

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

Post-emergency COVID-19 Directions (No. 03) 2022: COVID-19 testing

I, Charles Hawkhurst Pain, Acting Chief Health Officer, under section 57B of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*, after taking into account social considerations and economic considerations, in addition to public health considerations, and after consulting in accordance with section 57C(1)(b) of the Act, consider it necessary, appropriate or desirable to take action in relation to COVID-19 by making the following directions:

- 1 These Directions take effect at 00:01 am on 16 June 2022 and remain in force until 23:59 pm on 15 June 2024.

Note for direction 1

Part 5, Division 2A, of the Act under which these Directions are made has effect for 2 years until 15 June 2024.

- 2 The following directions are revoked:
 - (a) COVID-19 Directions (No. 15) 2022;
 - (b) COVID-19 Directions (No. 16) 2022.

- 3 In these Directions:

approved means approved by the Chief Health Officer.

- 4 A COVID-19 test required under any Post-emergency COVID-19 Directions consists of a rapid antigen test.

- 5 Despite direction 4, a polymerase chain reaction test may be required or specified by the Chief Health Officer or an authorised officer in a particular case or class of cases.

- 6 Subject to direction 7, a person who undertakes a rapid antigen test and returns a positive result for infection with COVID-19 must:

- (a) complete an approved form available at <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>; or

- (b) if completing an approved form is not practicable – contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 1800 490 484.

Notes for direction 6

- 1 *Calling the COVID-19 Hotline number may satisfy the person's obligations under section 7 of the Notifiable Diseases Act 1981.*
 - 2 *The person may be contacted by text message and asked to provide information online.*
- 7 A person is not required to report the positive result of the rapid antigen test in accordance with direction 6 if the person undertook the rapid antigen test in either 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 the Chief Health Officer 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 7

If a person undertakes a rapid antigen test in the circumstances described in direction 7(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 Post-emergency COVID-19 Directions.

Notes for Post-emergency COVID-19 Directions

- 1 *Section 57K of the Act provides for an offence for failing to comply with a direction given under section 57B 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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Acting Chief Health Officer

Dated