



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 8) 2021: Directions for Territory border restrictions

I, Charles Hawkhurst Pain, Acting 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 (***the public health emergency declaration***), by making the following directions:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

- 1 These Directions take effect at 12:01 am on 5 June 2021 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 extensions of the duration of that declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Act.

- 2 In these Directions:

aircrew member includes a person who arrives in the Territory by aircraft in order to work as an aircrew member on an aircraft flying from the Territory.

child means a person who is under 18 years of age.

COVID-19 hotspot means a specified area of Australia or New Zealand:

- (a) determined by me from time to time; and
- (b) published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au.

COVID-19 public exposure site means a specified site in Australia or New Zealand:

- (a) determined by me from time to time during a specified period determined by me from time to time; and
- (b) published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au or on another website determined by me.

employer, of an aircrew member, means a person who employs or otherwise engages the member to work as part of an aircrew.

prescribed flight means:

- (a) for an aircrew member who is required to quarantine under direction 14(a):
 - (i) a flight directly to a place outside Australia, other than New Zealand; or
 - (ii) a flight to a State, another Territory or New Zealand, on which the only passengers are aircrew members or persons who usually work as aircrew members; or
- (b) for an aircrew member who is required to quarantine under direction 14(b) – any flight.

public exposure period means the specified period determined by me under the definition **COVID-19 public exposure site**, paragraph (a).

quarantine period, see direction 3.

social distancing measures means the measures required under direction 45.

suitable place for quarantine, see direction 4.

travel plan means a written plan for a person entering the Territory in which the person:

- (a) gives details of the route the person intends to travel in accordance with direction 17; and
- (b) identifies any planned fuel stops during the travel; and

- (c) confirms that the person has sufficient food and water to last the duration of the travel.

3 A **quarantine period** is:

- (a) for a person mentioned in clause 14(b)(ii) – the period starting when the person enters the Territory and ending at 12 noon on the 14th day after the last day the person was in an area that is, at the time of the person's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot; or
- (b) for Part 5, see direction 38; or
- (c) for any other person, including a person for whom no specific ending day is determined under direction 38 – the period starting when the person enters the Territory and ending at 12 noon on the 14th day after entry.

Examples for direction 3(a)

- 1 A person who leaves a COVID-19 hotspot on 1 June 2021 and enters the Territory at 11pm on 4 June 2021 must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 15 June 2021.
- 2 A person who leaves a COVID-19 hotspot on 4 June 2021 and enters the Territory on 4 June 2021 at 11pm must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 18 June 2021.

Example for direction 3(c)

A person who enters the Territory at 11pm on 4 June 2021 must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 18 June 2021.

Notes for direction 3

- 1 A person who leaves the Territory before the end of the quarantine period and then re-enters the Territory starts a new quarantine period. The previous time in quarantine is not carried over.
- 2 Under direction 24, a person may be required to quarantine for an additional 10 days after the quarantine period.

4 A place is a **suitable place for quarantine** for a person if the place:

- (a) is a residence or a room, apartment or unit in commercial visitor accommodation; and
- (b) is capable of accommodating the person in quarantine for at least 14 days; and
- (c) provides a bedroom or sleeping area for the person that is separated from any other person in the place who is not also in quarantine; and

- (d) allows the person to practise social distancing measures while being in quarantine; and
 - (e) has a particular attribute or has access to a particular facility determined by me.
- 5 For these Directions, a person is taken not to have been in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot if the person was in the area only in one or more of the following circumstances:
- (a) the person travelled through the area in or on a motor vehicle, public transport or bicycle and did not leave the vehicle, disembark the public transport or dismount the bicycle while in the area;
 - (b) the person was only at an airport located in the area;
 - (c) the person:
 - (i) travelled into or out of the area by motor vehicle, public transport or bicycle directly to or from an airport located in the area; and
 - (ii) remained in the vehicle, or on the public transport or bicycle while in the area except when entering or leaving the airport;
 - (d) the person:
 - (i) either:
 - (A) arrived by aircraft at an airport located in the area and travelled directly from the airport to a hotel that is within 5 km of the airport; or
 - (B) travelled by motor vehicle or public transport from outside the area to a hotel in the area that is within 5 km of an airport and did not leave the vehicle or disembark the public transport except to enter the hotel; and
 - (ii) after checking in to the hotel, did not leave the person's hotel room until departing the hotel to travel to the airport, except in an emergency; and

- (iii) travelled directly from the hotel to the airport and departed the area by aircraft.

