



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 4) 2022: Directions for infected persons and close contacts

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 public health emergency declaration ceasing to be in force.

Note for direction 1

The period the public health emergency declaration is in force has been extended under section 50(2) of the Public and Environmental Health Act 2011. These Directions remain in force during the periods of extension.

- 2 The following Directions are revoked:
 - (a) COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020;
 - (b) COVID-19 Directions (No. 18) 2020;
 - (c) COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020.

- 3 In these Directions:

approved means approved by the Chief Health Officer.

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

close contact, see direction 13.

health practitioner means a person registered under the Health

Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in a health profession (other than as a student).

high risk place, see direction 6 of COVID-10 Directions (No. 131) 2021, as amended, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

infected, see direction 9.

isolation period, in relation to an infected person, means the period for which a person must be isolated under direction 10, calculated in accordance with direction 4.

quarantine period, in relation to a close contact, means the period for which a person must be in quarantine under direction 15, calculated in accordance with direction 5.

suitable place, see direction 6.

vaccinated, in relation to a person, means the person:

- (a) is vaccinated with at least 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Commonwealth Department of Health for use in Australia; or
- (b) is vaccinated with an approved number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine recognised by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Commonwealth Department of Health for the purpose of travel to Australia.

Note for definition vaccinated

For vaccines see: [International COVID-19 vaccines recognised by Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#)

4 An isolation period is calculated as follows:

- (a) the period starts when the person submits to or administers the approved COVID-19 testing procedure that resulted in the positive result;
- (b) the period ends at 12:00 noon on the last day of the period.

Examples for direction 4

In the case of a 7-day isolation period, a person who administers the test at 11:00 pm

on 12 January 2022 must remain isolated until 12 noon on 19 January 2022.

- 5 A quarantine period is calculated as follows:
- (a) the period starts:
 - (i) in the case of a person who resides in the same premises as an infected person – when the infected person's isolation period begins; and
 - (ii) in the case of a person who is in close contact with an infected person for 4 hours or more – when the person was last in contact with the infected person; and
 - (iii) in the case of a person who is notified that they are a close contact – at the time specified in the notification;
 - (b) the period ends at 12:00 noon on the last day of the period.

Example for direction 5(a)(ii)

In the case of a 14-day quarantine period, a person who was last in contact with an infected person at 11:00 pm on 12 January 2022 must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 26 January 2022.

- 6 A place is a **suitable place** for isolation or quarantine for a person if the place:
- (a) is a residence, a room, apartment or unit in commercial visitor accommodation or a hospital; and
 - (b) is capable of accommodating the person for the person's isolation period or quarantine period; and
 - (c) has a particular attribute or has access to a particular facility determined by me.
- 7 These Directions prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with my COVID-19 Directions (no. 142) 2021, as amended, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.
- 8 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 8

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.

Part 2 Infected persons

- 9 A person is considered to be ***infected*** and must isolate in accordance with direction 10 if the person:
- (a) returns a positive result to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure; or
 - (b) is notified by an authorised officer or health practitioner that the person is infected with COVID-19.
- 10 An infected person must travel directly to a suitable place for isolation and remain isolated in that place for:
- (a) if the infected person is vaccinated and returns a negative result to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure on the 6th day of the person's isolation – 7 days; or
 - (b) if the infected person is vaccinated and returns a positive result to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure on the 6th day of the person's isolation – 10 days; or
 - (c) if the infected person is vaccinated and does not submit to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure – 10 days; or
 - (d) if the infected person is not vaccinated and returns a negative result to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure on the 8th day of the person's isolation – 10 days; or
 - (e) if the infected person is not vaccinated and does not submit to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure – 14 days; or
 - (f) in any other case – any period required under direction 25.
- 11 If a person tests positive for infection with COVID-19 after an approved COVID-19 testing procedure:
- (a) if the person self-administered the test – the person must contact the COVID-19 Hotline; and

- (b) the person must remain isolated in a suitable place until an authorised officer contacts the person; and
- (c) the person must comply with the directions of an authorised officer.

Notes for direction 11

- 1 *The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 490 484.*
- 2 *Calling the COVID-19 Hotline number may satisfy the person's obligations under section 7 of the Notifiable Diseases Act 1981.*
- 3 *An infected person may be contacted by text message and asked to provide information online.*

12 If a person is allowed to self-administer a rapid antigen test under these Directions, the person must:

- (a) use a rapid antigen test approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration; and
- (b) follow the manufacturer's instructions on storage and administration of the rapid antigen test; and
- (c) after administering the rapid antigen test:
 - (i) retain photos of the test result, the packaging displaying the batch number and a document identifying person; and
 - (ii) complete an approved online declaration that the person fulfilled the conditions specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) for that test.

Example for direction 12(c)(i)

A photo of the person's driver's licence or other form of ID.

Part 3 Close contacts

13 A person is considered to be a **close contact** of an infected person and must quarantine in accordance with direction 15 if the person:

- (a) resides in the same premises as an infected person; or
- (b) is in close contact with an infected person for 4 hours or more while indoors with the infected person who is infectious; or
- (c) is notified by me, my delegate or an authorised officer that the person is a close contact of an infected person.

