



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 54) 2022: Directions for infected persons and close contacts

I, Charles Hawkhurst Pain, Deputy Chief Health Officer, as the delegate of the 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 ceases 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. 22) 2022;
 - (b) COVID-19 Directions (No. 29) 2022;
 - (c) COVID-19 Directions (No. 42) 2022.

- 3 In these Directions:

approved means approved by the Chief Health Officer.

approved COVID-19 testing procedure, see direction 4.

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

close contact, see direction 17.

essential worker means a person declared by the Schedule to be an essential worker.

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 3 of COVID-19 Directions (No. 41) 2022 (as amended from time to time) or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

infected, see direction 11.

isolation period, in relation to an infected person, means the period for which a person must be isolated under direction 12, calculated in accordance with direction 5.

quarantine period, in relation to a close contact, means the period for which a person must be in quarantine under direction 20, calculated in accordance with direction 6.

suitable place, see direction 7.

symptoms, in relation to COVID-19, include fever (a temperature of 37.5°C or higher), chills or night sweat, cough, sore throat, tiredness (fatigue), difficulty breathing, headache, muscle pain (myalgia), loss of sense of smell (anosmia), distortion of sense of taste (dysgeusia), nausea and vomiting, joint pain, loss of appetite, runny nose and acute blocked nose (congestion).

*Note for definition **symptoms***

See <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/symptoms-testing>

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 **approved COVID-19 testing procedure** for a person consists of:
- (a) subject to paragraph (b), a rapid antigen test approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, whether or not self-administered; or
 - (b) a polymerase chain reaction test only if specified or required by the person's treating health practitioner, the Chief Health Officer or a delegate of the Chief Health Officer.
- 5 An isolation period is calculated as follows:
- (a) the period starts when the person:
 - (i) submits to or administers the approved COVID-19 testing procedure that resulted in the positive result; or
 - (b) is notified by an authorised officer or health practitioner that the person is infected with COVID-19;
 - (b) the period ends at 12:00 noon on the last day of the period.

Example for direction 5

In the case of a 7-day isolation period, a person who administers the test at 11:00 pm on 12 April 2022 must remain isolated until 12 noon on 19 April 2022.

- 6 A quarantine period is calculated as follows:
- (a) the period starts:
 - (i) in the case of a person who is a close contact of an infected person – on the day on which the person was last in contact with the infected person while that infected person was considered to be infectious; or
 - (ii) in the case of a person who is a close contact of an infected person because the person resides at the same suitable place at which the infected person is isolating – on the day when the infected person's isolation period starts in

accordance with direction 5(a); or

- (iii) in the case of a person who is notified by the Chief Health Officer, a delegate of the Chief Health Officer or an authorised officer that they are a close contact – at the time specified in the notification; and

(b) the period ends at 12:00 noon on the last day of the period.

Note for direction 6(a)(i)

If a person is infected with COVID-19 and has symptoms, the person will generally be considered to have been infectious from 2 days before the infected person's symptoms first started. If a person is infected with COVID-19 and had no symptoms prior to the person returning a positive result to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure, the infected person will generally be considered to have been infectious from 2 days before the person returned the positive result.

Example for direction 6(a)

In the case of a 7-day quarantine period, a person who was last in contact with an infected person while infectious at 11.00 pm on 12 April 2022 must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 19 April 2022.

7 A place is a **suitable place** for isolation or quarantine for a person if the place:

- (a) is a residence, a room, a hostel, an apartment or a 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.

8 To avoid doubt, a place may be a suitable place for isolation or quarantine for a person within the meaning of direction 7 even if another person will reside at or occupy that place in the course of the person's isolation period or quarantine period.

Note for direction 8

Depending on the circumstances, any other person who resides at or occupies a suitable place at which an infected person is isolating may be considered a close contact of the infected person in accordance with direction 17 and may be required to quarantine in accordance with direction 20.

9 These Directions prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with COVID-19 Directions (No. 49) 2022, as amended, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those

Directions.

