

Public Health Act 1997

DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 16

– (Isolation – No. 2)

I, MARK VEITCH, the Director of Public Health, in pursuance of section 16 of the *Public Health Act 1997* ("the Act"), in order to manage the threat to public health posed by the notifiable disease known as COVID-19 ("the disease"), direct that –

- (a) each person diagnosed with the disease must, on being diagnosed with the disease –
 - (i) travel directly to, or remain at, a suitable place in respect of the person; and
 - (ii) remain, subject to paragraph (b), at that place until the person has been informed by a relevant authority that the person is released from isolation in accordance with paragraph (c); and
- (b) a person diagnosed with the disease must remain at a suitable place unless –
 - (i) the person is travelling directly to, or from, another suitable place; or
 - (ii) there is an emergency that requires the person to leave the suitable place to protect his or her personal safety, or the safety of another, and the person immediately returns to a suitable place as soon as the emergency has passed; and
- (c) unless otherwise directed by the Director of Public Health or his or her delegate, a person diagnosed with the disease is released from isolation by a relevant authority if the relevant authority is satisfied that –
 - (i) at least 10 days have passed since the person initially showed symptoms of the disease; or
 - (ii) at least 3 days have passed since the person ceased to show all symptoms of the disease –

whichever is the later in respect of the person; and

- (d) unless otherwise directed by the Director of Public Health or his or her delegate, if a person diagnosed with the disease is a healthcare worker or a worker in a residential aged care facility, the person must not return to work as such a worker until the person –
 - (i) has been released from isolation in accordance with paragraph (c);
and
 - (ii) has also met the criteria for release from isolation as specified for healthcare workers, and workers in aged care facilities, in the *CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units* developed by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia, and endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee, as amended or substituted from time to time; and

- (e) until a person diagnosed with the disease has been released from isolation in accordance with paragraph (c), the person must not have close contact with another person unless the other person –
 - (i) is providing medical care or treatment to the person so diagnosed;
or
 - (ii) is responding to an emergency, whether that emergency is medical or otherwise; or
 - (iii) is also diagnosed with the disease; and

- (f) in this direction –
 - (i) **close contact**, in relation to two or more persons, means that those persons –
 - (A) have had at least 15 minutes of face to face contact; or
 - (B) have been in the same enclosed space for at least 2 hours;
and
 - (ii) **premises** has the same meaning as in the Act; and
 - (iii) **relevant authority** means –
 - (A) a medical practitioner; or
 - (B) such other person approved by the Director of Public Health, or his or her delegate, as a relevant person; and

(iv) **suitable place**, in relation to a person diagnosed with the disease, means –

- (A) if the person requires medical treatment, the hospital, or another place, for medical treatment as directed by –
 - (I) the person who diagnosed the disease; or
 - (II) the operator of the Tasmanian Public Health Hotline, operated by the Department of Health in respect of the disease, who is responding to a call to that Hotline by the person; or
 - (III) a person registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania)* in the medical, dental, paramedicine or midwifery profession; or
- (B) if the person does not require medical treatment and the intends to isolate at his or her primary residence, the primary residence of the person; or
- (C) if the person does not require medical treatment and does not intend, or is unable, to isolate at his or her primary residence, other premises that that are approved by the Director of Public Health, or his or her delegate, as suitable premises for the person to be isolation; or
- (D) if the person is in isolation at premises other than his or her primary residence and wishes to return to his or her primary residence, the primary residence of the person if the Director of Public Health, or his or her delegate, has approved the relocation to the primary residence.

Dated: 17 April 2020

Signed: 

Director of Public Health