

Australian Capital Territory

# Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020

Notifiable Instrument NI2020–177

made under the

**Public Health Act 1997, s 120 (Emergency actions and directions)**

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## 1. Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020*.

## 2. Commencement

This instrument commences and is taken to commence at 11.59pm on 25 March 2020.

## 3. Public Health Emergency Direction

I, Dr Kerry Coleman, Chief Health Officer, consider it necessary or desirable to alleviate the emergency declared under the *Public Health (Emergency) Declaration 2020 (No 1)* [NI2020-153] (the **declared emergency**) on 16 March 2020, to give the directions as set out below.

## 4. Duration

This direction is in force for the period ending on the day the declared emergency (as extended or further extended) ends, unless it is earlier revoked.

Dr Kerry Coleman  
Chief Health Officer

25 March 2020

# Public Health Emergency Direction

## *Public Health Act 1997*

*Made under the Public Health Act 1997,  
section 120 (Emergency actions and directions)*

I, Dr Kerryn Coleman, Chief Health Officer, consider it necessary or desirable to alleviate the emergency declared under the *Public Health (Emergency) Declaration 2020 (No 1)* [NI2020-153] (the **declared emergency**) on 16 March 2020, to give the directions as set out below.

## PART 1 — SELF-ISOLATION (DIAGNOSIS) DIRECTION

The purpose of this direction is to require persons diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019 (**COVID-19**), caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, to self-isolate in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

### **Directions**

1. From 11.59pm on 24 March 2020 a person who is diagnosed with COVID-19 in the Australian Capital Territory:
  - a. if the diagnosis is communicated to the person in a place other than where the person resides, must:
    - i. travel directly from that place to a premises that is suitable for the person to reside in and reside in that premises until **clearance from self-isolation** is given by an **authorised medical officer**; or
    - ii. travel directly to a hospital for medical treatment and, following treatment and discharge from the hospital, travel directly to a premises that is suitable for the person to reside in until **clearance from self-isolation** is given by an **authorised medical officer**; and
  - b. if the diagnosis is communicated to the person in suitable premises where the person resides, must reside in that premises beginning on the day of the diagnosis and ending when **clearance from self-isolation** is given by an **authorised medical officer**; and
  - c. must communicate their diagnosis to any person to whom they may come into contact upon being diagnosed with COVID-19 until clearance from self-isolation is given by an **authorised medical officer**; and
  - d. must comply with any request by a police officer or a member of the ambulance service to produce proof of identification; and
  - e. must not leave the premises, except:

- i. for the purposes of obtaining medical care or medical supplies; or
  - ii. in any other emergency situation; or
  - iii. in limited outdoor circumstances where it is possible to avoid close contact with other persons and not to enter any other building; and
- f. must not permit any other person to enter the premises unless that other person usually lives at the premises or is living at the premises for the purposes of self-isolation, or for medical or emergency purposes.

## Definitions

For the purposes of these directions:

2. A person is given **clearance from self-isolation** when an **authorised medical officer** certifies that the person meets the criteria for discharge from self-isolation. Certification must be in writing but is not required to be in a particular form.
3. An **authorised medical officer** means an authorised medical officer under the *Public Health Act 1997*.

## PENALTIES

Section 120 (3) of the *Public Health Act 1997* provides:

A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a direction under this section.

### Maximum Penalty:

In the case of a natural person, \$8,000 (50 penalty units).

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**Dr Kerryn Coleman**

Chief Health Officer

25 March 2020

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