



Northern Territory of Australia

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011

COVID-19 Directions (No. 26) 2021: Directions for face masks

I, Hugh Crosbie Heggie, 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 1 pm on 2 July 2021 and remain in force until the earlier of:
 - (a) the public health emergency declaration ceasing to be in force; or
 - (b) 1 pm on 9 July 2021.
- 2 In these Directions:
former lockdown area means the area specified in direction 3.
- 3 These Directions apply in and to:
 - (a) the following local government areas:
 - (i) City of Darwin;
 - (ii) City of Palmerston;
 - (iii) Town of Alice Springs;
 - (iv) Litchfield;
 - (v) Wagait Shire;
 - (vi) Belyuen Shire; and

- (b) the Darwin Waterfront Precinct as specified under section 4 of the *Darwin Waterfront Corporation Act 2006*; and
- (c) the following localities of the Territory:
 - (i) Charles Darwin National Park and East Arm, prescribed as Area A for the *Northern Territories Rates Act 2014*, a map of which appears in the Schedule;
 - (ii) the unincorporated Elrundie area;
 - (iii) Dundee Beach;
 - (iv) Dundee Forrest;
 - (v) Bynoe;
 - (vi) Charlotte;
 - (vii) Cox Peninsula.

4 These Directions do not apply to any place where face masks are required by:

- (a) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 1) 2021;
- (b) my COVID-19 Directions (No. 19) 2021.

Note for direction 4

These Directions already require the use of face masks at airports, aircraft and aged care facilities.

5 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 5

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.

6 A person must properly wear a face mask in the following circumstances:

- (a) the person is outside the premises where the person resides and the person is within 1.5 m of another person who does not reside at the same premises;

- (b) the person is at work at premises where the person normally works within 1.5 m of customers, clients or other workers.

Examples for direction 6(b)

Wait staff, cashiers, hairdressers and beauty therapists.

7 A person is not required to comply with direction 6 in the following circumstances:

- (a) the person is a child under the age of 12 years;
- (b) the person has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or a disability, that makes wearing a face mask unsuitable;
- (c) the person is engaged in vigorous outdoor exercise or is swimming;
- (d) the person is communicating with a person who is hearing impaired and visibility of the person's mouth is essential;
- (e) the person is in a private vehicle, that is not being used for commercial purposes, or is alone in a commercial vehicle;
- (f) the person is seated and eating or drinking, or is seated at a venue that serves food or beverages;
- (g) the person is asked to remove the face mask to ascertain the person's identity;
- (h) the person must remove it in an emergency.

Example for direction 7(f)

A person can remove the mask when seated in a pub, but must put it on and wear it when they get up to go to the bar or toilet.

8 For the purpose of ensuring compliance with any of my COVID-19 Directions requiring the wearing of a face mask, a police officer or an authorised officer may:

- (a) request a person who is not wearing a face mask as required by those Directions 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.

- 9 A person who was, immediately before 1:00 pm on 2 July 2021, in the former lockdown area and who leaves that area while these Directions are in effect must comply with these Directions as if the person were in the former lockdown area.

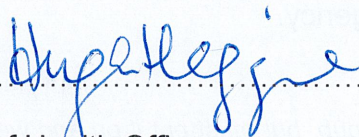
Example for direction 9

A person who leaves Darwin to go to Katherine on 3 July 2021 must wear a mask when outside their residence as if they were still in Darwin.

- 10 The following Directions are revoked:
- (a) COVID-19 Directions (No. 14) 2021;
 - (b) COVID-19 Directions (No. 23) 2021;
 - (c) COVID-19 Directions (No. 25) 2021.

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 this offence is 400 penalty units.*
- 3 *A person is not guilty of this offence if the person has a reasonable excuse.*

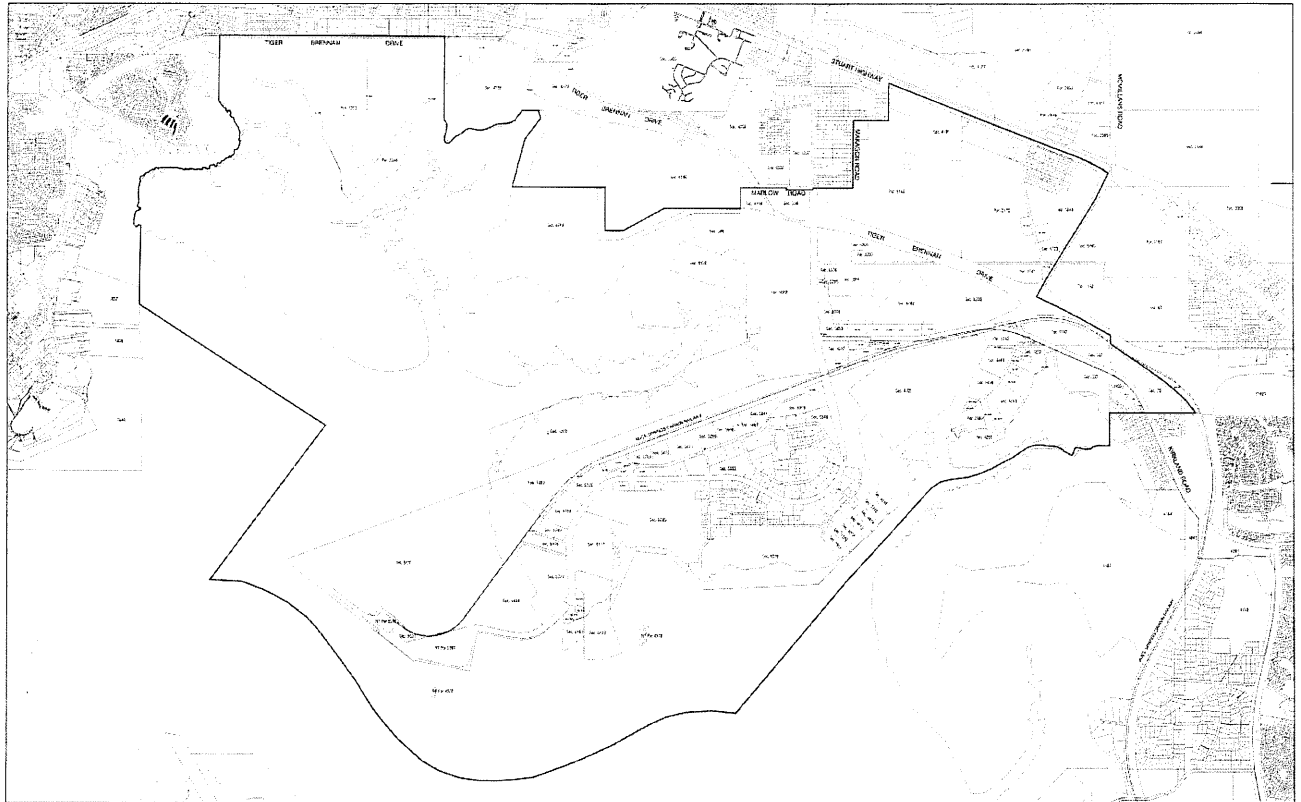


Chief Health Officer

Dated 1256. 27/2021

Schedule

Area A for the Northern Territories Rates Act 2014



Northern Territory
Government

Prescribed Area A for the Northern Territory Rates Act



CERTIFIED
CORRECT:

[Signature]
Delegata of the Surveyor-General

26 February 2014
Date

0.5km 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

CP 5468

