Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 96) 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 22 November 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 The following Directions are revoked:

(a) COVID-19 Directions (No. 8) 2021;
(b) COVID-19 Directions (No. 38) 2021;
(c) COVID-19 Directions (No. 44) 2021;
(d) COVID-19 Directions (No. 54) 2021;
(e) COVID-19 Directions (No. 57) 2021;
(f) COVID-19 Directions (No. 58) 2021.

3 In these Directions:

aged care facility, see my COVID-19 Directions (No. 75) 2021, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those 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.

**approved** means approved by me.

**approved home quarantine zone** means a specified area of the Territory:

(a) determined by me from time to time; and

(b) published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au.

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

**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.

**green zone** means:

(a) any area of Australia or New Zealand that is not a red zone; and

(b) any area outside Australia or New Zealand:

   (i) specified by me, from time to time, as an area with a low rate of infection with COVID-19; and

   (ii) published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au.

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

**quarantine period** means the period for which a person must be in quarantine, calculated in accordance with direction 4.
**red zone** means:

(a) an area of Australia or New Zealand:

   (i) specified by me, from time to time, as an area with a high rate of infection with COVID-19; and

   (ii) published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au; and

(b) any area outside Australia or New Zealand that is not declared to be a green zone.

**social distancing measures** means the measures required under direction 56.

**suitable place for quarantine**, see direction 5.

**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 29; 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.

**vaccinated or exempt**, in relation to a person, means the person:

(a) has received at least 2 doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine; or

(b) is under the age of 12 years; or

(c) is a worker to whom my COVID-19 Directions (No. 55) 2021 (or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions) apply at a workplace specified in item 3(c) or 4 of the Schedule to those Directions and the person has complied with direction 6 of those Directions; or

(d) has a certificate issued by the Commonwealth that certifies that the person has a permanent or temporary contraindication to all approved COVID-19 vaccines.
4 Subject to direction 26, a quarantine period is calculated starting when the person enters the Territory and ending at 12 noon on the 7th or 14th day, as the case may be, after the last day the person was in an area that is, at the time of the person's entry, a red zone.

Examples for direction 4
1 In the case of a 7-day quarantine period, a person who leaves a red zone on 1 December 2021 and enters the Territory at 11pm on 4 December 2021 must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 8 December 2021.

2 In the case of a 14-day quarantine period, a person who leaves a red zone on 4 December 2021 and enters the Territory on 4 December 2021 at 11 pm must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 18 December 2021.

Notes for direction 4
1 See directions 23(b) and 25(b).

2 A person who leaves the Territory before the end of a quarantine period and then re-enters the Territory starts a new quarantine period. The previous time in quarantine is not carried over.

3 Under direction 38, a person may be required to quarantine for an additional 7 days after the quarantine period.

5 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 7 days; and

   (c) has a particular attribute or has access to a particular facility determined by me.

6 For these Directions, a person is taken not to have been in an area that is a red zone 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 6

1 A person who travels by car through an area that is a red zone 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 red zone 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 red zone, 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 red zone, 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 red zone, 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.

7 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 7

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.
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.

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 entry

Division 1  Persons allowed entry

10  A person must not enter the Territory unless the person:

(a) is a resident of the Territory; or
(b) is vaccinated or exempt; or
(c) applies for and is given an exemption under Division 2; or
(d) is an aircrew member.

11  A person prohibited from entry under direction 10 who arrives in the Territory must leave the Territory as soon as possible.

12  A crew member of a commercial vessel is subject to my COVID-19 Directions (No. 3) 2021, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

13  A freight worker who provides services for the transport or freight of goods and related logistics into, within or out of the Territory, is subject to my COVID-19 Directions (No. 50) 2020, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

Division 2  Applications for entry

14  The following persons may apply for an exemption to enter the Territory:

(a) a person who is entering the Territory to begin residence in the Territory;
(b) a person escaping domestic violence;
(c) a person with diplomatic or consular duties in the Territory;
(d) active Australian military personnel required to assist the Territory or required to enter the Territory while performing their official duties;

(e) a member of the Commonwealth Parliament;

(f) a health practitioner as defined in section 8(3) of the Act, or other person, coming to the Territory to perform functions related to health;

(g) a specialist coming to 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;

(h) a person coming to the Territory for necessary maintenance or repair of power, water, communications or other infrastructure critical to the Territory;

(i) a law enforcement officer or emergency service worker coming to the Territory to perform official duties;

(j) a person coming to the Territory for the administration of justice in the Territory;

(k) an agricultural industry worker, other than an abattoir or meat packing worker, coming to the Territory to provide urgent services that are critical to ensure continuity of the agricultural industry;

(l) a paramedic, an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. or a member of the crew of Careflight, the Royal Flying Doctor Service or other medical retrieval 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;

(m) a person who needs to enter the Territory for a compassionate purpose.
An application from a person specified in direction 14(f), (g), (h), (j) or (k) must be supported by:

(a) the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency or Government owned corporation responsible for the subject matter of the request; or

(b) the Secretary (or equivalent) of a Department or Agency of the Commonwealth responsible for the subject matter of the request; or

(c) the delegate of the Chief Executive Officer or the Secretary (or equivalent).