- 10 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 10

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

- 11 A person is considered to be ***infected*** and must isolate in accordance with direction 12 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.
- 12 An infected person must travel directly to a suitable place for isolation and remain isolated in that place for the following isolation period or any longer period required under direction 38:
- (a) if the infected person is vaccinated and has no symptoms of COVID-19 on the 7th day of the person's isolation – 7 days;
 - (b) if the infected person is vaccinated and has symptoms of COVID-19 on the 7th day of the person's isolation – until the symptoms have resolved or a medical practitioner specifies in writing that the person is no longer infectious;
 - (c) if the infected person is not vaccinated and has no symptoms of COVID-19 on the 10th day of the person's isolation – 10 days;
 - (d) if the infected person is not vaccinated and has symptoms of COVID-19 on the 10th day of the person's isolation – until the symptoms have resolved or a medical practitioner specifies in writing that the person is no longer infectious.
- 13 For the purposes of direction 12, the isolation period for a child (regardless of vaccination status) is the same as for a vaccinated

person.

- 14 Despite direction 12, an infected person who is a child may travel between the premises of the child's parents, or persons responsible for the child, during the child's isolation period if both premises are suitable places.

Example for direction 14

If a child is required to isolate for 7 days, the child may isolate for 3 days at the residence of the first parent and for 4 days at the residence of the second parent.

Note for direction 14

It is not required that there be a formal custody arrangement in place in relation to the child.

- 15 Despite direction 12, if an infected person in isolation is a parent of, or is responsible for, a child, the infected person may leave their suitable place in order to drop off or pick up the child at the premises of another parent or person responsible for the child.

- 16 Despite direction 12, if an infected person in isolation is a parent of, or is responsible for, a child who is not required to quarantine or isolate, the infected person may leave their suitable place to drop off or pick up the child at any place.

Notes for direction 16

If the child is also considered to be a close contact and is being dropped off to attend middle school or senior school, the child may need to submit to or self-administer a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure and return a negative result in accordance with direction 21 before entering the school.

Part 3 Close contacts

Division 1 General matters

- 17 Subject to directions 18 and 19, a person is considered to be a **close contact** of an infected person and must quarantine in accordance with direction 20 if the person:

- (a) resides with or stays overnight in the same premises as an infected person; or
- (b) is in close contact with an infected person for continuous 4 hours or more while indoors with the infected person who is infectious;
or

- (c) is notified by Chief Health Officer, a delegate of the Chief Health Officer or an authorised officer that the person is a close contact of an infected person.

Examples for direction 17(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.*

18 For 8 weeks after completing an isolation period, a formerly infected person is not:

- (a) considered to be a close contact of another infected person; or
- (b) required to submit to or self-administer an approved COVID-19 testing procedure under these Directions or any other COVID-19 Directions.

19 A person in quarantine is not to be considered a close contact of another person if:

- (a) the other person resides in the same premises as the person in quarantine; and
- (b) the other person becomes infected while the person is in quarantine; and
- (c) the person is in quarantine because of contact with another resident of the premises who was infected.

Example for direction 19

*If a person (the **quarantined person**) is considered to be a close contact of an infected person (the **first infected person**) because the quarantined person resides in the same residence as the first infected person, and subsequently another person who also resides in that residence becomes infected (the **second infected person**) during the quarantined person's quarantine period, the quarantined person is not considered to be a close contact of the second infected person.*

20 A close contact must travel directly to a suitable place for quarantine and remain quarantined in that place for the following quarantine period:

- (a) if the close contact is not more than the age to attend grade 12 and has no symptoms of COVID-19 – 0 days (no quarantine

period);

- (b) if the close contact is not more than the age to attend grade 12 and has symptoms of COVID-19, but has not returned a positive result after submitting to or self-administering a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure – 7 days or the period ending on the day on which the close contact ceases to have symptoms, whichever is shorter.
- (c) if the close contact is more than the age to attend grade 12 and is vaccinated – 7 days;
- (d) if the close contact is more than the age to attend grade 12 and is not vaccinated – 14 days;
- (e) if quarantine is required under direction 30 or 38 – any longer period required under the direction.

Note for direction 20

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

- 21 A close contact attending middle school or senior school, must submit to or self-administer a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure and return a negative result, before entering the school on any of the first 7 days after becoming a close contact.
- 22 Despite direction 20, a close contact who is a child may travel between the premises of the child's parents, or persons responsible for the child, during the child's quarantine period if both premises are suitable places.

Example for direction 22

If a child is required to quarantine for 7 days, the child may quarantine for 3 days at the residence of the first parent and for 4 days at the residence of the second parent.

Note for direction 22

It is not required that there be a formal custody arrangement in place in relation to the child.

