



Northern Territory of Australia

*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

**COVID-19 Directions (No. 42) 2022:  
Amendment of COVID-19 Directions (No. 22) 2022**

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:

**Part 1 Preliminary matters**

- 1 These Directions take effect at the time they are made.
- 2 These Directions amend my COVID-19 Directions (No. 22) 2022, as amended by my COVID-19 Directions (No. 29) 2022.
- 3 Direction 6 is revoked and the following inserted instead:
  - 6 A quarantine period is calculated as follows:
    - (a) the period starts:
      - (i) in the case of a person who is a close contact of an infected person – on the day on which the person was last in contact with the infected person while that infected person was considered to be infectious; or
      - (ii) in the case of a person who is a close contact of an infected person because the person resides at the same suitable place at which the infected person is isolating – on the day when the infected person's isolation period starts in accordance with direction 5(a); or

- (iii) in the case of a person who is notified by me, my delegate or an authorised officer that they are a close contact – at the time specified in the notification; and
- (b) the period ends at 12:00 noon on the last day of the period.

*Note for direction 6(a)(i)*

*If a person is infected with COVID-19 and has symptoms, the person will generally be considered to have been infectious from 2 days before the infected person's symptoms first started. If a person is infected with COVID-19 and had no symptoms prior to the person returning a positive result to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure, the infected person will generally be considered to have been infectious from 2 days before the person returned the positive result.*

*Example for direction 6(a)*

*In the case of a 7-day quarantine period, a person who was last in contact with an infected person while infectious at 11.00 pm on 12 January 2022 must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 19 January 2022.*

- 4 Direction 7(a) is amended by inserting "a hostel," after "a room,".
- 5 The following is inserted after direction 7:
  - 7A To avoid doubt, a place may be a suitable place for isolation or quarantine for a person within the meaning of direction 7 even if another person will reside at or occupy that place in the course of the person's isolation period or quarantine period.

*Note for direction 7A*

*Depending on the circumstances, any other person who resides at or occupies a suitable place at which an infected person is isolating may be considered a close contact of the infected person in accordance with direction 13 and may be required to quarantine in accordance with direction 16.*

- 6 Direction 14 is revoked and the following inserted instead:
  - 14 For 28 days after completing an isolation period, a formerly infected person is not:
    - (a) considered to be a close contact of another infected person; or
    - (b) required to submit to or self-administer an approved COVID-19 testing procedure under these Directions or any of my other COVID-19 Directions.

- 7 Direction 15 is amended by inserting the following at the end:

*Example for direction 15*

*If a person (the **quarantined person**) is considered to be a close contact of an infected person (the **first infected person**) because the quarantined person resides in the same residence as the first infected person, and subsequently another person who also resides in that residence becomes infected (the **second infected person**) during the quarantined person's quarantine period, the quarantined person is not considered to be a close contact of the second infected person.*

- 8 Direction 16(b) is amended by omitting "7 days" and inserting "7 days or the period ending on the day on which the close contact ceases to have symptoms, whichever is shorter".

- 9 Direction 19 is revoked and the following inserted instead:

- 19 Despite direction 16, if a close contact in quarantine is a parent of, or is responsible for, a child who may attend day care, preschool or school, the close contact may leave their suitable place to drop off or pick up the child at the day care, preschool or school.

*Note for direction 19*

*If the child is also considered to be a close contact and is being dropped off to attend middle school or senior school, the child may need to submit to or self-administer a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure and return a negative result in accordance with direction 17 before entering the school.*

- 19A Despite direction 16, a close contact in quarantine may, for no more than one hour in total per day, leave their suitable place for the purpose of obtaining food if:

- (a) there is no other means by which the close contact can obtain food without leaving the suitable place; and
- (b) the close contact, or any other close contact who is also in quarantine at the same suitable place, has not left the suitable place to obtain food in accordance with this direction within the previous 24 hours; and
- (c) the close contact complies with direction 28.

*Note for direction 19A(b)*

*If there is more than one person who is a close contact in quarantine at the same suitable place, only one close contact may leave the suitable place to obtain food within a 24 hour period.*

- 10 Direction 26(c) and 28 are amended by omitting "18 or 19" and inserting "18, 19 or 19A".
- 11 Item 3(l) of the Schedule is amended by inserting after item 3(l)(xvi):
  - (xvii) optometrist (including optical dispensing);

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Chief Health Officer  
Dated