Examples for direction 5

- 1 A person who travels by car through an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot but stops in the area to refuel the car or drop an item in a friend's mailbox, has been in the area.
 - 2 A person who rides a bicycle through an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot and stops in the area to buy a drink has been in the area.
 - 3 A person who flies into an airport located in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot, remains at the airport during a 6 hour stopover and then departs the airport on an aircraft, is taken not to have been in the area.
 - 4 A person who flies to an airport that is located in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot, takes a taxi from the airport to a hotel that is 5 km away from the airport and also located in the area that is a COVID-19 hotspot, checks in, orders room service and remains in the hotel room overnight, checks out the following day, travels directly back to the airport and takes a flight out of the area, is taken not to have been in the area.
- 6 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 6

A person may be ordered under the Notifiable Diseases Act 1981 to isolate for longer than the quarantine period or to undertake a specific course of medical treatment.

- 7 To avoid doubt, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, apply to any person who is notified by an authorised officer or health practitioner that the person is infected with COVID-19.
- 8 To avoid doubt, these Directions do not limit a right under section 71(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).

Part 2 Directions for declaration and screening on arrival in the Territory

- 9 Subject to direction 10, 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 28 days prior to entering the Territory;

- (b) whether the person, during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory:
 - (i) was in an area that is, at the time of the person's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot; or
 - (ii) was at a place during the public exposure period that is, at the time of the person's entry, a COVID-19 public exposure site;
- (c) whether the person, during any of the 28 days prior to entering the Territory, was in quarantine in a State or another Territory or in New Zealand;
- (d) the person's contact details;
- (e) details of where the person intends to stay while in the Territory;
- (f) if the person is exempt under Part 4 – details of the social distancing measures the person intends to take while in the Territory.

Note for direction 9

A person may also have to submit a travel plan if required under direction 17.

- 10 For a child who is entering the Territory, a parent or guardian of the child must make the declaration under direction 9 in relation to the child to the best of the parent or guardian's knowledge.
- 11 The form must be submitted:
 - (a) to an authorised officer at the place of entry; or
 - (b) to another person, or in another manner, approved by me.
- 12 A person entering the Territory must submit, at the place of entry, to any required screening procedure approved by me for COVID-19 conducted by an authorised officer or another person approved by me.
- 13 If a screening procedure shows a person is suspected of being infected with COVID-19, the person must comply with:
 - (a) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020 or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions; and

- (b) these Directions, to the extent they are applicable.

Part 3 Directions for quarantine and testing of arrivals

Division 1 Persons who are required to quarantine

14 Each of the following persons must quarantine in accordance with this Part:

- (a) a person entering the Territory from a place outside Australia, other than New Zealand;
- (b) a person entering the Territory from a State, another Territory or New Zealand who, during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory, was:
 - (i) in a place outside Australia, other than New Zealand; or
 - (ii) in an area that is, at the time of the person's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot; or
- (c) a person entering the Territory who refuses to make a declaration in accordance with direction 9;
- (d) a child entering the Territory in relation to whom a declaration in accordance with direction 9 is not made.

Note for direction 4

See Part 5 in relation to COVID-19 public exposure sites.

Division 2 Quarantine requirements

15 Subject to direction 16, a person who is required under direction 14 to quarantine 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 quarantine period.

16 In the case of an unaccompanied child, the place specified under direction 15 must be a place where a parent or responsible adult will remain quarantined for the same period as the child.

- 17 If the person must travel for a period longer than 1 hour to reach the place where the person is required to quarantine, the person must:
- (a) give a travel plan to an authorised officer at the place of entry; and
 - (b) travel by the most direct route practicable to that place; and
 - (c) complete the travel as quickly as practicable, which must be no later than 72 hours after entry; and
 - (d) not deviate from the route identified in the person's travel plan, except in an emergency; and
 - (e) not stop except for:
 - (i) fuel at the planned stops in the person's travel plan; or
 - (ii) a rest break from driving; or
 - (iii) overnight accommodation; and
 - (f) practise social distancing measures while travelling.
- 18 If the person stops for overnight accommodation under direction 17(e)(iii), the person must remain quarantined in the accommodation from the time the person checks in to the accommodation until the time the person departs from the accommodation.
- 19 During the quarantine period, the person must not leave the place in which the person is required to quarantine except:
- (a) for medical purposes, including obtaining medical supplies, receiving medical care and being tested or assessed for infection with COVID-19; or
 - (b) in an emergency; or

- (c) for a compassionate purpose in accordance with a temporary exemption given by me.

Example for direction 19(c)

A person wishes to attend the funeral of a relative or close friend.

Note for direction 19

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.