Examples for direction 13(b)

- 1 *Friends who have face to face contact at an indoor dinner party.*
- 2 *Workers who attend an all-day office workshop together in a conference room.*
- 3 *People travelling together in a car.*

14 An infected person who completes a period of isolation is not to be considered a close contact only because the person resides in the same premises as another infected person.

15 A close contact must travel directly to a suitable place for quarantine and remain quarantined in that place for:

- (a) if the close contact is vaccinated – 7 days; or
- (c) if the close contact is not vaccinated – 14 days; or
- (d) any longer period required under direction 25.

Note for direction 15

Part 2 applies to a person who returns a positive result to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure.

Part 4 Rules during isolation and quarantine

16 A child who is required to isolate or quarantine must do so where a parent or responsible adult will also remain isolated or quarantined for the same period as the child.

17 A person in isolation or quarantine must not leave the person's suitable place 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 17(c)

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

- 18 A person in isolation or quarantine must not permit any other person to enter the person's suitable place unless the other person:
- (a) usually resides at the place; or
 - (b) in the case of quarantine only – 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.

Note for direction 18

A person isolating or quarantining in a suitable place 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 isolate or quarantine. See section 53 of the Act.

- 19 While in isolation, a person must submit to (or self-administer) an approved COVID-19 testing procedure as follows:
- (a) if the person is vaccinated and in isolation – on the 6th day of the isolation period;
 - (b) if the person is not vaccinated and in isolation – on the 8th day of the isolation period.
- 20 While in quarantine, a person must submit to (or self-administer) an approved COVID-19 testing procedure as follows:
- (a) if the person is vaccinated and in quarantine – within 3 days of the start of the quarantine period and on the 6th day of the quarantine period;
 - (b) if the person is not vaccinated and in quarantine – within 3 days of the start of the quarantine period and on the 6th and 12th days of the quarantine period.
- 21 While in quarantine, a 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.

- 22 A person who leaves the person's suitable place for a reason allowed under direction 17 must, while outside the suitable place:
- (a) wear a face mask securely over the person's nose and mouth; and
 - (b) take all reasonable measures to stay at least 1.5 m away from other people.
- 23 A person is not required to wear a face mask if the person:
- (a) is eating or drinking; or
 - (b) is asked to remove the face mask to ascertain the person's identity; or
 - (c) is requested by a health practitioner to remove the face mask in order to enable the practitioner to administer treatment to the person; or
 - (d) must remove it in an emergency.
- 24 Despite directions 10 and 15, an infected person or a close contact must isolate or quarantine in a place specified by me or an authorised officer, if satisfied that:
- (a) the person does not have a suitable place to isolate or quarantine; or
 - (b) the person requires treatment or supervision.
- 25 Despite directions 10 and 15, I or my delegate may extend the isolation period or quarantine period for a person and require them to submit to additional testing for COVID-19 infection if satisfied that the person is infected or at risk of causing others to be infected.

Part 5 Requirements after isolation or quarantine

- 26 This Part applies to a person who was in isolation or quarantine under these Directions, COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 or COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020.
- 27 During the 7-day period after the end of a person's isolation period or quarantine period, the person must not enter a high risk place unless:

- (a) the person resides in the high risk place; or
 - (b) the person works in the high risk place; or
 - (c) the high risk place is a hospital and entry is needed in an emergency.
- 28 During the 7-day period after the end of a person's isolation period or quarantine period, the person must wear a face mask while:
- (a) the person is outside the premises where the person resides; and
 - (b) is within 1.5 m of another person who does not reside at the same premises.
- 29 The person must wear the face mask securely over the person's nose and mouth.
- 30 The person is not required to wear a mask if the person:
- (a) is inside the residence of the person or another person;
 - (b) is a child:
 - (i) under the age of 12 years; or
 - (ii) attending primary school, while at school; or
 - (c) has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or a disability, that makes wearing a face mask unsuitable; or
 - (d) is engaged in exercise or is swimming; or
 - (e) is communicating with a person who is hearing impaired and visibility of the person's mouth is essential; or
 - (f) is inside a private vehicle or vessel, that is not being used for commercial purposes, or is alone in a commercial vehicle or vessel; or
 - (g) is eating or drinking; or
 - (h) is asked to remove the face mask to ascertain the person's identity; or
 - (i) is requested by a health practitioner to remove the face mask in

order to enable the practitioner to administer treatment to the person; or

(j) is a teacher, educator or child care worker in a school or child care facility who removes it for the purpose of teaching or child care activities; or

(k) must remove it in an emergency.

31 A police officer or an authorised officer may:

(a) request a person who is not wearing a face mask as required by this Part 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 a disability, that makes wearing a face mask unsuitable – require the person to produce evidence to support that claim.

Part 5 Transitional matters

32 Any person who is in isolation under COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 or COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020 when these Directions take effect is subject to these Directions if the person would have any isolation period or quarantine period remaining under these Direction, as calculated from the day the person entered isolation under those Directions.

33 Any person who is in isolation under COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 or COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020 when these Directions take effect is released from isolation if the person would have no isolation period or quarantine period remaining under these Direction, as calculated from the day the person entered isolation under those Directions.

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 the offence is 400 penalty units.*

3 *A person is not guilty of the 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.*

.....

Chief Health Officer

Dated