



Public Health Order – COVID-19 Prohibition of Gatherings and Closures of Certain Business (effective April 11, 2020)

WHEREAS the Minister, upon recommendation from the Chief Public Health Officer, declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 2020 and renewed commencing on April 1, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer may take certain actions including issuing directions or orders for the purpose of protecting the public health under the authority of the *Public Health Act*, S.N.W.T. 2007, c.17 (hereinafter the “Act”).

1. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act and for the purposes of protecting the public health and decreasing the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease the Chief Public Health Officer hereby orders the following:
 - a. Gatherings in an indoor location, whether private or in public, are prohibited except in the following circumstances:
 - i. Persons who are members of the same household;
 - ii. Persons engaged in essential services work as defined in paragraph 1(d) of the March 21, 2020 order;
 - iii. Persons engaged in retail work and persons visiting retail businesses;
 - iv. Persons attending offices, workplaces, and non-retail businesses provided they comply with the Chief Public Health Officer’s guidelines (attached as Schedule A).
 - v. Daycare facilities and in-home child care including day homes and babysitters;
 - vi. Persons offering necessary in-home care to other persons;



vii. Facilities offering health and social services to at-risk populations, including but not limited to sobering centres and shelters.

b. Public gatherings in an outdoor location are prohibited.

c. Private gatherings of more than 10 persons in a group in an outdoor location are prohibited. Any private gatherings of 10 persons or less in an outdoor location must maintain a minimum of 2 metres of distance from one another.

2. Pursuant to s. 11 of the Act and for the purposes of decreasing the effect of or eliminating a health hazard the Chief Public Health Officer hereby orders the following:

a. The following facilities shall close, in order to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19:

- i. Recreational Facilities including but not limited to arenas, pools, and gymnasiums; and
- ii. Community Centres and Youth Centres.

b. The following businesses shall close in order to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19:

- i. Bottle Depots;
- ii. Gyms and fitness centres;
- iii. Museums and art galleries;
- iv. Bars and night clubs;
- v. Theatres and movie theatres;
- vi. Dine-in portions of restaurants. Take-out service is permitted, provided a 2 metre distance is maintained between customers;
- vii. Personal service establishments where physical distancing is not possible, including but not limited to: barber shops, hair salons, tattoo and/or piercing services, spas, nail salons, massage



therapists, aestheticians, naturopathic practitioners, acupuncturists, and chiropractic services; and

viii. Tourism Operators

c. Essential retail stores may remain open; which are:

- i. Grocery stores;
- ii. Gas bars and stations;
- iii. Banks;
- iv. Pharmacies;
- v. Liquor stores.

Essential retail stores shall follow any further directions or orders of the Chief Public Health Officer as may be provided from time to time.

d. All retail businesses not specifically mentioned in paragraphs 2(b) and (c) herein may remain open, provided they are able to comply with the guidelines established by the Chief Public Health Officer (attached as Schedule A).

3. All persons and businesses shall comply with this order unless otherwise exempted by the Chief Public Health Officer under exceptional circumstances.

This order is effective April 11, 2020 at 12:00pm and remains in effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, unless otherwise rescinded.

<original signed by>

Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer



Advisory to NWT Workplaces, Offices, and Businesses

The following interim guidance helps reduce the risk of workplace exposures to respiratory illnesses including COVID-19.

ADVICE FOR BUSINESSES THAT CANNOT CLOSE DURING THIS TIME:

- Post signs on entrances that stop people from entering the office/business if they have symptoms of respiratory illness (cough, fever, runny nose).
- Place alcohol-based hand cleaners at entrances for use by customers.
- Enforce rigorous cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces frequently throughout the day at all times, especially countertops, debit machines, and door handles and other high touch surfaces.
- Restrict cash transactions and paper-based forms.
- Small retailers should restrict the number of customers to less than 10 at a time, or the number of people who can occupy the space while maintaining a two metre distance between them – whichever is less. Mark spacing on the floors to show two metre between customers.
- Large retailers (grocery, hardware and pharmacies) should ensure two metre separation between customers and enhanced hand washing and cleaning of high touch surfaces.
- Ensure distancing between customer by using barriers, changes in work flow, random safety checks, etc.
- Offer shorter and staggered schedules that allow employees to be in contact with the fewest people possible.
- Enforce the highest level of standards for personal hygiene from employees (hand washing, proper use and disposal of used tissues, clean clothes). Visit www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19 for more information.
- Send employees home immediately if they have a fever, cough, runny nose or sore throat. They must call the health center or Yellowknife public health for advice, and self-isolate. They can return when approved by a health care provider.
- Ensure workers follow physical distancing when they are not at work

Follow all industry-specific advice you receive, and all advice from the Chief Public Health Officer.
<https://www.wscc.nt.ca/employer-services/frequently-asked-questions>

ADVICE FOR OFFICES AND WORKPLACES THAT ARE NOT TYPICALLY ACCESSED BY THE PUBLIC:

- Encourage employees to work from home whenever possible by using Skype, Zoom, and other virtual work tools.
- Promote work schedules and deliverables that can be completed remotely.
- Offer shortened, staggered schedules so that employees are not sharing space with others.
- Ensure that employees, their desks, and workspaces are at least 2 meters apart, particularly in open concept offices.
- Rigorously clean and disinfect all surfaces frequently throughout the day, especially desks, keyboards, copy machines, printers, whiteboards, markers, chairs, etc.
- Send employees home immediately if they have a fever, cough, runny nose or sore throat. They must call the health center or Yellowknife public health for advice and self-isolate. They can return when approved by a health care provider.
- Ensure workers follow physical distancing when they are not at work

Follow all industry-specific advice you receive, and all advice from the Chief Public Health Officer.
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Thank you for keeping our community safe!

For more information about the Government of the Northwest Territories' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19