23 Despite direction 20, if a close contact in quarantine is a parent of, or is responsible for, a child, the close contact may leave their suitable place in order to drop off or pick up the child at the premises of another parent or person responsible for the child.

24 Despite direction 20, if a close contact in quarantine is a parent of, or is responsible for, a child who is not required to quarantine or isolate, the close contact may leave their suitable place to drop off or pick up the child at any place.

Note for direction 24

If the child is also considered to be a close contact and is being dropped off to attend middle school or senior school, the child may need to submit to or self-administer a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure and return a negative result in accordance with direction 21 before entering the school.

25 Despite direction 20, a close contact in quarantine who is an essential worker may leave their suitable place to perform their essential work if the worker:

- (a) has no symptoms of COVID-19; and
- (b) is vaccinated; and
- (c) is required to attend the worker's workplace to perform their essential work; and
- (d) submits to or self-administers a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure, and returns a negative result, before entering the workplace for the first time each day; and
- (e) complies with direction 35.

26 Despite direction 20, a close contact in quarantine may, for no more than one hour in total per day, leave their suitable place for the purpose of obtaining food if:

- (a) there is no other means by which the close contact can obtain food without leaving the suitable place; and
- (b) the close contact, or any other close contact who is also in quarantine at the same suitable place, has not left the suitable place to obtain food in accordance with this direction within the

previous 24 hours; and

- (c) the close contact complies with direction 35.

Note for direction 26(b)

If there is more than one person who is a close contact in quarantine at the same suitable place, only one close contact may leave the suitable place to obtain food within a 24 hour period.

Division 2 Testing and checking for symptoms

27 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 or a child 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 an adult and 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.

Note for direction 27

The mandatory reporting of rapid antigen test results is required under COVID-19 Directions (No. 16) 2022.

28 While in quarantine, a person must regularly check for symptoms of COVID-19.

29 If a person tests positive for infection with COVID-19 after an approved COVID-19 testing procedure the person must:

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

30 If a person is vaccinated and in quarantine and cannot submit to or self-administer an approved COVID-19 testing procedure on the 6th day of the quarantine period, the person's quarantine period is extended for 3 days for a total of 10 days.

- 31 If a person self-administers 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 31(c)(i)

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

Part 4 Rules during isolation and quarantine

- 32 A child who is required to isolate or quarantine must do so where at least one parent or responsible adult will be responsible for the child during the isolation period or quarantine period.
- 33 A person in isolation or quarantine must not leave the person's suitable place except:
- (a) for urgent medical purposes, including obtaining rapid antigen tests, medical supplies, receiving medical care and being tested or assessed for infection with COVID-19; or
 - (b) in an emergency; or
 - (c) in accordance with direction 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26; or
 - (d) in order to leave the Territory; or
 - (e) for a compassionate purpose in accordance with a temporary exemption given by me.

Example for direction 33(e)

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

- 34 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 urgent 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 34

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.

- 35 A person who leaves the person's suitable place for a reason specified in direction 33 must, while outside the suitable place:
- (a) wear a face mask securely over the person's nose and mouth; and
 - (b) stay at least 1.5 m away from other people where possible.

Note for direction 35(b)

It may not be possible for a person to stay 1.5 m away from other people if, for example:

- 1 *the person must approach a health practitioner in order to receive treatment;*
- 2 *the person must approach another person in order to receive assistance in an emergency.*

- 36 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.

- 37 Despite directions 12 and 20, an infected person or a close contact must isolate or quarantine in a place specified by the Chief Health Officer 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.
- 38 Despite directions 12 and 20, the Chief Health Officer or a delegate of the Chief Health Officer may extend the isolation period or quarantine period for a person and require them to submit to 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

- 39 This Part applies to a person who was in isolation or quarantine under these Directions or COVID-19 Directions (No. 22) 2022, as amended.
- 40 During the 7-day period after the end of the 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 person requires entry to the high risk place to access a service.

Examples for direction 40(c)

- 1 *The person requires entry to a hospital due to an urgent need for medical treatment.*
 - 2 *The person requires entry to a shelter due to experiencing homelessness or family violence.*
- 41 During the 7-day period after the end of the 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.
- 42 The person must wear the face mask securely over the person's nose

and mouth.

