



Public Health Order – COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND SELF-ISOLATION PROTOCOL – AS AMENDED APRIL 27, 2020

WHEREAS the Minister, on recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer, has declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 2020 and which was extended to April 28, 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”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer issued an order dated March 21, 2020 entitled “COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol” (“the March 21, 2020 order”);

The Chief Public Health Officer, in accordance with subsection 42(e) of the *Act* hereby amends and replaces the March 21, 2020 order with the following:

TRAVEL PROHIBITION AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Pursuant to section 33(1) of the Act, and in order to prevent, combat, or alleviate the effects of the Public Health Emergency, all persons are prohibited from travel within the Northwest Territories that originated from across any inter-jurisdictional border with the following exceptions, which are subject to further conditions in this order:
 - a. Northwest Territories residents;
 - b. Persons providing services in the course of importation/exportation of goods and other supply chain transportation workers, including movers and carriers, and those persons who are necessary to maintain supply chain transportation services (hereinafter “Supply Chain Workers”);
 - c. Flight crews and airline employees arriving in the Northwest Territories (hereafter “Flight Crew Workers and Airline Employees”);
 - d. Persons providing essential services in the Northwest Territories, including but not limited to:
 - (ii) health and social service providers;
 - (iii) postal service workers;
 - (iv) peace officers and others employed for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace;



- (v) emergency responders;
- (vi) employees of and persons engaged by the Department of National Defence;
- (vii) municipal enforcement officers;
- (viii) community government essential service workers;
- (ix) federal and territorial parks officers; and
- (x) correctional workers engaged in the transportation of inmates to a correctional facility.

(hereinafter “Essential Services Workers”)

- e. Persons providing child and dependent care to Essential Services Workers (hereinafter “Support Workers”) in the Northwest Territories;
- f. Persons travelling from Nunavut for medical travel purposes, including patients and those persons necessary to travel with those patients to the Northwest Territories;
- g. A person from outside the Northwest Territories who has an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest in an area of the Northwest Territories while exercising that right within the Northwest Territories, provided those persons do not travel to a community or populated area of the Northwest Territories or have any contact with persons in the Northwest Territories;
- h. Transient workers in the mineral and petroleum resources industry working in the Northwest Territories;
- i. Persons engaged in work on the construction of public and Indigenous infrastructure projects. This includes:
 - i. Persons attending remote work camps in the Northwest Territories where workers reside at the workplace for the duration of their rotation; and
 - ii. Persons attending open, non-remote workplaces in the Northwest Territories where workers interact with community residents during work and when off shift (hereinafter “Non-Remote Infrastructure Workers”).
- j. Persons being transported to a correctional facility in the Northwest Territories;



- k. Persons traveling through the Northwest Territories in transit to another jurisdictional destination (hereafter “Persons in Transit”); and
- l. Persons otherwise exempted under exceptional circumstances by the Chief Public Health Officer. To request an exemption the person must contact Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or by calling 1-833-378-8297, prior to entering the Northwest Territories.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESIDENTS

- 2. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Northwest Territories residents, returning to the Northwest Territories from across an inter-jurisdictional border, who are not subject to other exemptions herein, shall:
 - (a) self-isolate for 14 days immediately following entry into the Northwest Territories in one of Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith (“the Four Designated Communities”);
 - (b) within 24 hours of entering the NWT complete and submit a [resident self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca or by calling 1-833-378-8297. Self-Isolation plans must be approved by Protect NWT;
 - (c) stay at home or in one residence until a Self-Isolation Plan has been approved;
 - (d) upon approval of the Self-Isolation Plan, comply with the Self-Isolation Plan;
 - (e) complete and submit the [symptom check form](#) to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories;
 - (f) contact a local health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat, runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, vomiting, or loss of smell (hereinafter “symptoms of COVID-19”);
 - (g) Residents of the Northwest Territories, who have an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest and who return to the to the Northwest Territories after exercising their right to harvest outside of the Northwest Territories are



exempt from the directives at paragraphs 2 (a) to (e) herein if, while they were in the area outside the Northwest Territories, they:

- (i) did not go to a community or populated area;
- (ii) maintained a minimum distance of 2 meters from any person who is not a member of their household; and
- (iii) did not gather in any indoor location with any person who is not a member of their household.

(h) For greater certainty, all residents of the Northwest Territories, who have an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest and who return to the Northwest Territories after exercising their right to harvest outside of the Northwest Territories and who do not satisfy the conditions set out in paragraph 2(g) must self-isolate on their return and comply with all the conditions and directives set out in paragraph 2(a) to (e) herein.

SUPPLY CHAIN WORKERS, FLIGHT CREW WORKERS AND AIRLINE EMPLOYEES

3. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Supply Chain Workers, Flight Crew and Airline Employees shall:

(a) if in the Northwest Territories for less than 36 hours, self-monitor, and abide by [social distancing protocols](#) established by the Chief Public Health Officer and immediately self-isolate and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19;

(b) if in the Northwest Territories for more than 36 hours:

- (i) as soon as reasonably possible, submit a [worker self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca, or by calling 1-833-378-8297;
- (ii) self-isolate when not working, in accordance with the [self-isolation protocols](#) established by the Chief Public Health Officer; and
- (iii) abide by [social distancing protocols](#) when working. When social distancing is not possible while working, wear a face covering or personal protective equipment.



