriving in the Territory from a place outside the Territory must continue to remain quarantined at that place for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at midnight on the 14th day after arrival in accordance with Part 3 or 4 (as the case may be) of the revoked Directions.
- (3) Any person who was required under my COVID Directions (No. 8) 2020, as amended by my COVID Directions (No. 11) 2020, to remain in premises, after arriving in the Territory from a place outside Australia on or before 27 March 2020, must

continue to remain in those premises for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at 12 midnight on the 14th day after arrival in accordance with Part 4 of my COVID-19 Directions (No. 13) 2020.

Note for direction 3(1)

These Directions supersede all previous Territory border directions.

- 4 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 4

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.

- 5 My COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 apply to any person who is notified by an authorised officer or health practitioner that the person is infected with COVID-19.

Part 2 Directions for declaration and screening on arrival in Territory

- 6 Every person entering the Territory must, in a written or electronic form approved by me, declare the following information:

- (a) details of the places where the person has been during the 30 days prior to the person's arrival in the Territory;
- (b) the person's contact details;
- (c) details of where the person intends to stay while in the Territory;
- (d) if the person is exempt under direction 15, 16, 18 or 19 – the details of the social distancing measures and quarantine arrangements the person intends to take while in the Territory.

- 7 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.

8 Every person 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 other person approved by me.

Part 3 Directions for quarantine of all arrivals

9 This Part applies to every person entering the Territory from a place outside the Territory.

10 Subject to direction 11, the person must:

- (a) travel directly from the place of entry to a place specified by me or an authorised officer; and
- (b) remain quarantined in that place for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at 12 midnight on the 14th day after arrival.

11 In the case of an unaccompanied child under 18 years of age, the place specified under direction 10 must be either:

- (a) the child's place of residence in the Territory; or
- (b) another place suitable in which to remain for the quarantine period.

12 If a child is quarantined in accordance with direction 11(a), the child must practice social distancing measures for 14 days after arriving in the Territory.

13 If a child is quarantined in accordance with direction 11(b), any adult accompanying the child must also remain quarantined in that place for the period beginning on the day of arrival of the child and ending at 12 midnight on the 14th day after arrival.

14 A person who must remain quarantined under this Part:

- (a) must not leave that place except:
 - (i) for the purpose of obtaining 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 care or medical supplies; or
 - (ii) the other person is entering for an emergency or other urgent circumstances; and
 - (c) must comply with any other directions given by me or an authorised officer.
- 15 A member of a flight crew is exempt from direction 10 if:
- (a) the member:
 - (i) does not leave the aircraft or airport; or
 - (ii) leaves the aircraft or airport only to check in to and remain quarantined at accommodation; and
 - (b) practises social distancing measures for the shorter of:
 - (i) the duration of the member's stay; or
 - (ii) 14 days.
- 16 The following persons are exempt from direction 10, only if entering the Territory from a State or another Territory:
- (a) active Australian military personnel requested to assist the Territory or required to enter the Territory while performing their official duties, if the personnel practise social distancing measures while in the Territory;
 - (b) a member of the Commonwealth Parliament who is ordinarily resident in the Territory, if the member practises social distancing measures for 14 days after arriving in the Territory;
 - (c) a health practitioner, as defined in section 8(3) of the Act, who is requested by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health to come to the Territory to perform functions;

- (d) any person providing services for the transport or freight of goods and related logistics into, within and out of the Territory, if the person practises social distancing measures and complies with direction 17 while in the Territory;
- (e) a member of the crew of a ship that is delivering persons, transporting goods or providing related logistics into, within and out of the Territory, if the member practises social distancing measures and complies with direction 17 while in the Territory;
- (f) a specialist required to provide services needed for the continuity of industry or business and the maintenance of competitive operations if:
 - (i) the specialist's skills are difficult to obtain in the Territory; and
 - (ii) the service must be provided without delay; and
 - (iii) the specialist must be physically present in the Territory to provide the service; and
 - (iv) the specialist practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (g) a person responsible for the necessary maintenance or repair of power, water, communications and other infrastructure critical to the Territory, if the person practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (h) a law enforcement officer or emergency service worker who is requested to assist the Territory or required to enter the Territory while performing their official duties, if the officer or worker practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (i) a person required for the administration of justice in the Territory, if the person practises social distancing measures while in the Territory;