- 43 The person is not required to wear a mask if the person:
- (a) is inside the residence of the person or another person; or
 - (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.
- 44 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 6 Transitional matters

- 45 Any person who is in isolation under COVID-19 Directions (No. 22) 2022 when these Directions take effect is subject to these Directions if the person would have any isolation period or quarantine period remaining under these Directions, as calculated in accordance with these Directions from the day the person entered isolation under those Directions.
- 46 Any person who is in isolation under COVID-19 Directions (No. 22) 2022 when these Directions take effect is released from isolation if the person would have no isolation period or quarantine period remaining under these Directions, as calculated in accordance with these Directions 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 the Chief Health Officer 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.*



Digitally signed by Dr Charles Pain
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Deputy Chief Health Officer

Dated

Schedule Essential workers (close contacts)

- 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 supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, greengrocer or fishmonger;
 - (b) a food delivery or distribution service, including vehicles providing takeaway food;
 - (c) a liquor retailer, but only for the purposes of selling takeaway liquor that is not consumed on the premises;
 - (d) a financial institution;
 - (e) consular and diplomatic services;
 - (f) a Court or a Tribunal;
 - (g) the Territory or local government services which are deemed essential by the relevant Agency Chief Executive Officer or CEO of a council;
 - (h) an Aboriginal Land Council established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*;
 - (i) a post office;
 - (j) a newsagency;
 - (k) a pharmacy;
 - (l) a petrol station;
 - (m) a hardware store;
 - (n) vehicle and mechanical repair services, including the provision of transport inspection services and roadside assist services;
 - (o) a pet store;
 - (p) a veterinary clinic;
 - (q) care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, displacement, domestic violence, illness or a chronic health condition;
 - (r) child protection services;
 - (s) a childcare, early learning centre, kindergarten, preschool or family day care provider;
 - (t) a primary, secondary or boarding school;
 - (u) locksmith services, only to the extent required in an emergency;
 - (v) labour hire in relation to a business, service or undertaking mentioned in this Schedule;
 - (w) commercial cleaners.

- 2 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 funerary or mortuary service or related activities;
 - (b) the following emergency services, including both volunteers and paid workers in:
 - (i) ambulance and paramedical services;
 - (ii) firefighting services;
 - (iii) air ambulance and medical retrieval services, including Royal Flying Doctor Service and CareFlight;
 - (iv) police services, protective service officers and police custody officers;
 - (v) the Northern Territory Emergency Service as defined in section 8 of the *Emergency Management Act 2013*;
 - (vi) military and defence services;
 - (vii) state security or national security services;
 - (c) essential infrastructure and services required to maintain or protect human health, safety and wellbeing, including the construction, maintenance and repair of such infrastructure;
 - (d) critical repairs to any premises where required for emergency or safety;
 - (e) faith leaders broadcasting services and ceremonies at places of worship;
 - (f) a person who is critical to, and involved in the Northern Territory's COVID-19 response, including in quarantine, emergency operations centres and vaccination services;
 - (g) immunisation and vaccination providers including pharmacy immunisers and Aboriginal healthcare workers;
 - (h) roadside assistance services;
 - (i) a member of Parliament or anyone required to ensure the functioning of the Legislative Assembly or Commonwealth Parliament;
 - (j) domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery services, including collection, treatment, transfer and disposal services;
 - (k) the following essential services:
 - (i) electricity services;
 - (ii) operation of energy systems;
 - (iii) gas services;

- (iv) water supply, sewerage and drainage services;
- (v) liquid fuels and refinery services;
- (vi) telecommunication services;
- (l) services to support ongoing provision and regulation of electricity, gas, water, sewerage and waste and recycling services and their maintenance, including emergency electrical and plumbing repairs to ensure the safety of, or prevent damage to a structure or site;
- (m) Commonwealth agency services including Australian Border Force, Australian Electoral Commission, Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence agency services and Services Australia;
- (n) services related to the administration of justice, including prison transfers;
- (o) essential legal services that are not able to be provided electronically, including urgent legal matters such as executing a will in-person;
- (p) journalism and media services;
- (q) a factory or facility that is not able to be shut down without causing damage or loss to plant and equipment, but only those operations that are necessary in order to prevent that damage or loss;
- (r) mining services including coal mining, oil and gas extraction, metal ore mining, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying petroleum production;
- (s) building and construction services only to the extent required in an emergency or to ensure the safety of, or prevent damage to, a structure or site;
- (t) administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home, including payroll and IT services;
- (u) organisations that provide urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person, animal or premises, including pest control and snake removal services;
- (v) public transport, including taxis and other commercial passenger vehicles such as minibuses and ridesharing, rental scooters and other public passenger services, and including transit officers and interchange security officers;
- (w) air transport, including the operation of airports;
- (x) port operations;
- (y) freight services, including postal and courier services;
- (z) a transport, freight or logistics driver;
- (aa) heavy vehicle compliance activities;
- (bb) a blood bank or other bank services for the collection, storage and

