



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

**COVID-19 Directions (No. 14) 2021:
Directions to require evidence of medical reasons not to wear a
face mask**

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 (the **public health emergency declaration**), by making the following directions:

- 1 These Directions take effect on signing 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 For the purpose of ensuring compliance with any of my COVID-19 Directions requiring the wearing of a face mask, a police officer or an authorised officer may:
 - (a) request a person who is not wearing a face mask as required by those Directions to state the person's reason for not doing so; and
 - (b) if the person claims to have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, that makes wearing a face mask unsuitable – require the person to produce evidence to support that claim.

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.*
- 4 *An infringement notice may be given for failing to comply these Directions with a fine equal to 32 penalty units for an individual.*

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Chief Health Officer

Dated