

How to apply for an exemption to self-quarantine fact sheet

The Northern Territory has declared a Public Health Emergency under the *Public Health and Emergency Act 2011* in response to the increasing threat of the coronavirus. Border restrictions and arrival requirements are in place for people coming into the Territory.

What does this mean?

All people including Territory residents who arrive in the Northern Territory from 4pm 24 March 2020 and are not exempt persons, are required to self-quarantine for 14 days.

All people will be required to fill in a Northern Territory Arrival Form and be screened upon arrival.

Who is exempt?

Most persons and classes of persons that are essential to the proper functioning of the Territory are included in existing exemptions. These include:

- Health services
- Emergency services
- National and Territory security and governance
- Specialist skills critical to continuity of industry or business and the maintenance of competitive operations and infrastructure
- Transport, freight and logistics

See overleaf for further details about who is exempt.

Other exemptions

Other persons or classes can apply for exemption from the Chief Health Officer on the grounds that person or class:

- i. is essential for the proper functioning of the Northern Territory; or
- ii. needs an exemption to avoid unusual, undeserved or disproportionate hardship; or
- iii. is governed by a COVID-19 management plan, imposed by the employer of the person or class of persons, to prevent the transmission of COVID 19

Each case will be assessed on its merits by the Chief Health Officer or appropriate delegate.

How do persons seeking 'other exemption' apply for exemption?

Applicants applying for exemption from self-quarantine requirements are to fill out an Application For Classification as an Exempted Person or Class of Persons form available at www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au and submit via email to DOH.PCC@nt.gov.au

Your application will then be assessed on its merits by the Chief Health Officer or appropriate delegate.

When will I know if my exemption has been granted?

You will receive a letter or email from the Chief Health Officer advising you of the decision of your application. You are required to continue self-quarantine if you are within Northern Territory borders until you are advised of this decision.

What if I am not sure if I can get an exemption?

If you need assistance in filling out the Application Form or have any questions, contact us via DOH.PCC@nt.gov.au or on (08) 8922 8549

What is a COVID-19 management plan?

Persons or classes of persons can be granted exemption to self-quarantine on the grounds they are governed by a COVID-19 management plan. For example commercial fishing, mining, energy or agricultural businesses must develop a plan detailing how they will prevent transmission of COVID-19. This includes:

- Ensuring all employees maintain appropriate social distancing - being able to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people
- Provision of hand hygiene products and suitable rubbish bins, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal
- No face-to-face meetings, gatherings or mixing of Territory employees and exempt employees from outside the Territory
- If an employee becomes unwell (fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath), self-isolate employee, do not send employee to work, if employee fit the criteria for testing, call GP or health clinic
- Provision of separate facilities for employees from outside the Northern Territory and Territory employees.

This plan must be submitted via email to DOH.PCC@nt.gov.au in conjunction with an Application For Classification as an Exempted Person or Class of Person form for assessment by the Chief Health Officer or appropriate delegate. Businesses will receive a letter or email from the Chief Health Officer advising if the plan has been approved.

Where can I go for more information?

For the latest advice, information and resources, go to **coronavirus.nt.gov.au**

For advice regarding the exemption process, contact us via DOH.PCC@nt.gov.au or on (08) 8922 8549. This exemption enquiry hotline operates 8am to 4.21pm, Monday to Friday.

If you have concerns about your health, speak to your doctor.

Who is exempt from the requirement to quarantine?

Exempt person

In accordance with the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011* (the Act) COVID-19 Directions (No.3) 2020, essential persons are defined under the following criteria:

1. Security and Governance

- a. Active Australian military personnel required to be on duty in the Northern Territory.
- b. A member of the Commonwealth Parliament who is ordinarily resident in the Northern Territory and who practises social distancing measures while in the Northern Territory.

2. Health Services

- a. A health practitioner, as listed in the Chief Health Officer Directions, who is requested by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health to come to the Northern Territory to perform functions.

3. Transport, freight and logistics

- a. Any person providing services for the transport or freight of goods and related logistics into, within and out of the Northern Territory, as listed in the Chief Health Officer Directions.
- b. A member of the crew of a ship that is delivering persons, transporting goods or providing related logistics into, within and out of the Northern Territory, as listed in the Chief Health Officer Directions.
- c. A member of a flight crew as listed in the Chief Health Officer Directions.

4. Specialist skills critical to maintaining key industries or businesses

- a. A specialist required to provide services needed for the continuity of industry or business and the maintenance of competitive operations if:
 - i. the specialist's skills are not available in the Northern Territory; and
 - ii. the service must be provided without delay; and
 - iii. the specialist must be physically present in the Northern Territory to provide the service; and
 - iv. the specialist practises social distancing measures while in the Northern Territory;
- b. A person responsible for the necessary maintenance or repair of power, water, communications and other infrastructure critical to the Territory, if the person practises social distancing measures while in the Territory.

5. An emergency service worker

- a. A law enforcement officer or emergency service worker who is required to be on duty in the Territory.
- b. A person required for the administration of justice in the Northern Territory.
- c. A paramedic, an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. or a member of the crew of Careflight or the Royal Flying Doctor Service who is providing medical transport to a person or returning to the Northern Territory as soon as was practicable after providing medical transport to a person.
- d. A paramedic or an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. who is ordinarily resident in the Northern Territory and who is requested by the Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. to return to perform functions in the Territory.

Other exemptions

- a. A person who arrives on a flight and does not leave the airport before leaving the Northern Territory on a flight.
- b. A person or class of persons is exempt, as listed in the Chief Health Officer Directions, if the Chief Health Officer has granted the person or class an exemption from that direction, in writing, on the grounds that the person or class:
 - i. is essential for the proper functioning of the Northern Territory; or
 - ii. needs an exemption to avoid unusual, undeserved or disproportionate hardship; or
 - iii. is governed by a COVID-19 management plan, imposed by the employer of the person or class of persons, to prevent the transmission of COVID 19.