

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011
COVID-19 Directions (No. 2) 2020

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:

Directions for Aged Care Facilities

- 1 These Directions have effect while the public health emergency declaration is in force.
- 2 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).

- 3 Subject to directions 4 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 in relation to wills or estate planning to a resident of the facility.
- 4 A person who has been outside Australia must not enter or remain in an aged care facility within 14 days of arriving in Australia.
- 5 A person who has been in contact with a person confirmed as infected with COVID-19 must not visit an aged care facility within 14 days of the contact.
- 6 A person must not visit 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) is suspected of being infected with COVID-19; or
 - (d) has not been vaccinated this year against influenza, if the vaccination was available to the person; or
 - (e) is under the age of 16, other than a person referred to in direction 3(e).

Example for direction 6(c)

The person has been tested for COVID-19 but does not yet know the results of the test.

- 7 A person referred to in direction 3(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 3(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 age care facility from entering and remaining on the premises of the facility.

Notes for COVID-19 Directions

- 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