



Northern Territory of Australia

*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

## **COVID-19 Directions (No. 1) 2021: Wearing Face Masks in Aircraft and Airports**

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:

### **Part 1 Preliminary matters**

- 1 These Directions take effect at 00:01 on 20 January 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 the public health emergency declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Act.*

- 2 In these Directions:

**controlled airport** means each of the following airports:

- (a) Darwin International Airport;
- (b) Alice Springs Airport;
- (c) Connellan Airport;
- (d) Gove Airport;
- (e) Groote Eylandt Airport.

*Note for definition **controlled airport**, paragraph (c)*

*Connellan Airport is located in Yulara.*

***indoor area***, of an airport, means an area that is:

- (a) inside a terminal building; and
- (b) accessible to the public or passengers.

***mask*** means a face mask.

## **Part 2 General requirements for wearing masks**

### **Division 1 Aircraft**

3 A person who is 12 years of age or older must wear a mask at all times while on board an aircraft that:

- (a) is in the Territory; and
- (b) is at, or is flying to or from, a controlled airport.

### **Division 2 Controlled airports**

4 A person who is 12 years of age or older must wear a mask at all times while in an indoor area of a controlled airport.

5 Each of the following persons must wear a mask at all times while on the airfield of a controlled airport:

- (a) a passenger who is 12 years of age or older;
- (b) a cabin crew member.

## **Part 3 Circumstances in which masks not required**

6 This Part sets out exceptions to the requirements to wear a mask under Part 2.

7 A person is not required to wear a mask during an emergency or while doing any of the following:

- (a) consuming food or beverage;
- (b) communicating with a person who is hearing impaired;
- (c) wearing an oxygen mask.

- 8 If a person is requested by an authorised officer, police officer or member of airport staff to remove the person's mask, the person must do so but must put the mask back on when advised to do so by an authorised officer, police officer or member of airport staff.

#### **Part 4 Persons who are exempt**


- 9 The following persons are exempt from the requirements of Part 2:
- (a) a person who has a medical condition that would be exacerbated or otherwise affected by wearing a mask;
  - (b) a person whose health and safety in the workplace would be at risk, as determined in accordance with the work health and safety guidelines applicable to the person's workplace, if the person wore a mask.

*Examples for direction 9(a)*

*Breathing difficulties, a serious condition affecting the person's face, a disability or a mental health condition.*

*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