



Northern Territory of Australia

*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

## **COVID-19 Directions (No. 123) 2021: Directions for PCR testing for persons exiting Katherine**

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

- 1 These Directions take effect at the time they are made 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 In these Directions:  
**approved** means approved by me.
- 3 These Directions apply in relation to a person who:
  - (a) was in the Municipality of Katherine and exited the Municipality of Katherine in the 14 days before these Directions took effect; or
  - (b) is in the Municipality of Katherine and exits the Municipality of Katherine while these Directions are in force.

- 4 Subject to direction 5:
- (a) a person mentioned in direction 3(a) must submit to an approved PCR COVID-19 testing procedure within the period of 72 hours from the time these Directions take effect; and
  - (b) a person mentioned in direction 3(b) must submit to an approved PCR COVID-19 testing procedure within the period of 72 hours after the person exits the Municipality of Katherine.
- 5 The following persons are not required to submit to the testing procedure specified in direction 4:
- (a) a person mentioned in direction 3(a) who has already submitted to an approved PCR COVID-19 testing procedure since exiting the Municipality of Katherine during the period specified in direction 3(a);
  - (b) a person who has exited or will exit the Municipality of Katherine in order to leave the Territory if the person:
    - (i) leaves the Territory within 48 hours of exiting the Municipality of Katherine; and
    - (ii) travels via the most direct route to leave the Territory.
- 6 A person is not required to isolate while the person waits for the result of the testing procedure specified in direction 4.

*Notes for direction 6*

- 1 *A person who tests positive for COVID-19 is governed by my COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020 or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.*
- 2 *A person who is suspected of being infected with COVID-19 is governed by my COVID-19 Directions (No. 21) 2020 or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to 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 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 these Directions with a fine equal to 32 penalty units for an individual and 160 penalty units for a body corporate.*

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Chief Health Officer

Dated