

Northern Territory of Australia
Public and Environmental Health Act 2011
COVID-19 Directions (No. 32) 2020
Directions for Territory Border Restrictions

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

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 Act.

- 2 In these Directions:

quarantine, see direction 12.

social distancing measures, see direction 22.

- 3 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 3

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.

- 4 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

- 5 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 13, 14, 17 or 18 – the details of the social distancing measures and quarantine arrangements the person intends to take while in the Territory.

6 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.

7 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

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

9 Subject to direction 10, the person must:

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

Example for direction 9

A person who arrives in the Territory at 11pm on 20 April 2020 must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 4 May 2020.

10 In the case of an unaccompanied child under 18 years of age, the place specified under direction 9 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.

- 11 If a child is quarantined in accordance with direction 10(b), any adult staying with 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 noon on the 14th day after arrival.
- 12 A person who must remain quarantined under this Part must practice social distancing measures and:
- (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 for an emergency or other urgent circumstances.

Note for direction 12

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.

- 13 A member of a flight crew is exempt from directions 9 and 12 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) practices social distancing measures for the shorter of:

- (i) the duration of the member's stay; or
- (ii) 14 days.

14 The following persons are exempt from directions 9 and 12, 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 practice social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (b) a member of the Commonwealth Parliament who is ordinarily resident in the Territory, if the member practices 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 Agency responsible for administration of the Act 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 or out of the Territory, if the person practices social distancing measures and complies with direction 15 while in the Territory;
- (e) a specialist who is required to enter the Territory to provide services 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 practices social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (f) a person who is required to enter the Territory for the necessary maintenance or repair of power, water, communications or other

infrastructure critical to the Territory, if the person practices social distancing measures while in the Territory;

- (g) 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 practices social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (h) a person who is required to enter the Territory for the administration of justice in the Territory, if the person practices social distancing measures while in the Territory;
- (i) 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;
- (j) 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 15(g)

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.

- 15 While in the Territory and when not working, a person who is exempt under direction 14(d) 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 15

- 1 *A truck driver can stay in the truck or a hotel if the truck driver requires overnight accommodation in the Territory.*
- 2 *A member of a train's crew can stay on the train.*

- 16 For direction 14(h), a person who is required to enter the Territory for the administration of justice in the Territory includes an Australian lawyer, within the meaning of the *Legal Profession Act 2006*, who is entering for

the purpose of appearing in court in circumstances in which appearance in person is required.

- 17 A person is exempt from directions 9 and 12 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 only stops 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 remains quarantined in the accommodation from the time the person checks in to the accommodation until the time the person departs from the accommodation; and
 - (h) the person practices social distancing measures while in the Territory.

- 18 A person or class of persons is exempt from directions 9 and 12 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 18(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 18(c)

An employee of a 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.

- 19 Despite directions 13, 14, 17 and 18, a person is not exempt from directions 9 and 12 if the person's screening under direction 7 shows the person is suspected of being infected with COVID-19.

- 20 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) at 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.

- 21 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 20(c); or

- (b) for the purpose of obtaining medical care; or
- (c) in an emergency.

Part 4 Direction on *social distancing measures*

22 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 22

The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 020 080.

Part 5 Revocation and transitional matters

23 The following Directions are revoked:

- (a) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 22) 2020;
- (b) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 27) 2020.

24 Any person who was required under my COVID-19 Directions (No. 22) 2020 to:

- (a) 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 required by those Directions as if those Directions had not been revoked; or

- (b) practice social distancing measures must continue to practice those measures in accordance with those Directions as if those Directions had not been revoked.

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