



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Clarifications on Services for Long-Haul Truckers While Supporting NWT Supply-Chains

YELLOWKNIFE 20 April 2020 – The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) has recognized a gap in understanding of the expectations for long-haul truckers while they're in the territory.

We have received reports of businesses and communities refusing services like restrooms, showers, and food purchase to those supporting the NWT's supply chain.

The [travel restriction order from March 21](#) exempted supply-chain support workers like long-haul truckers because they provide a vital service to the NWT.

We did issue [strict guidelines](#) on social distancing while completing their duties within the territory because we recognize that COVID-19 cases are still growing in southern Canada.

These guidelines were **not** intended to restrict supply-chain workers from accessing the basics while they are in our territory – just that they maintain their social (physical) distance of at least two metres while they're doing it, and to self-isolate in their accommodations once their duties are complete if they are staying the night.

The nature of supply-chain work means these workers have often been driving for 8-12 hours in the course of a day. It is hard work – and those doing it deserve a shower and some food at the end of it.

As long as social (physical) distance guidelines are maintained by supply-chain workers, and your organization is keeping up on [disinfection protocols](#), ***providing these services does not put you, your business, or your community at a significantly higher risk.***

We ask that companies and communities allow long-haul truckers to:

- Come inside the store and buy food off-the-shelf or by takeout
- Use restroom facilities normally made available to the public
- Use shower facilities normally made available to the public

We are not asking that special exceptions be made, just that their important work be met with compassion, and the recognition that as long as the precautions are taken, you are safe.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact covid@gov.nt.ca.