- provision of donated biological material;
- (cc) care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, family violence, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition or other essential support services;
 - (dd) truck stops and roadhouses, but only for the provision of seated dining or shower facilities to persons who are transport, freight or logistics drivers;
 - (ee) production and distribution of:
 - (i) food and groceries for sale by a supermarket, butcher, greengrocer or fishmonger (including for sale by operators of such premises at an indoor or outdoor market);
 - (ii) liquor for sale at a bottle shop;
 - (iii) medical and pharmaceutical products;
 - (iv) animal food and care products;
 - (ff) commercial operations that supply goods or services necessary:
 - (i) for the implementation of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19;
 - (ii) to support any business activity that may be carried out in accordance with these Directions;
 - (iii) to support the transportation of goods and services in and out of the Northern Territory, including live export activities and support staff or services (such as veterinarians, inspectors);
 - (gg) the maintenance of other essential research activities for:
 - (i) management and care of critical living resources, and the equipment and materials they depend on (for example feeding, husbandry, hydrating, routine care and checks of animals, plants, microbes and cell lines in controlled environment);
 - (ii) the storage and management of existing samples and data research infrastructure that are temperature and environment sensitive (for example, biobank);
 - (iii) long-term experiments or studies that would otherwise be prohibitive to restart (e.g. commenced clinical trials);
 - (iv) research addressing the impact of COVID-19 and research in support of the hospital and broader health system;
 - (hh) the conduct of essential adult education services related to the following occupations and activities for:
 - (i) training and assessment for infection control, high-risk work licenses and high-risk work credentials and construction induction (white card), that ensure workplace and public safety in permitted work premises or for permitted workers;
 - (ii) study for final year pre-service early childhood and school

- teachers (including placements);
- (iii) final-year higher education students (for example, in courses regulated by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency) who do not have alternative options to complete their study by end of year;
- (iv) first aid training where required for COVID response;
- (v) study for health care workers (including clinical placements);
- (vi) apprentices training with a worker or service mentioned in this Schedule;
- (vii) clinical health and biomedical science (if required to be on site for the maintenance of essential research activities);
- (viii) aged and disability care (including clinical placements);
- (ix) mandatory assessments for Northern Territory Certificate of Education students;
- (x) police academy;
- (xi) defence and national security agencies;
- (ii) primary industries only to the extent necessary to ensure animal rescue, adequate supply of food to, and care of, animals and maintenance of crops;
- (jj) a hotel, motel or other accommodation facility to the extent that they provide accommodation services, including on a temporary basis for work purposes;
- (kk) services related to property settlement or commencement or end of lease activities, including furniture removalists;
- (ll) forestry activities for the purposes of or relating to:
 - (i) production of building supplies for construction;
 - (ii) production of other goods required for other permitted activities (for example, paper, packaging, caskets and coffins);
- (mm) all manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary for or related to supporting the defence or security industry;
- (nn) on site operations of ancillary and support businesses necessary for the operations of a business, service or undertaking mentioned in this Schedule, or for a closed business, service or undertaking that is not mentioned in this Schedule but where there are safety or environmental obligations including in relation to the production, supply, manufacturer, repair, maintenance, cleaning, security, wholesale, distribution, transportation or sale of equipment, goods or services essential to the operation of the business, service or undertaking and the business cannot operate on-site for any other purpose;
- (oo) union, peak body or employer organisation officials attending a

worksite as permitted by law or for work health and safety advice;

(pp) a person who is:

- (i) critical to, and involved in the Northern Territory's COVID-19 response (including in quarantine);
- (ii) a "fly in fly out" worker or a "drive in drive out" worker who is required for industry or business continuity and maintenance of a competitive operation where the service is time-critical, who is responsible for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to a region of, or to, the Northern Territory;
- (iii) maritime crew members;

(qq) farm animal and bloodstock leasing activities, including:

- (i) farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, irrigation, permaculture, apiculture, grains, fibre production, dairy, flower industry, commercial fishing, aquaculture and livestock;
- (ii) intensive agricultural production, including greenhouses and animal production;
- (iii) agricultural, veterinary chemicals and vaccine production, transportation and distribution;
- (iv) laboratory and diagnostic services;
- (v) animal feed production, transportation, packaging, sale, and feeding (including livestock and pets);
- (vi) animal pounds and shelters but not so as to offer access to the public;

(rr) a business or undertaking providing essential support services to permitted agriculture, forestry and fishing activities, such as food safety and verification, inspection or associated laboratory services and biosecurity functions.