- (j) a paramedic, an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. or a member of the crew of Careflight or the Royal Flying Doctor Service who is providing medical transport to a person or returning to the Territory as soon as was practicable after providing medical transport to a person;
- (k) a paramedic or an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. who is ordinarily resident in the Territory and who is requested by the Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. to return to perform functions in the Territory.

Examples for direction 16(i)

A person who must cross the border as part of the person's job working for Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Health, Australian Federal Police or Australian Border Force.

- 17 While in the Territory and when not working, a person who is exempt under direction 14(d) or (e) must remain quarantined in a place for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at midnight on the 14th day after arrival.

Examples for direction 17

- 1 *A truck driver can stay in the truck.*
- 2 *A member of a ship's crew can stay on the ship.*
- 3 *A member of a train's crew can stay on the train.*

- 18 A person is exempt from direction 10 if:
- (a) the person intends to travel in the Territory for the primary purpose of crossing into a State; and
 - (b) the person provides a travel plan to a police officer at the place of entry, which:
 - (i) gives details of the person's intended route of travel; and
 - (ii) confirms that the person has sufficient food and water to last the duration of the travel through the Territory; and
 - (iii) identifies fuel stops; and
 - (c) the person takes the most direct route practicable; and

- (d) the person remains in the Territory for no longer than 48 hours;
and
- (e) the person does not deviate from the route identified in the travel plan provided under paragraph (b)(i), except in an emergency;
and
- (f) the person may only stop for:
 - (i) fuel, at a stop identified under paragraph (b)(iii); or
 - (ii) a rest break from driving; or
 - (iii) subject to paragraph (g), overnight accommodation; and
- (g) if the person stops for overnight accommodation under paragraph (f)(iii), the person, the person remains quarantined in the accommodation from the time the person checks in to the accommodation to the time the person departs from the accommodation; and
- (h) the person practices social distancing measures while in the Territory.

19 A person or class of persons is exempt from direction 10 if I have granted the person or class an exemption from that direction, in writing, on the grounds that the person or class:

- (a) is essential for the proper functioning of the Territory; or
- (b) needs an exemption to avoid unusual, undeserved or disproportionate hardship; or
- (c) is governed by a COVID-19 management plan, imposed by the employer of the person or class of persons, to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to the public.

Example for direction 19(b)

A person in Avon Downs or another place close to the border may be need to move across the border to obtain critical goods and services.

Example for direction 19(c)

An employee of a commercial fishing, mining, energy or agricultural business that has a plan, approved by me, on managing transmission of COVID-19 among its employees and preventing its transmission to the community.

- 20 Despite directions 16, 18 and 19, a person is not exempt from direction 10 if the person's screening under direction 8 shows the person is suspected of being infected with COVID-19.
- 21 Nothing in this Part prevents a person entering the Territory from a State or another Territory from:
- (a) immediately leaving the Territory and not proceeding into the Territory; or
 - (b) any time during the required period of quarantine, leaving the Territory by the same vehicle in which the person arrived; or
 - (c) in the case of a person who arrives on an aircraft and does not leave the airport, except to stay overnight in the Mercure Darwin Airport Resort or the Novotel Darwin Airport – leaving the Territory on an aircraft.
- 22 A person who must remain quarantined in the Territory under this Part must not leave the Territory on an aircraft, except:
- (a) in the circumstances specified in direction 21(c); or
 - (b) for the purpose of obtaining medical care; or
 - (c) in an emergency.

Part 4 Direction on *social distancing measures*

- 23 A person who is required to take ***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 23

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


Digitally signed by Dr Hugh Heggie
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Chief Health Officer