



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 16) 2021: Directions to lock down Darwin and surrounding areas of the Territory

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

Part 1 Preliminary matters

- 1 These Directions take effect at the time they are made and remain in force until the earlier of:
 - (a) the public health emergency declaration ceasing to be in force; or
 - (b) 1 pm on 2 July 2021.
- 2 My COVID-19 Directions (No. 13) 2021 are revoked.
- 3 In these Directions:

essential worker, see Schedule 1.

lockdown area means the area specified in direction 4.
- 4 These Directions apply in and to:
 - (a) the following local government areas:
 - (i) City of Darwin;
 - (ii) City of Palmerston;

- (iii) Litchfield;
 - (iv) Wagait Shire;
 - (v) Belyuen Shire; and
- (b) the Darwin Waterfront Precinct as specified under section 4 of the *Darwin Waterfront Corporation Act 2006*; and
- (c) the following localities of the Territory:
- (i) Charles Darwin National Park and East Arm, prescribed as Area A for the *Northern Territories Rates Act 2014*, a map of which is attached as Schedule 2;
 - (ii) the unincorporated Elrundie area;
 - (iii) Dundee Beach;
 - (iv) Dundee Forrest;
 - (v) Bynoe;
 - (vi) Charlotte;
 - (vii) Cox Peninsula.

5 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 5

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.

6 To avoid doubt, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 for infected persons, 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.

7 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 Restricted movement in and out of lockdown area

Division 1 Entry into lockdown area

- 8 A person must not enter the lockdown area unless:
- (a) the person is one of the following who is performing a function connected with the person's official work:
 - (i) an authorised officer;
 - (ii) a person performing functions under the Act or the *Notifiable Diseases Act 1981*;
 - (iii) an essential worker; or
 - (b) the person is entering the lockdown area for a reason specified in direction 12, other than paragraph (e) (exercise), that cannot otherwise reasonably be achieved; or
 - (c) the person is returning to the premises where the person resides in the lockdown area.
- 9 A person entering the lockdown area under direction 8 must take all reasonable steps to stay 1.5 m away from any other person while in the lockdown area.
- 10 Direction 9 does not apply to a person who cannot stay 1.5 m away from another person because of the performance of their functions or duties in the lockdown area.

Example for direction 10

A health practitioner does not need to remain 1.5m away from a patient while performing their duties as a health practitioner.

Division 2 Exit out of lockdown area

- 11 A person must not exit the lockdown area unless the person is one of the following:
- (a) a person who entered the area under direction 8(a);
 - (b) a person infected with COVID-19 who is required to isolate in a place outside the area;

- (c) a person suspected of being infected with COVID-19 under my COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020 who requires testing or assessing for infection with COVID-19 at a place outside the area;
- (d) a person required to exit the area under another law of the Territory or a law of the Commonwealth;
- (e) a person exiting after entering the area for a reason specified in direction 12, other than paragraph (e) (exercise), that could not otherwise reasonably be achieved; or
- (f) any other person approved by me.

Part 3 Restricted movement within lockdown area

Division 1 Stay at home

- 12 A person residing in the lockdown area must not leave the premises where the person resides except for the following reasons:
- (a) to receive medical treatment, including testing or vaccination related to COVID-19;
 - (b) if the person is an essential worker – to attend the person's workplace or any locations required in the course of employment;
 - (c) if the person is not an essential worker – a single visit to retrieve a computer or work materials from the person's workplace in order to work from the premises where the person resides;
 - (d) to obtain goods or services from an essential worker or from a place or business that is permitted to operate under my COVID-19 Directions (No. 17) 2021 (as amended from time to time) or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions;
 - (e) to engage in outdoor exercise under the following conditions:
 - (i) no more than one hour in total per day; and
 - (ii) within 5 km of the premises where the person ordinarily resides, but not outside the lockdown area; and

- (ii) in the company of no one other than the following:
 - (A) if the person resides alone – one other person;
 - (B) if the person does not reside alone – one or more of the other persons residing at the same premises;
- (f) to provide care or support to a family member or another person in the lockdown area who is unable to care for themselves due to health, age or disability;
- (g) to provide care to an animal that is unattended;
- (h) to provide childcare in the lockdown area, but only to the child of an essential worker;
- (i) to obtain child care, as the child of an essential worker;
- (j) in an emergency;
- (k) to escape a risk of harm, including harm relating to family violence;
- (l) for purposes relating to the administration of justice, including attending:
 - (i) a police station; or
 - (ii) a court or other premises for a purpose relating to the justice or law enforcement system;
- (m) if otherwise required or authorised by a law of the Territory or a law of the Commonwealth;
- (n) to travel directly to an airport to leave the Territory;
- (o) to attend a funeral with no more than 9 other attendees in total, not including persons providing the funeral services;
- (p) any other purpose approved by me.

13 If a person resides in more than one place, the premises where the person resides at the time my COVID-19 Directions (No. 9) 2021 commenced must remain at their place of residence for the duration of these Directions.

14 If a person resides in commercial visitor accommodation, the person's room, not any other area of the accommodation, is taken to be the premises where the person resides.

Note for direction 14

People must wear face masks and keep 1.5 m distant when using shared facilities like toilet blocks or laundries in motels and caravan parks.

15 Subject to directions 16 and 17, direction 12 does not apply to a person if the person:

- (a) does not reside at any premises; or
- (b) resides at premises that are temporarily unavailable because of a risk of harm, including harm relating to family violence.

16 If suitable premises are made available for a person mentioned in direction 15:

- (a) those premises are taken to be the premises where the person resides for the remainder of the period these Directions are in force; and
- (b) direction 12 applies to the person.