- 20 During the quarantine period, the person must not permit any other person to enter the place in which the person is required to quarantine unless the other person:
 - (a) usually resides at the place; or
 - (b) is being quarantined at the same time; or
 - (c) is entering for medical purposes, including delivering medical supplies, providing medical care and testing or assessing for infection with COVID-19; or
 - (d) is entering because of an emergency or another urgent reason.
- 21 During the quarantine period, the person must practise social distancing measures.
- 22 If an area that was a COVID-19 hotspot ceases to be a COVID-19 hotspot, a person who is in quarantine by reason only of that area formerly being a COVID-19 hotspot is not required to remain in quarantine despite directions 14(b)(ii) and 24.

Division 3 Testing for infection and additional quarantine

- 23 A person who enters the Territory (whether or not the person is subject to quarantine requirements) must, if required by me at any time during the 28 days after the person enters, submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure approved by me that is conducted:
 - (a) by one of the following:
 - (i) an authorised officer;
 - (ii) a health practitioner as defined in section 5 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law;

- (iii) another person approved by me; and
 - (b) at the time and place specified by me.
- 24 If the person refuses to submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure, the person is required:
 - (a) if the person is in quarantine – to remain quarantined for an additional 10 days starting from the end of the quarantine period; or
 - (b) otherwise – to quarantine in accordance with Division 2 for 10 days beginning immediately after the refusal occurs.

Example for direction 24(a)

If a person whose quarantine period ends on 12 noon on 18 June 2020 refuses to submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure on 16 June 2021, the person is required to remain quarantined until 12 noon on 28 June 2021.

- 25 If a person is required to remain quarantined for 10 days or an additional 10 days under direction 24, all directions that were applicable to the person during the quarantine period, other than direction 24, continue to apply to the person during the 10 days.

Division 4 Additional testing for infection for aircrew members

- 26 This Division applies to an aircrew member in addition to the requirements of Division 3.
- 27 An aircrew member who is required to quarantine under direction 14(a) must submit to the COVID-19 testing procedure referred to in direction 23 on entering the Territory, if the member has not been tested, in Australia, for infection with COVID-19 during the 7 days prior to entering the Territory.

Part 4 Exemptions

Division 1 Individual exemption for persons who have been in place outside Australia and New Zealand

28 A person mentioned in direction 14(a) or (b)(i) is exempt from Part 3 of these Directions if the person:

- (a) was not, during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory, in an area that is, at the time of the person's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot; and
- (b) is granted a written exemption from that Part by me after satisfying me, on application, that the person:
 - (i) poses a minimal risk to the public health of the Territory; and
 - (ii) has a compelling reason justifying the exemption; and
- (c) practises social distancing measures for the quarantine period; and
- (d) submits to the COVID-19 testing procedure referred to in direction 23 if required by me; and
- (e) complies with any other conditions I attach to the exemption.

Division 2 Exemption for persons entering Territory to provide essential services

29 A person is exempt from Part 3 of these Directions if:

- (a) the person:
 - (i) is an agricultural industry worker, other than an abattoir or meat packing worker, and is entering the Territory from a State or another Territory to provide urgent services that are critical to ensure continuity of the agricultural industry; or
 - (ii) is required to enter the Territory for the essential, critical or urgent maintenance or repair of power, water, communications or other infrastructure critical to the Territory; or

- (iii) is a health practitioner, as defined in section 8(3) of the Act, who is requested by the Chief Executive Officer to come to the Territory to perform essential, critical or urgent functions; and
 - (b) the person submits to me the COVID-19 management plan to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to the public in accordance with which the person will be working; and
 - (c) I give written approval of the management plan.
- 30 A person who is exempt under direction 29 must, while in the Territory:
- (a) when not working, remain quarantined in a suitable place for quarantine during the quarantine period; and
 - (b) subject to direction 31, practise social distancing measures; and
 - (c) submit to the COVID-19 testing procedure referred to in direction 23 if required by me; and
 - (d) comply with any other conditions that I attach to my approval of the management plan and advise in writing.
- 31 If the person cannot stay at least 1.5 m away from other people while working, the person must wear a face mask when within 1.5 m of other people.

Division 3 Shortened COVID-19 hotspot application

- 32 Despite direction 14(b)(ii), a person is exempt from Part 3 of these Directions if:
- (a) I declare that the length of the application of a particular COVID-19 hotspot under these Directions should be reduced by a specified number of days, as published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au; and
 - (b) the person was not in the COVID-19 hotspot during the reduced period.

