

South Australia

Emergency Management (Reporting on COVID-19 Testing) Direction 2020

under section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2004*

Preamble

- 1 On 22 March 2020 I, Grantley Stevens, Commissioner of Police, being the State Co-ordinator for the State of South Australia pursuant to section 14 of the Emergency Management Act 2004 (the Act), declared pursuant to section 23 of the Act that a Major Emergency is occurring in respect of the outbreak of the Human Disease named COVID-19 within South Australia.
- 2 Now I, Grantley Stevens, being of the opinion that this is necessary to achieve the purposes of the Act, give the following directions pursuant to section 25 of the Act.

1—Short title

This direction may be cited as the *Emergency Management (Reporting on COVID-19 Testing) Direction 2020*.

2—Direction

- (1) A responsible person for a pathology service must, in relation to COVID-19 tests conducted by the pathology laboratory for which the person is responsible, ensure that—
 - (a) the pathology laboratory is currently accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities for Human Pathology (ISO 15189); and
 - (b) all COVID-19 tests are subject to internal quality controls with effective oversight by trained scientists and clinical microbiologists; and
 - (c) the pathology laboratory participates in an external quality assurance program, such as the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs, and keeps evidence of its participation available for inspection by authorised officers; and
 - (d) the SA COVID-19 Surveillance Plan is observed, including, in particular, the provisions of that Plan relating to testing of asymptomatic individuals.
- (2) A responsible person for a pathology service, in relation to COVID-19 tests conducted by the pathology laboratory for which the person is responsible, must—
 - (a) notify CDCB (in the electronic manner determined by the Chief Public Health Officer or *CPHO*) of—

- (i) details required by CPHO relating to each COVID-19 test conducted by the laboratory until the commencement of this direction as soon as practicable; and
 - (ii) details required by CPHO relating to each COVID-19 test conducted by the laboratory on and after the commencement of this direction; and
- (b) subject to subclause (3), ensure that such notifications are given for at least 90 per cent of COVID-19 tests of a kind referred to in paragraph (a)(ii)—
 - (i) in the case of a test conducted in Metropolitan Adelaide or a township within 400km of Metropolitan Adelaide—within 48 hours of the taking of the swab; or
 - (ii) in any other case—within 72 hours of the taking of the swab.
- (3) Subclause (2)(b) does not apply—
 - (a) if exceptional circumstances exist, such as if there is a breakdown in plant or equipment used for testing or an inadequate supply of reagents consumables, provided that the CPHO is notified of the exceptional circumstances as soon as practicable after they occur; or
 - (b) in relation to COVID-19 tests on specimens collected from remote communities.
- (4) A responsible person for a pathology service, in relation to a COVID-19 test conducted by the pathology laboratory for which the person is responsible, must ensure that the person from whom the swab was taken for the purpose of the COVID-19 test is notified of the result of the test in a timely manner, and in any event within 72 hours of the taking of the swab.
- (5) In this direction—

CDCB means the Communicable Disease Control Branch of the Department of Health and Wellbeing;

COVID-19 test means analysis of a sample to test for COVID-19 (also referred to as SARS-CoV-2) using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR);

Metropolitan Adelaide means Metropolitan Adelaide as defined by GRO Plan 639/93;

responsible person, in relation to a pathology service, has the same meaning as in section 64 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*.

Note—

Under section 64 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, the responsible person in relation to a pathology service is the pathologist responsible for the day to day operation of the pathology laboratory.

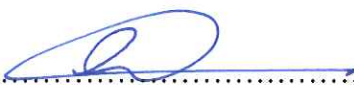
3—Powers of Authorised Officers

Nothing in this direction derogates from the powers of authorised officers to exercise powers pursuant to the Act.

IMPORTANT— IT IS AN OFFENCE TO BREACH THIS DIRECTION

This direction operates from the *3rd* day of *June* 2020 at *1630* hours

SIGNED at *ADDELARRE* on this *3rd* day of *June* 2020
at *1630* hours


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GRANTLEY STEVENS
STATE CO-ORDINATOR