Example for direction 15
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade may request an exemption for a veterinarian to come to the Territory to provide services to the agricultural sector.

An application from a person specified in direction 14(i) must be supported by:

(a) the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency or Government owned corporation responsible for the subject matter of the request; or

(b) the Commissioner of Police; or

(c) the Secretary (or equivalent) of a Department or Agency of the Commonwealth responsible for the subject matter of the request; or

(d) the delegate of the Chief Executive Officer, the Commissioner of Police or the Secretary (or equivalent).

The Chief Health Officer, a delegate or an authorised officer may, on application, grant an exemption to a person specified in direction 14.

Note for direction 17
An exemption will not be granted to any worker to whom my COVID-19 Directions (No. 55) 2021 apply and who has not had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

A person granted an exemption under direction 17 is still subject to these Directions.
Part 3  Directions for declaration and screening on arrival in the Territory

19  Subject to direction 20, every person entering the Territory must, in a written or electronic approved form, declare the following information:

(a)  details of the places where the person has been during the 14 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 red zone; 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)  the person's contact details;

(d)  any evidence of whether the person is vaccinated or exempt;

(e)  whether the person was tested for COVID-19 infection in the last 72 hours and, if so, the nature of the test and the declaration of the results;

(f)  details of where the person intends to stay while in the Territory.

*Note for direction 19*

*A person may also have to submit a travel plan if required under direction 29.*

20  For a child who is entering the Territory, a parent or guardian of the child must make the declaration under direction 19 in relation to the child to the best of the parent or guardian's knowledge.

21  The form must be submitted:

(a)  to an authorised officer at the place of entry; or

(b)  to another approved person in an approved manner.
Part 4 Directions for quarantine and testing of arrivals

Division 1 Persons who are required to quarantine

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

(a) a person entering the Territory from a red zone;

(b) a person entering the Territory who, during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory, was in an area that is, at the time of the person's entry, a red zone;

(c) a person entering the Territory who refuses to make a declaration in accordance with direction 19;

(d) a person entering the Territory from a red zone who is unable to produce sufficient evidence of a COVID-19 test result as declared under direction 19(f);

(e) a person who tests positive for COVID-19 after a test conducted under direction 34;

(f) a child entering the Territory in relation to whom a declaration in accordance with direction 19 is not made.

Notes for direction 22

1 For direction 22(d), see direction 26.

2 For direction 22(e), see my COVID-19 Direction (No. 7) 2020 if the person tests positive following a subsequent PCR test.

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

Division 2 Quarantine requirements

23 The following requirements apply to a person who is vaccinated or exempt and must quarantine:

(a) the person must quarantine in a suitable place for quarantine;

(b) the person's quarantine period is 7 days;

(c) for the 7 days after the quarantine period, the person must not leave the approved home quarantine zone;
(d) for the 7 days after the quarantine period, the person must not enter premises of the following located within the approved home quarantine zone:

(i) a hospital, unless the person is entering the hospital in an emergency or for another urgent reason;

(ii) a residential facility within the meaning of section 2 of the Disability Services Act 1993;

(iii) a custodial correctional facility within the meaning of section 11 of the Correctional Services Act 2014;

(iv) a detention centre within the meaning of section 5 of the Youth Justice Act 2005;

(v) an aged care facility;

(vi) an Aboriginal Town Camp that is not located on Aboriginal land within the meaning of section 3(1) of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth);

(e) the person must 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;

(f) if the person displays a symptom referred to in paragraph (e) – the person must contact the COVID-19 Hotline or a medical practitioner to determine whether to be tested or assessed for COVID-19 infection.

Note for direction 23(f)
The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 490 484.

24 A person who shares accommodation with a person undergoing quarantine at a suitable place must, for the quarantine period and the 7 days after the quarantine period, not leave the approved home quarantine zone.
25 If a person is not vaccinated or exempt:
   (a) the person must quarantine in a place specified by me and as
c     directed by an authorised officer; and
   (b) the quarantine period is 14 days.

26 If direction 22(d) applies to a person:
   (a) the person must quarantine in a suitable place for quarantine
       specified by me and as directed by an authorised officer; and
   (b) the quarantine period is until a negative result is obtained using an
       approved COVID-19 testing procedure.

27 Subject to direction 28, a person who is required to quarantine:
   (a) must travel directly from the place of entry to the place of
       quarantine; and
   (b) remain quarantined in that place for the quarantine period.

28 In the case of an unaccompanied child, the place of quarantine must be
   a place where a parent or responsible adult will remain quarantined for
   the same period as the child.

29 If the person must travel for a period longer than 3 hours 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 48 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.
30 If the person stops for overnight accommodation under direction 29(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.

31 During the quarantine period, the person must not leave the place in which the person is required to quarantine except:

(a) for urgent 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 31(c)

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

Note for direction 31

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.

32 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 and is vaccinated or exempt; 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.