Division 4 Person may leave Territory

- 33 Nothing in these Directions prevents a person entering the Territory from outside Australia and New Zealand from leaving the Territory by leaving Australia, without entering a State or another Territory, at any time during the quarantine period.
- 34 Nothing in these Directions prevents a person entering the Territory from a State, another Territory or New Zealand from:
- (a) immediately leaving the Territory and not proceeding into the Territory; or
 - (b) leaving the Territory at any time during the quarantine period; or
 - (c) in the case of a person who arrives on an aircraft, does not leave the airport, except to stay overnight in a place specified by me and directed by an authorised officer, and practices social distancing measures while in the Territory – leaving the Territory on an aircraft.
- 35 Nothing in these Directions prevents an aircrew member who is required to quarantine under direction 14(a) or (b) from leaving the Territory by aircraft on a prescribed flight, before the member's quarantine period expires, by proceeding directly to the airport for the purposes of the flight and practising social distancing measures until the member leaves the Territory.
- 36 To avoid doubt, direction 35 applies to an aircrew member even if the member has, under Part 3, submitted to a COVID-19 testing procedure and has not been notified of the results of the test.

Part 5 COVID-19 public exposure sites

- 37 A person entering the Territory from a State, another Territory or New Zealand who was at a COVID-19 public exposure site during the public exposure period may be required by me to do any one or more of the following:
- (a) quarantine in accordance with Part 3, Division 2;
 - (b) undergo testing in accordance with Part 3, Division 3;

(c) undergo additional quarantine in accordance with Part 3, Division 3.

38 If a person mentioned in direction 37 is required to quarantine, the quarantine period is the period starting when the person leaves the COVID-19 public exposure site and ending at 12 noon on the day determined by me.

39 For a person mentioned in direction 37, Part 3, Divisions 2 and 3 and Part 4 apply to the person, with any necessary modifications, as if the COVID-19 public exposure site were a COVID-19 hotspot.

Note for direction 39

This means that all of the ancillary provisions relating to COVID-19 hotspots, including possible exemptions, will apply to a person who has been to a COVID-19 public exposure site.

Part 6 Declaration of COVID-19 hotspot or COVID-19 public exposure site after arrival

40 This Part applies to a person who:

- (a) enters the Territory; and
- (b) is not required under direction 14 to quarantine; and
- (c) is not exempt from Part 3 of these Directions; and
- (d) during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory:
 - (i) was in an area that is declared a COVID-19 hotspot within 14 days after the day of the person's entry; or
 - (ii) was at a COVID-19 public exposure site during the public exposure period.

41 The person must submit to a test or assessment for infection with COVID-19 if required by me.

- 42 If required to submit to a test or assessment under direction 39, the person must travel directly to a suitable place for quarantine and remain in that place, except to submit to the test or assessment or for a reason referred to in direction 19, until notified of the results of the test or assessment.

Note for direction 42

If the result of the test or assessment is negative, the person may leave the place. If the result is positive, the person must comply with my COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 or any Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

- 43 Nothing in direction 42 prevents a person from leaving their suitable place for quarantine in order to leave the Territory before the person is notified of the results of the test or assessment.

Note for direction 43

However, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020, or any Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, may apply to the person.

- 44 A person mentioned in direction 43 must:
- (a) leave the Territory in the quickest and by the most direct manner possible in the circumstances; and
 - (b) practise social distancing measures until the person has left the Territory.

Part 7 Social distancing measures

- 45 A person who must practise **social distancing measures** under these Directions must:
- (a) take all reasonable steps to sleep in a room or other enclosed space separate from any other person, except another person who is also subject to social distancing measures; and
 - (b) take all reasonable measures to stay at least 1.5 m away from other people; and
 - (c) regularly check for symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, coughing, sore throat, muscular pains, shortness of breath, unexpected tiredness, loss of and altered sense of taste and loss of sense of smell; 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) submit to a test or assessment for infection with COVID-19 if required by me.

Note for direction 45

The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 008 002.

Part 8 Obligations of employers of aircrew

- 46 An employer of an aircrew member must ensure the member does not board an aircraft flying from the Territory unless the member has complied with all of my directions that apply to the member.

Part 9 Revocation and transitional matters

- 47 In this Part:

revoked principal Directions means my COVID-19 Directions (No. 49) 2020, as amended by my COVID-19 Directions (No. 50) 2020, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 53) 2020, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 54) 2020, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 60) 2020 and my COVID-19 Directions (No. 2) 2021.

- 48 The following directions are revoked:

- (a) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 49) 2020;
- (b) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 50) 2020;
- (c) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 53) 2020;
- (d) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 54) 2020;
- (e) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 60) 2020;
- (f) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 2) 2021.

- 49 Despite direction 48, any person who was serving a quarantine period under the revoked principal Directions or to whom those Directions otherwise applied immediately before their revocation must continue to comply with the revoked principal Directions, as if those Directions were still in force.

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.*



Acting Chief Health Officer

Dated 4.6.21