PERSONS IN TRANSIT

4. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Persons in Transit, shall:
 - (a) if in the Northwest Territories for less than 12 hours, abide by [general social distancing protocols](#), and immediately self-isolate in accordance with [self-isolation protocol](#) and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19;
 - (b) if in the Northwest Territories for more than 12 hours, comply with all of the provisions of paragraph 2 of this order until departure from the Northwest Territories;

ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS, NON-REMOTE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS, AND SUPPORT WORKERS

5. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Essential Services Workers, Non-Remote Infrastructure Workers and Support Workers (hereinafter “Workers”), who travel into the Northwest Territories, shall:
 - (a) self-isolate for 14 days immediately following entry into the Northwest Territories in one of Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith (“the Four Designated Communities”);
 - (b) prior to entering the Northwest Territories complete and submit a [worker self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca, or by calling 1-833-378-8297. Self-isolation plans must be approved by Protect NWT prior to entering the Northwest Territories;
 - (c) obtain an approval document from the Chief Public Health Officer via Protect NWT, prior to entering the Northwest Territories.
 - (d) upon approval of the self-isolation plan, the Worker shall comply with the self-isolation plan;
 - (e) complete and submit the [symptom check form](#) to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories; and



- (f) contact a local health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat, runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, vomiting, or loss of smell (hereinafter “symptoms of COVID-19”).
6. If an Employer, manager, or other authorized person having charge of the Worker (hereinafter “Employer”) reasonably believes that the Worker is unable to comply with paragraph 5 of this order, the Employer may request written permission from the Chief Public Health Officer for an exemption. To request an exemption, the Employer must submit the following to Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca, prior to the Worker entering the Northwest Territories:
- (a) an [application for permission to work](#); and
 - (b) a [Workplace Risk Assessment](#) and [Field Level Risk Assessment](#) using the approved WSCC forms.
7. If the Employer makes a request for exemption from paragraph 5 of this order, the Worker shall, prior to entering the Northwest Territories:
- (a) follow [social distancing protocol for Essential Service Workers](#) for 14 days; and
 - (b) complete a [worker self-isolation plan](#) and [Worker Declaration](#) by contacting Protect NWT at protectNWT@gov.nt.ca or calling 1-833-378-8297.
8. If the Chief Public Health Officer grants the Worker an exemption from paragraph 5 of this order the Chief Public Health Officer shall issue an approval document to the Worker via Protect NWT, prior to the Worker entering the Northwest Territories.
9. If approval is granted by the Chief Public Health Officer pursuant to paragraph 8 herein, the Worker shall, for the first 14 days following their arrival to the Northwest Territories:
- (a) wear a face covering in public when it is not possible to socially distance, including but not limited to when traveling by airplane;
 - (b) self-isolate when not working, in accordance with the [Self-Isolation Protocol](#);



- (c) make efforts to socially distance from co-workers and members of the public while working, in accordance with protocols established by their Employer;
 - (d) where not possible to socially distance in the workplace, wear a face covering or personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace as directed by the Employer in accordance with WSCC Field Level Risk Assessment;
 - (e) not travel within the Northwest Territories unless required to for the purposes of carrying out their work duties, and only in accordance with the approval granted by the Chief Public Health Officer;
 - (f) complete and submit the [symptom check form](#) to ProtectNWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories;
 - (g) comply with any other conditions set out by the Chief Public Health Officer in the approval granted under paragraph 8 herein; and
10. If a Worker displays symptoms of COVID-19, the Worker shall immediately self-isolate, notify a local health care provider and follow directions, and comply with any further directions provided by the Chief Public Health Officer.

PERSONS EMPLOYING ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS AND NON-REMOTE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS

11. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation COVID-19, the Employer having charge of an Essential Service Worker or Non-Remote Infrastructure Worker (hereinafter "Employee"), who originated from across any inter-jurisdictional border, shall:
- (a) ensure all Employees complete 14 days of self-isolation in one of the Four Designated Communities prior to starting work and comply with all obligations pursuant to paragraph 5 herein, unless the Worker is otherwise exempted by the Chief Public Health Officer pursuant paragraph 8;
 - (b) establish workplace social distancing protocols consistent with the workplace risk assessment and field level risk assessment completed pursuant to paragraph 6(b) herein and ensure compliance by all persons in the workplace.



(c) ensure Employees, where granted permission to work pursuant to paragraph 8 herein, for the first 14 days after their arrival to the Northwest Territories:

- i. self-isolate when not working in accordance with the [self-isolation protocol](#);
- ii. make efforts to socially distance from co-workers and members of the public while working, in accordance with protocols established by their Employer;
- iii. where not possible to socially distance in the workplace, wear a face covering or personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace, in accordance with the WSCC Field Level Risk Assessment;
- iv. not travel within the Northwest Territories unless required to for the purposes of carrying out their work duties, and only in accordance with the approval granted by the Chief Public Health Officer; and
- v. comply with all conditions set by the Chief Public Health Officer as part of the approval granted.

Any person who is subject to this order may appeal the order to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories pursuant to s.47 of the *Public Health Act* within 30 days after the day on which the order is served on the person in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Health Act*.

It is an offence pursuant to s.49 of the *Public Health Act* for a person to fail to comply with the *Public Health Act*, its regulations or an order made under it.

Any person who has any questions or inquiries about this order can contact Protect NWT protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297 and can obtain a copy of this order from Protect NWT or the Department of Health and Social Services website at <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>.



This order is effective on April 27, 2020 at 4:00pm 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