3 A person who provides any of the following health services is an essential worker for these Directions:

- (a) emergency medical consulting, procedures and surgery undertaken for the investigation, diagnosis and management of conditions where failure to do so expediently and safely will lead to any of the following outcomes:
 - (i) loss of life;
 - (ii) loss of limb;
 - (iii) permanent disability;
- (b) non-emergency but urgent medical consulting, procedures and surgery undertaken for the investigation, diagnosis and management of conditions where failure to do so in a clinically appropriate timeframe will lead to a predictable and evidence-based

outcome as follows:

- (i) loss of life where appropriate health intervention would otherwise have prevented this;
 - (ii) permanent disability where appropriate health intervention would otherwise have prevented this;
 - (iii) where clinical evidence supports an increased risk of a type referred to in the above points should appropriate health intervention be significantly delayed;
- (c) emergency and licensed non-emergency patient transport;
 - (d) any health services provided under the auspices of a hospital, urgent care centre or similar service including remote health clinics;
 - (e) any health services provided by a general practitioner;
 - (f) any health services provided by a nursing professional or midwife;
 - (g) any health services provided at a radiology service;
 - (h) procedures and surgical treatment undertaken by oral health professionals (e.g. dentists and oral health therapists) in the management of patients with urgent needs that include any of the following:
 - (i) facial swelling;
 - (ii) intra-oral swelling;
 - (iii) facial trauma;
 - (iv) dental trauma;
 - (v) significant, constant or uncontrollable pain;
 - (i) fertility treatment, including IVF treatment;
 - (j) termination of a pregnancy;
 - (k) drug and alcohol services;
 - (l) the following allied health services when providing critical clinical care:
 - (i) speech pathologist;
 - (ii) sonographer;
 - (iii) social worker;
 - (iv) radiation therapist;
 - (v) radiographer;
 - (vi) psychologist;
 - (vii) prosthetist or orthotist;
 - (viii) podiatrist;
 - (ix) physiotherapist;
 - (x) pharmacist;

- (xi) occupational therapist;
 - (xii) dietitian;
 - (xiii) exercise physiologist;
 - (xiv) audiologist;
 - (xv) chiropractor;
 - (xvi) osteopath;
 - (xvii) optometrist (including optical dispensing);
 - (m) the conduct of human medical research trials;
 - (n) the following mental health services:
 - (i) hospital emergency or inpatient mental health services;
 - (ii) private psychiatry practice;
 - (iii) mental health services in community settings.
- 4 To avoid doubt, a person who provides the following health services is not an essential worker for these Directions:
- (a) cosmetic surgery or procedures that are elective and do not address significant medical conditions;
 - (b) non-urgent elective surgery.
- 5 An Aboriginal person who leads or conducts cultural rituals or ceremonies is an essential worker for these Directions.
- 6 In this Schedule:
- critical clinical care** means:
- (a) to prevent a significant change or deterioration in functional independence which would result in an escalation of care needs; or
 - (b) to provide assessment and diagnostic services to clients or patients for whom, if care is delayed, it is likely to result in adverse health outcomes (including access to diagnostic imaging services or assessment for prescription of assistive equipment and technology); or
 - (c) to provide services that are essential as part of a broader plan of care with a medical practitioner; or
 - (d) to provide services that are part of a conservative management plan to avoid or delay elective surgery (as agreed with the treating team); or
 - (e) to provide services immediately following elective surgery that prevent secondary complications or aid functional recovery (as agreed with the treating team).

*Example for definition **critical clinical care**, paragraph (a)*

An increase in frequency of treatment needed, an increased need for prescription medication due to a significant increase in pain, requirement for specialist input or review, an increase in care needs, or a substantial increase to anticipated recovery time associated with a delay in receiving services.

*Example for definition **critical clinical care**, paragraph (b)*

Fitting a brace post-surgery.