



Northern Territory of Australia

*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

## **COVID-19 Directions (No. 16) 2022: Directions for reporting of rapid antigen test results**

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:

- 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 In these Directions:  
  
***approved*** means approved by the Chief Health Officer.
- 3 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 3*

*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.*

- 4 Subject to direction 5, if a person undertakes a rapid antigen test and returns a positive result for infection with COVID-19, the person must complete an approved form available on the COVID-19 website ([coronavirus.nt.gov.au](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au)) or, if that is not practicable, contact the COVID-19 Hotline.

*Notes for direction 4*

- 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 *The person may be contacted by text message and asked to provide information online.*
  - 4 *See also my COVID-19 Directions (No. 4) 2022.*
- 5 A person is not required to report the positive result of the rapid antigen test in accordance with direction 4 if the person undertook the rapid antigen test in any of the following circumstances:
- (a) the person was required to submit to or self-administer the rapid antigen test as a form of approved COVID-19 testing procedure under any other COVID-19 Directions given by me that are in force from time to time;
  - (b) the person was required to submit to or self administer the rapid antigen test to comply with directions that were given to the person by an authorised officer.

*Note for direction 5*

*If a person undertakes a rapid antigen test in the circumstances described in direction 5(a) or (b), the person may still need to comply with any reporting requirements in relation to the results of that test which apply to the person under the relevant*

*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.*



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Deputy Chief Health Officer

Dated 13.1.22 14.09