

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2005 (WA)

Section 67

SELF-QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION (TESTED, CLOSE CONTACT AND APPEARANCE OF SYMPTOMS) DIRECTIONS

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

On 15 March 2020, the Minister for Emergency Services declared a state of emergency with effect from 12 a.m. on 16 March 2020 in respect of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 pursuant to section 56 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (WA)* (Act). The state of emergency applies to the State of Western Australia.

I, Christopher John Dawson, Commissioner of Police and State Emergency Coordinator, now give the following directions, pursuant to my powers under section 67 of the Act.

DIRECTIONS

Preamble

1. The purpose of these directions is to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Citation

2. These directions may be referred to as the **Self-Quarantine and Isolation (Tested, Close Contact and Appearance of Symptoms) Directions**.

Directions

3. A person who is tested:
 - (a) must, if the person is not already in premises that are suitable for the person to reside in:
 - (i) travel as soon as possible after completion of the test from the place where the person was tested to premises that are suitable for the person to reside in until the person receives the test result; and
 - (ii) reside in those premises until the person receives the test result; or
 - (b) must, if the person is already in premises that are suitable for the person to reside in, reside in those premises until the person receives the test result; and

- (c) must not leave the premises during the period described in paragraph 3(a)(ii) or (b) except:
 - (i) for the purposes of obtaining medical care or medical supplies; or
 - (ii) in an emergency situation.
- 4. A person (A) who is informed **orally or in writing** by a **responsible officer** that A is a **close contact** of a person (B) who has received a **positive test** or has otherwise been diagnosed with COVID-19:
 - (a) must, if A is not already in premises that are suitable for A to reside in:
 - (i) travel as soon as possible to premises that are suitable for A to reside in for a period ending fourteen (14) days after the day on which A last had close contact with B; and
 - (ii) reside in those premises for the period beginning on the person's arrival at those premises and ending fourteen (14) days after the day on which A last had close contact with B; or
 - (b) must, if A is already in premises that are suitable for A to reside in, reside in those premises for the period ending fourteen (14) days after the day on which A last had contact with B; and
 - (c) must not leave the premises during the period described in paragraph 4(a)(ii) or (b) except:
 - (i) for the purpose of obtaining medical care or medical supplies; or
 - (ii) in an emergency situation.
- 5. A must comply with the direction in paragraph 4 even if:
 - (a) A is not a close contact of B; or
 - (b) B has not received a positive test or otherwise been diagnosed with COVID-19, unless A is informed orally or in writing by a responsible officer that A does not have to comply with the direction in paragraph 4.
- 6. A person (C) must not enter premises in which a person (D) is residing in compliance with a direction in paragraph 3 or 4 unless:
 - (a) C usually lives in the premises; or

- (b) C is also complying with the direction for the same period as D; or
 - (c) C enters the premises for medical or emergency purposes.
7. If a person who is in **self-quarantine** develops **symptoms**, the person must:
- (a) inform a responsible officer as soon as possible that the person has been in self-quarantine and has developed symptoms; and
 - (c) comply with any oral or written instructions given to the person by the responsible officer or any other responsible officer, whether to the person specifically or to all persons who are in self-quarantine and develop symptoms; and
 - (b) **self-isolate** until the person is informed in writing by a responsible officer that the person is no longer required to self-isolate.

Definitions

8. **Close contact** when used as a verb means to have, and when used as a noun means a person who has:
- (a) had more than 15 minutes of face-to-face contact in any setting; or
 - (b) shared a closed space for more than 2 hours,
- with a person (**B**) who has received a positive test or has otherwise been diagnosed with COVID-19, in the period extending from 24 hours before the onset of symptoms in B, and includes anything the Chief Health Officer determines in writing to be close contact, provided that if anything which the Chief Health Officer determines in writing to be close contact is inconsistent with anything else in this definition, the Chief Health Officer's determination prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.
9. **Oral or written notice** means notice by oral or written means (including by text message or other electronic means) or by a combination of those means.
10. **Positive test** means oral or written notice from a responsible officer that the person who receives the notice has tested positive for COVID-19, irrespective of whether the person has in fact tested positive for COVID-19.
11. **Responsible officer** means:
- (a) an officer, employee or contractor of the Department of Health; or

- (b) an officer, employee or contractor of a health service provider, as that term is defined by section 6 of the *Health Services Act 2016* (WA); or
- (c) any other person authorised by the Chief Health Officer orally or in writing to give that oral or written notice.

12. **Self-isolate** means:

- (a) to reside in premises that are suitable for the person to reside in until the person is no longer required to self-isolate; and
- (b) to remain in those premises until the person is no longer required to self-isolate, except to the extent necessary:
 - (i) to seek urgent medical attention; or
 - (ii) in an emergency situation; and
- (c) to follow appropriate infection control measures including:
 - (i) wearing a surgical mask, if available and appropriate having regard to the person's age and ability to wear a surgical mask, when the person is in the same room with one or more other persons (irrespective of whether any of those other persons are required to self-isolate under these directions or to self-quarantine under the Self-Quarantine Following Overseas Travel Directions); and
 - (ii) covering the person's mouth and nose when the person sneezes or coughs; and
 - (iii) washing the person's hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds on each occasion that the person washes their hands; and
 - (iv) ensuring that the person does not share household items with any other person in the premises where the person is self-isolating; and
 - (v) any other infection control measures which the person is advised to follow by an appropriately qualified person to give that advice.

13. **Self-quarantine** means to reside in premises that are suitable for the person to reside in, as required by these directions or the Self-Quarantine Following Overseas Travel Directions made by me on 18 March 2020.

14. **Symptoms** means any one or more of:
- (a) a fever of 37.5 degrees or above; or
 - (b) a history of fever (including symptoms of a fever such as night sweats or chills);
or
 - (b) symptoms of acute respiratory infection (including, but without limitation, shortness of breath, a cough or sore throat).
15. **Test result** means oral or written notice from a responsible officer of the result of a test for COVID-19.
16. **Test and tested** means test for COVID-19 and tested for COVID-19 respectively.

PENALTIES

It is an offence to fail to comply with any of these directions, punishable by a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for bodies corporate.



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Christopher John Dawson
State Emergency Coordinator and Commissioner of Police

22 March 2020

1633 hours.