

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011
COVID-19 Directions (No. 15) 2020

Directions to Close Public Places, Services and Activities

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:

- 1 These Directions take effect at 24:00 (midnight) on 30 March 2020 and remain in force until the earlier of the following:
 - (a) a declaration under section 50(2) of the Act is no longer in force;
 - (b) 24:00 (midnight) on 20 April 2020.

Note for direction 1

These Directions will remain in force during any subsequent extensions of that declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Public and Environmental Health Act 2011.

- 2 The following directions are revoked:
 - (a) COVID-19 Directions (No. 9) 2020;
 - (b) COVID-19 Directions (No. 10) 2020;
 - (c) COVID-19 Directions (No. 12) 2020.

- 3 In these Directions:

amusement venue means a venue used principally for playing:

- (a) billiards, pool or other like games; or
- (b) electronic or mechanical amusement devices, such as pinball machines, computer or video games or similar.

indoors means an area, room or place that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent or temporary or open or closed.

outdoors means an area or premises that is not indoors.

- 4 An occupier of a place and a proprietor of a business must:
- (a) close to the public any place specified in direction 5; and
 - (b) cease conducting with, or providing to, the public any activity or service specified in direction 5.
- 5 The following places, activities and services are closed to the public:
- (a) the business of serving food or beverages to members of the public for consumption in, on or at the premises of the business or, if the premises are adjacent to an indoor food court, in that food court;
 - (b) a casino within the meaning of the *Gaming Control Act 1993*;
 - (c) a business that holds a gaming machine licence within the meaning of the *Gaming Machine Act 1995*;
 - (d) a cinema, theatre, concert hall, music hall, dance hall, nightclub or any other similar entertainment venue;
 - (e) an amusement venue;
 - (f) an indoor market, other than a food market;
 - (g) a place used to conduct an auction conducted under the *Auctioneers Act 1935*;
 - (h) a place that provides beauty therapy, including tanning, waxing, nail care, eyebrow care or any other activity intended to maintain, alter or enhance a person's appearance;
 - (i) a place that provides tattooing or body art, including any activity intended to permanently decorate, pierce, brand, scar or adorn a person's skin or permanently alter a person's appearance;
 - (j) a place that provides yoga, Pilates, barre, massage or other wellness services;
 - (k) a strip club or any place that:
 - (i) sells admission to the place for customers to participate in sexual activity with each other; or

- (ii) provides services that involve a person participating in sexual activity with another person in return for payment or reward;
- (l) a bathhouse, public swimming pool, wave pool, water park and recreational lakes for swimming or water sports;
- (m) a gymnasium, skate park, public playground and outdoor gym equipment in a public place;
- (n) an arena, stadium, sporting facility, amusement park, community centre, recreation centre and play centre, whether indoors or outdoors;
- (o) a place that provides physical training activities indoors;
- (p) a business that provides physical training activities outdoors with more than 10 people present, including the trainer;
- (p) a venue operated by the Returned & Services League of Australia Limited;
- (q) an art gallery, museum, public memorial and public historic site;
- (r) a public library;
- (s) a place used for religious worship except for:
 - (i) a wedding with no more than 5 people present, including the celebrant; or
 - (ii) a funeral with no more than 10 people present.

Examples for direction 5(h)

Facial, body wrap, exfoliation, the application of cosmetics, epilation, the application of semi-permanent makeup.

Examples for direction 5(k)(i) and (ii)

A sex on premises venue and a brothel.

- 6 The following activities and services are exempt from direction 5:
- (a) hairdressing;
 - (b) essential volunteer or public services provided at a venue otherwise closed under that direction;
 - (c) a public library if the public is restricted to returning books and borrowing books reserved or requested in advance;
 - (d) an accommodation provider providing accommodation to guests and serving food or beverages for consumption by a guest in the guest's room.

Examples for direction 6(b)

A food bank or services for the homeless.

- 7 Any activity exempted under direction 6 is subject to COVID-19 Directions (No. 14) 2020 (Directions for Gatherings).

- 8 A person must not organise or participate in the following group activities:

- (a) a real estate open house inspection for potential purchasers;
- (b) a sporting activity engaged in by more than 2 people unless:
 - (i) they ordinarily reside together in the same residence; or
 - (ii) the activity is provided by a business outdoors and no more than 10 people are present, including the trainer.

Examples for direction 8(b)(ii)

A personal trainer conducting a boot camp outside.

- 9 To avoid doubt, these Directions do not prohibit any service or activity provided or conducted electronically or online.

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