

Australian Capital Territory

# Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 2)

Notifiable Instrument NI2020–406

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 (No 2)*.

## 2. Commencement

This instrument commences at 11.59pm on 11 July 2020.

## 3. Public Health Emergency Direction

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.

## 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.

## 5. Revocation

This instrument revokes the *Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020* [NI2020-177].

Dr Kerryn Coleman  
Chief Health Officer

11 July 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.

In order to limit the spread of **COVID-19**, the purpose of this direction is to require people diagnosed with **COVID-19** and people identified as a **close contact** to self-isolate.

## PART 1 — SELF-ISOLATION - COVID-19 DIAGNOSED

### *Directions*

1. A person who is diagnosed with **COVID-19** must:
  - a. self-isolate in suitable premises beginning on the day of the diagnosis and ending when **clearance from self-isolation** is given by an **authorised medical officer**; or
  - b. if the diagnosis is communicated to the person (other than a **returned traveller** or **interstate traveller**) in a place other than where the person resides:
    - i. travel directly from that place to a premises that is suitable for the person to reside in 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**; or
  - c. if the person is a **returned traveller** or **interstate traveller** self-isolate in **designated premises** beginning on the day of the diagnosis and ending when **clearance from self-isolation** is given by an **authorised medical officer**; and
  - d. communicate their diagnosis of **COVID-19** to any person whom they may come into contact with; and
  - e. comply with any request by an **authorised person** to produce proof of identification; and
  - f. not leave the premises, except:
    - i. for the purposes of accessing medical care or medical supplies; or
    - ii. in any other emergency situation; and

- g. not permit any other person to enter the premises unless that other person:
  - i. usually lives at the premises; or
  - ii. is living at the premises for the purposes of self-isolation; or
  - iii. attends for medical, law enforcement or emergency purposes.

## PART 2 — SELF-ISOLATION - CLOSE CONTACT

### **Directions**

2. A person who has been notified by ACT Health that they are a **close contact** of a person who is diagnosed with **COVID-19** must:
  - a. if the notification is communicated to the person in suitable premises where the person resides, self-isolate in that premises beginning on the day of notification of the need to self-isolate and ending when **clearance from self-isolation** is given by an **authorised medical officer**; or
  - b. if the notification is communicated to the person when they are in a place other than where the person resides, travel directly from that place 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
  - c. communicate any person whom they may come into contact with that they are in self-isolation due to being a close contact of a person diagnosed with COVID-19; and
  - d. comply with any request by an **authorised person** to produce proof of identification; and
  - e. not leave the premises, except:
    - i. for the purposes of accessing medical care or medical supplies; or
    - ii. in any other emergency situation; or
    - iii. to go outdoors in limited circumstances, only where it is possible to avoid contact with other people and not to enter any other building; and
  - f. not permit any other person to enter the premises unless that other person:
    - i. usually lives at the premises; or
    - ii. is living at the premises for the purposes of self-isolation; or
    - iii. attends for medical, law enforcement or emergency purposes.

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of these directions:

3. **COVID-19** means the coronavirus disease 2019, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.
4. **Authorised medical officer** means an authorised medical officer under the *Public Health Act 1997*.



5. **Authorised person** means an authorised person under section 121 of the *Public Health Act 1997*.
6. A person has **clearance from self-isolation** when person is given certification in writing by an **authorised medical officer** that the person meets the criteria for discharge from self-isolation, including that:
  - a. the person has received notification that the result of their **COVID-19** test has been found to be negative for **COVID-19**; and
  - b. the person is free of **COVID-19** symptoms for a further 3 days following notification that the result of their **COVID-19** test has been found to be negative for **COVID-19**.
7. A **close contact** is:
  - a. someone who has been in close physical proximity with someone who has **COVID-19**, while that person was infectious, for more than 15 minutes cumulative over the course of a week; or
  - b. someone who has been in the same closed space with someone who has **COVID-19**, while that person was infectious, for more than 2 hours.
8. Unless stated otherwise in writing by the Chief Health Officer, **designated premises** means either:
  - a. the person's usual place of residence or other premises that is suitable for the person to reside in for self-isolation; or
  - b. if the person is not normally a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, a hotel or other premises that has been approved in writing by the Chief Health Officer as suitable to reside in for self-isolation; or
  - c. a room allocated on check-in at any hotel, serviced-apartment, or similar accommodation approved in writing by the Chief Health Officer or an **authorised person** for the purposes of quarantine.
9. **Interstate traveller** means a person in quarantine in accordance with either the:
  - a. *Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020* [NI2020-399], including a person given an exemption under paragraph 8 of that Direction on condition that they undertake a period of quarantine; or
  - b. *Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction (No 3)* [NI2020-393]; or
  - c. *Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 2)* [NI2020-390]; or
  - d. *Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020* [NI2020-387].

10. **Returned traveller** means a person in quarantine in accordance with either the:

- a. *Public Health (Returned Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 6)* [NI2020-374]; or
- b. *Public Health (Returned Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 5)* [NI2020-280]; or
- c. *Public Health (Returned Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020* [NI2020-164].

## PENALTIES

Section 120 (4) 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 Kerry Coleman**

Chief Health Officer

11 July 2020

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