

## COVID-19: ACT advice

This factsheet is to provide information and help you understand your rights and obligations relating to COVID-19 and the public health directions in the **ACT**.

### Powers of the Chief Health Officer

A Public Health Emergency has been declared in the ACT and the Chief Medical Officer has made several Emergency Directions that apply **to all ACT residents** and significantly changes our day to day activities.

### What happens if I don't comply with a direction?

If a person fails to comply with a direction, a police officer, or other authorised persons (eg: ambulance officer), can direct a person to do such things to comply with the direction, and can use reasonable force and assistance as is necessary to enforce compliance with the direction. This can include requesting a person produce proof of identification.

A person commits a criminal offence if they fail to comply with a direction. This offence is punishable by a fine up to \$8,000.

### What if I am diagnosed with COVID-19?

If you are not at home at the time you receive this information, you must **immediately** travel home, or to a place where you can self isolate, and remain there until you have been cleared by the authorised medical officer. You must not stop off at a shop to obtain supplies for the self isolation period. You must tell people who may come into contact with you following your diagnosis, eg: other members of your household. You must not leave your house except to obtain medical care or an emergency situation. You must not allow any other person to enter your house unless they ordinarily live there or for medical or emergency purposes.

### I am in self-isolation. What does that mean?

If you are in self-isolation, you must not go out in public for 14 days. You can still go out into your garden. If you live in a residential complex and there is an outdoor area, you may go outside where it is possible to avoid close contact with others but you should wear a mask to minimise the risk of infecting others. You must not attend work if you are self isolating. For up-to-date information on when you should self-isolate, see the Australian Government Department of Health [information page](#).

### Can I go outside?

If you are not in self isolation and you are obeying social distancing rules – 1 person every 4 square metres – then you can still go outside. However, the Health advice is that if you have even the mildest symptoms of COVID-19, you should refrain from going outside.

### What are the rules surrounding going outside?

From 12pm Friday 19 June, the ACT is further easing restrictions on going outside. The following will be permitted:

- Going to a community facility such as a skate park, dog park, dance studio or library with a maximum of 100 people per indoor or outdoor space, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser);
- Visiting a hospitality venue with a maximum of 100 people, or one person per 4 square metres. You can buy alcohol without food;
- Participating in community sports and full-contact training with a maximum of 100 people in the area, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser);
- Going to the gym with a maximum of 100 people per indoor or outdoor space, or 1 person per 4 square metres (whichever is

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lesser). This includes use of weights and fitness equipment, and circuit training;

- Going to the movies with a maximum of 100 people per movie theatre, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser);
- Attending live performances with a maximum of 100 people per indoor or outdoor space, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser);
- Going to indoor amusement centres, arcades and other play centres with a maximum of 100 people per indoor or outdoor space, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser);
- Visiting galleries, museums, national institutions and historic sites in compliance with the one person per 4 square metre rule, and with tours of no more than 20 people;
- Visiting outdoor amusements and attractions in compliance with the one person per 4 square metre rule, and with tours of no more than 20 people;
- Hosting or attending weddings of up to 100 people, excluding those conducting the service, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser);
- Hosting or attending funerals of up to 100 mourners, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser);
- Attending places of worship of up to 100 people, or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is lesser).

The Health advice is that you should still exercise caution and avoid gathering in communal areas that look overcrowded. You should also maintain physical distancing of 1.5m from other groups, and maintain good personal hygiene. If you are unwell, you should stay at home.

If you go out, you should expect to be asked to record your contact details at venues you visit for COVID-19 tracing purposes.

### Can I invite people over to my house?

From 12pm June 19 2020, there are no limits on the number of people for a household visitation in the ACT. However, you should be sure to maintain social distancing and good hygiene practices at all times.

If you are showing even the mildest symptoms of COVID-19, you should not invite anyone to your house.

### Can I travel?

The ACT borders are open, and you are allowed to travel domestically for holiday purposes. However, states are still enforcing their own travel restrictions that apply as soon as you cross into their territory. For example, from the ACT you can travel to NSW, but once you are in NSW, you must act in compliance with the NSW rules.

International travel still remains prohibited.

### What does COVID-19 mean for my parenting arrangement?

The expectation of the courts is that parents will continue to comply with existing parenting orders, where possible. If a change in circumstances means you can no longer comply with a specific term of your arrangement, communicate with your ex-partner to find an alternative way of fulfilling the parenting obligations.

### Can I visit someone in an aged care facility?

You can still visit a person in an aged care facility with one other person for a period of no longer than 2 hours. You can only visit once per day.

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However, there are several restrictions in place. You cannot visit a person in an aged care facility if:

- You have returned from international travel in the past 14 days;
- You have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- You have a temperature of 37.5°C or the symptoms of an acute respiratory infection e.g. cough, sore throat or shortness of breath;
- You do not have up to date vaccination against influenza;
- You are under 16 years of age.

### More information

More information can be found at the Australian Government Department of Health [COVID-19 health alert page](#). For information specific to the ACT, information can also be found at the ACT Health directorate [COVID-19 page](#). There is also an ACT-specific helpline at: (02) 6207 7244 8am-8pm

If you have need assistance with a legal issue, please call our Helpline on: 1300 354 314. Our Helpline staff can provide you legal advice and information on a range of matters.