33 If an area that was a red zone ceases to be a red zone, a person who is in quarantine by reason only of that area formerly being a red zone is not required to remain in quarantine despite directions 22(a) and (b) and 38.
### Division 3 Testing for infection and additional quarantine

34 A person who enters the Territory from a red zone must, on entry, submit to a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure conducted by an authorised officer or another approved person.

35 A person who enters the Territory from a red zone must submit to an approved PCR COVID-19 testing procedure on the following days:

(a) 5 days after entry;
(b) 8 days after entry;
(c) 14 days after entry.

36 All COVID-19 testing procedures conducted in the Territory are approved and 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 approved person; and

(b) at the time and place specified by me.

37 Direction 36 does not prevent a COVID-19 testing procedure being self-administered under appropriate supervision.

38 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 7 days starting from the end of the quarantine period; or

(b) if the person is in quarantine – to quarantine in accordance with Division 2 for 7 days beginning immediately after the refusal occurs.

*Example for direction 38(a)*

*If a person whose quarantine period ends on 12 noon on 10 December 2021 refuses to submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure on 8 December 2021, the person is required to remain quarantined until 12 noon on 13 December 2021.*
If a person is required to remain quarantined for 7 days or an additional 7 days under direction 38, all directions that were applicable to the person during the quarantine period, other than direction 38, continue to apply to the person during the 7 days.

If a person over the age of 12 years, who has not received at least 2 doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine, arrives in the Territory under direction 10(a) having not been in a red zone in the 14 days prior to entry, the person must:

(a) travel directly to a suitable place for quarantine; and
(b) submit to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure; and
(c) remain quarantined at the suitable place for quarantine until a negative result is returned.

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.

Division 4 Shortened quarantine

A person is not required to remain in quarantine if:

(a) an area was a red zone or a place was a COVID-19 public exposure site at the time of the person's entry into the Territory; and
(b) the area ceases to be a red zone or COVID-19 public exposure site during the person's quarantine period; and
(c) the person is in quarantine by reason only of that area formerly being a red zone or COVID-19 public exposure site.

A person is not required to remain in quarantine if:

(a) I reduce the period for which a place is considered to be a particular red zone, as published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au; and
(b) the person was not in the red zone during the reduced period.

Division 5  Provisions relating to aircrew members

44 This Division applies to an aircrew member in addition to the requirements of Division 3.

45 An aircrew member who is required to quarantine under direction 22(a) or (b) must submit to the COVID-19 testing procedure referred to in direction 34 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.

46 Nothing in these Directions prevents an aircrew member who is required to quarantine under direction 22 from leaving the Territory by aircraft on a 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.

47 To avoid doubt, direction 46 applies to an aircrew member even if the member has submitted to a COVID-19 testing procedure under these Directions and has not been notified of the results of the test.

Part 5  COVID-19 public exposure sites

48 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 4, Division 2;

(b) undergo testing in accordance with Part 4, Division 3;

(c) undergo additional quarantine in accordance with Part 4, Division 3.

49 If a person referred to in direction 48 is required to quarantine, the quarantine period is the period determined by me.
For a person referred to in direction 48, Part 4, Divisions 2, 3 and 4 apply to the person, with any necessary modifications, as if the COVID-19 public exposure site were a red zone.

Note for direction 50
This means that all of the ancillary provisions relating to red zones, including possible exceptions, will apply to a person who has been to a COVID-19 public exposure site.

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

51 This Part applies to a person who:

(a) enters the Territory; and

(b) is not required under direction 22 to quarantine; and

(d) during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory:

(i) was in an area that is declared a red zone 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.

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

53 If required to submit to a test or assessment under direction 52, 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 31, until notified of the results of the test or assessment.

Note for direction 53
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.

54 Nothing in direction 53 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 54
However, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020, or any Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, may apply to the person.
A person referred to in direction 54 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

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 56
The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 490 484.

Part 8 Obligations of employers of aircrew

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 Transitional matters

58 A COVID-19 hotspot declared under my COVID-19 Directions (No. 8) 2021 as in force immediately before the commencement of these Directions is taken to be a red zone and may be revoked as if it were declared under these Directions.

59 Subject to directions 60 and 63, a person who was in quarantine under the Directions revoked by direction 2 or to whom those Directions otherwise applied immediately before their revocation is subject to these Directions.

60 Subject to direction 61, if at least 7 days have passed since a person was in a red zone, the person is not required to remain in quarantine after these Directions take effect if the person was tested for COVID-19 on the 5th day after the person left the red zone and has received a negative result.

61 Despite directions 1 and 2, a person who is entitled to be released from quarantine immediately after these directions take effect must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on that day.

Note for directions 59, 60 and 61
A person who is released from quarantine must comply with the testing requirements in Part 4, Division 3 after being released and comply with direction 23(c) to (f).

62 An exemption granted under my COVID-19 Directions (No. 38) 2021 that was not used to enter the Territory before those Directions were revoked is taken to be an exemption granted under direction 17 of these Directions.

63 In any other COVID-19 Directions currently in force, a reference to a COVID-19 hotspot is taken to be a reference to a red zone under these Directions.

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 with these Directions with a fine equal to 32 penalty units for an individual and 160 penalty units for a body corporate.

Acting Chief Health Officer

Dated