



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 50) 2020 – Directions for Freight Workers

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, by making the following directions:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

- 1 These Directions take effect at 12:00 (noon) on 28 August 2020 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 My COVID-19 Directions (No. 49) 2020, as amended, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, do not apply to a freight worker who is subject to quarantine under these Directions.

- 3 In these Directions:

COVID-19 hotspot means a specified area of Australia determined by me from time to time and published on the website coronavirus.nt.gov.au.

certificate means a certificate issued under direction 12.

freight worker means a person who provides services for the transport or freight of goods and related logistics into, within or out of the Territory.

freight risk mitigation management plan means a plan for a freight worker in a form approved by the CHO for the mitigation of COVID-19 while working in the Territory.

quarantine period, see direction 4.

social distancing measures means the measures required under direction 26.

suitable place for quarantine, see direction 5.

- 4 A **quarantine period** in respect of a freight worker mentioned in direction 19, is the period starting when the freight worker enters the Territory and ending at 12:00 (noon) on the 14th day after the last day the freight worker was in an area that is, at the time of the freight worker's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot, but does not include periods of time in which the freight worker is required to work as a freight worker.

Examples for direction 4

- 1 A freight worker who leaves a COVID-19 hotspot on 1 September 2020 and enters the Territory at 23:00 (11 pm) on 4 September 2020 must, when not working, remain in quarantine until 12:00 (noon) on 15 September 2020.
- 2 A freight worker who leaves a COVID-19 hotspot on 4 September 2020 and enters the Territory on 4 September 2020 at 23.00 (11 pm) must, when not working, remain in quarantine until 12:00 (noon) on 18 September 2020.

Note for direction 4

A freight worker 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.

- 5 A place is a **suitable place for quarantine** for a freight worker if the place:
- (a) is a residence or a room, apartment or unit in commercial visitor accommodation, a motor vehicle or railed vehicle; and
 - (b) is capable of accommodating the person in quarantine; 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 freight worker to practise social distancing measures while being in quarantine.

Example for direction 5

A freight worker could quarantine at night in a separate bedroom in a house or alone in the cabin of a truck.

- 6 For these Directions, a freight worker is taken not to have been in an area that is a COVID-19 hotspot if the freight worker was in the area only in one or more of the following circumstances:
- (a) the freight worker 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 freight worker was only at an airport located in the area;
 - (c) the freight worker:
 - (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 freight worker:
 - (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
 - (iii) after checking into the hotel, did not leave the freight worker's hotel room until departing the hotel to travel to the airport, except in an emergency; and
 - (iv) travelled directly from the hotel to the airport and departed the area by aircraft.

Examples for direction 6

- 1 *A freight worker 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 freight worker 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 freight worker 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 freight worker 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.*
- 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.*
- 8 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.
- 9 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 Requirements of freight workers before entering Territory

- 10 Before entering the Territory a freight worker must, in an electronic form approved by me, complete and submit to the Agency a freight risk mitigation management plan.
- 11 A freight worker must comply with the freight risk mitigation management plan for the duration of the time the freight worker is in the Territory.
- 12 After submitting a freight risk mitigation management plan, if approved by the Agency, the freight worker is issued with a **certificate** by the Agency that is valid for the period of time specified on the certificate.
- 13 A freight worker is not required to submit a new freight risk mitigation management plan on each subsequent entry into the Territory.

Part 3 Requirements of freight workers entering Territory

- 14 On entering the Territory, a freight worker must, in a written or electronic form approved by me, declare the following information:
- (a) details of the places where the freight worker has been during the 28 days prior to entering the Territory;
 - (b) whether the freight worker, during the 14 days before entering the Territory, was in an area that is, on the day of the freight worker's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot;
 - (c) the dates, if any, when the freight worker was in a COVID-19 hotspot;
 - (d) the freight worker's contact details;
 - (e) details of where the freight worker intends to stay while in the Territory;
 - (f) details of the social distancing measures the freight worker intends to take while in the Territory.
- 15 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.
- 16 Every freight worker entering the Territory must submit, at the place of entry, to a screening procedure approved by me for COVID-19 conducted by an authorised officer or another person approved by me.
- 17 If a screening procedure shows a freight worker is suspected of being infected with COVID-19, the freight worker 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.

- 18 In addition to direction 14, a freight worker must also produce, to an authorised officer or to another person approved by me at the place of entry, a certificate that is valid at the time the freight worker is entering the Territory.

Part 4 Freight workers who are required to quarantine when not working

- 19 A freight worker must quarantine in a suitable place for quarantine during the quarantine period if:
- (a) the freight worker enters the Territory from a State or another Territory; and
 - (b) during the 14 days prior to entering the Territory, was in an area that is, at the time of the freight worker's entry, a COVID-19 hotspot.
- 20 Nothing in these Directions prevents a freight worker entering the Territory from a State or another Territory from:
- (a) immediately leaving the Territory and not proceeding into the Territory; or
 - (b) leaving the Territory at any time during the quarantine period.
- 21 During the quarantine period, the freight worker must not leave the place in which the freight worker 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 21(c)

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

Note for direction 21

A freight worker in quarantine may be subject to further specific instructions from an authorised officer regarding the freight worker's behaviour or the manner in which the freight worker is to be quarantined. See section 53 of the Act.

- 22 During the quarantine period, the freight worker must not permit any other person to enter the place in which the freight worker 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.
- 23 During the quarantine period and any period when the freight worker is working, the freight worker must practise social distancing measures.
- 24 A freight worker must wear a face mask if the freight worker cannot remain 1.5 m away from other people while working.
- 25 Despite direction 19(b), a person is not required to remain in quarantine if:
- (a) an area was a COVID-19 hotspot at the time of the person's entry into the Territory; and
 - (b) the area ceases to be a COVID-19 hotspot during the quarantine period; and
 - (c) the person is in quarantine by reason only of that area formerly being a COVID-19 hotspot.

Part 5 Social distancing and testing

- 26 A freight worker 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 freight worker 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 26

The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 020 080.

27 If required by me during the quarantine period, a freight worker must submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure approved by me that is conducted:

- (a) by one of the following:
 - (i) an authorised person;
 - (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.

Part 6 Transitional matters

28 A freight worker who is in the Territory on, or immediately before, the time and date these Directions take effect (the **commencement**) must comply with my COVID-19 Directions (No. 49) 2020 until the freight worker leaves the Territory.

29 A freight worker who enters the Territory after the commencement is required to comply with these Directions.

Part 7 Consequential amendments

30 This Part amends my COVID-19 Directions (No. 49) 2020.

31 Direction 29(a)(i)

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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.*



Digitally signed by Dr Hugh Heggie
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Chief Health Officer

Dated