Division 2 Face mask requirement

17 Subject to direction 18, a person must wear a face mask at all times while in the lockdown area.

18 A person is not required to wear a mask if the person:

- (a) is at the premises where the person resides; or
- (b) is in a private vehicle; or
- (c) is a child under the age of 12 years; or
- (d) has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face mask unsuitable; or

- (e) is communicating with another person who is hearing impaired and visibility of the mouth is essential; or
- (f) is asked to remove the face mask to ascertain their identity; or
- (g) must remove the face mask in an emergency.

Part 4 Restricted gatherings

- 19 A person must not enter any residential premises at which the person does not ordinarily reside in the lockdown area unless the person is entering:
- (a) for medical purposes, including delivering medical supplies, providing medical care and providing testing and vaccination related to COVID-19; or
 - (b) to provide care or support to a family member or another person who is unable to care for themselves due to health, age or disability; or
 - (c) in an emergency or for another urgent reason; or
 - (d) for purposes relating to the administration of justice.
- 20 A person in the lockdown area must not permit another person to enter the premises where the person resides unless the other person:
- (a) also resides at those premises; or
 - (b) is entering in accordance with direction 19.
- 21 A person in the lockdown area must not arrange to meet, or organise or intentionally attend a gathering with, one or more other persons at a place other than the premises where the person resides.
- 22 Direction 21 does not apply to:
- (a) a person specified in direction 8(a) who is performing functions or duties in the lockdown area; or
 - (b) a person who left the premises where the person ordinarily resides for a reason allowed under direction 12 ,other than paragraph (e), and is acting in accordance with that direction.

Part 5 Restrictions outside lockdown area

23 A person who was in the lockdown area after 1 pm on 27 June 2021 and later left the lockdown area must:

- (a) return as soon as reasonably practicable to the premises where the person resides in the lockdown area; or
- (b) comply with Parts 2 to 4 while residing at the premises where the person resides outside the lockdown area.

Notes for COVID-19 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.*

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Chief Health Officer

Dated

Schedule 1 Essential workers

- 1 An employee or contractor engaged by any of the following businesses or undertakings is an essential worker for the purposes of these Directions:
- (a) a blood bank, including blood collection and delivery;
 - (b) air transport services or an airport;
 - (c) the Australian Defence Force, Australian Border Force and Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence agency services;
 - (d) a supermarket, butcher, greengrocer or fishmonger;
 - (e) care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition;
 - (f) childcare, early childhood education, primary and secondary schools and tertiary education;
 - (g) a distribution centre that handles essential goods;
 - (h) the following emergency services:
 - (i) ambulance and paramedical services;
 - (ii) firefighting services;
 - (iii) medical retrieval services, including Royal Flying Doctor Services;
 - (iv) police services;
 - (v) other emergency services;
 - (i) the following essential health services:
 - (i) emergency surgery, procedures and medical consulting if failing to provide will lead to loss of life or limb or permanent disability;
 - (ii) non-emergency surgery, procedures and medical consulting if failing to provide will lead to loss of life or permanent disability;

- (iii) health services provided in a hospital Emergency Department, by a General Practitioner or at a hospital radiology service;
- (iv) medical procedures or services that relate to the following:
 - (A) procedures and surgical treatment by a dentist in an authorised public health care centres in the management of patients with facial swelling due to infection, facial trauma or severe unrelenting pain;
 - (B) procedures to complete a cycle of IVF treatment that was commenced before the implementation of these Directions or any procedure required for the preservation of eggs for future IVF which is required to prevent eggs from becoming non-viable;
 - (C) surgical termination of pregnancy;
 - (D) drug or alcohol services;
 - (E) allied health services provided by allied health professionals when providing critical clinical care;
 - (F) mental health services;
- (j) a factory or similar facility but only to the extent required to avoid damage to the plant and equipment;
- (k) a financial institution;
- (l) freight services for road, rail, sea and air, including postal, courier and removalist services;
- (m) a liquor retailer, but only for the purposes of selling takeaway liquor that is not consumed on the premises;
- (n) a hardware store;
- (o) an accommodation provider;

- (p) journalism and media services;
- (q) transport inspection services;
- (r) a business or undertaking that engaged persons to provide support services to the residents of the lockdown area;
- (s) a person who provides for essential, critical or urgent maintenance or repair of power, water, communications or other infrastructure critical to the Territory or to maintain other operations deemed essential, including trade assistants, trade stores and equipment hire;
- (t) a pet store or veterinary clinic;
- (u) a petrol station;
- (v) a pharmacy;
- (w) a post office;
- (x) primary industries, only to the extent required to ensure adequate supply of food to and care of crops and animals;
- (y) production and distribution of:
 - (i) food for sale by supermarkets, butchers, greengrocers, fishmongers, but not including production at an abattoir; or
 - (ii) medical and pharmaceutical products;
- (z) public transport, including taxis, rental scooters other commercial passenger services, as well as transit safety officers and interchange officers;
- (za) the Territory or local government services which are deemed essential by the relevant Agency Chief Executive Officer or CEO of a council;
- (zb) the administration of justice;
- (zc) truckstops and roadhouses;
- (zd) vehicle repair and mechanical services, including roadside

assistance;

(ze) food outlets with a fixed premises or vehicles providing takeaway food services or food for distribution by food delivery services;

(zf) cleaning, waste and recycling services;

(zg) services for a funeral;

(zh) construction services, only to the extent required in an emergency or to ensure the safety of, or prevent damage to, a structure or site.

2 Any person deemed essential by the Chief Executive Officer of an Agency, a government owned corporation or a local council.

3 The Administrator and each member of the Legislative Assembly are essential workers for the purposes of these Directions.

Schedule 2 Area A for the Northern Territories Rates Act 2014

