



## **Public Health Order – COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol**

WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer has declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 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”).

The Chief Public Health Officer hereby orders the following:

1. Pursuant to section 33(1) of the Act and for the purpose of protecting the public health and preventing, combatting or alleviating the effects of the Public Health Emergency, all travel within the Northwest Territories that originated from across any inter-jurisdictional border is hereby prohibited with the following exceptions:
  - a. Northwest Territories residents returning to the Northwest Territories;
  - 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;
  - c. Flight crews working on any flights arriving in the Northwest Territories;
  - d. Persons engaged in providing essential services, including but not limited to, health and social service providers, postal service workers, peace officers and others employed for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace, emergency responders, employees of and persons engaged by the Department of National Defence, municipal enforcement officers, community government essential service workers and, federal and territorial parks officers;
  - e. Persons engaged in providing support services to essential services workers;
  - 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 the Northwest Territories who has an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest in an area outside of the Northwest Territories

and who exercises the right to harvest outside of the Northwest Territories may travel back to their place of residence in the Northwest Territories if they have not travelled to a community or populated area outside the Northwest Territories. If the person has traveled to a community or populated area outside the Northwest Territories, they shall not travel within the Northwest Territories unless they do so in accordance with 2(i) of this order;

- h. 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. Those persons may continue to exercise those rights but shall not travel to a community or populated area of the Northwest Territories;
  - i. Transient workers in the mineral and petroleum resources industry;
  - j. Persons involved in working on the construction of Government of the Northwest Territories capital infrastructure projects;
  - k. Persons being transported to a correctional facility in the Northwest Territories, along with those persons engaged in the transportation or escort to the Northwest Territories; and
  - l. Persons otherwise exempted under exceptional circumstances by the Chief Public Health Officer.
2. 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, persons within the Northwest Territories are subject to the following restrictions, as specifically set out below:

- (i) Northwest Territories residents shall self-isolate for fourteen days upon return to the Northwest Territories from any area outside of the Northwest Territories.

Persons returning to the Northwest Territories from outside of the Northwest Territories shall only travel to Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith. All self-isolation of those persons must occur in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith. Those persons shall contact Public Health Officials in order to facilitate their self-isolation.

Northwest Territories residents shall complete a self-isolation plan that must be verified by a Public Health Official appointed under the Act. Northwest Territories residents who are self-isolating must stay at home or in one residence until a self-isolation plan has been verified by a Public Health Official. Northwest Territories residents shall contact a Public Health Official to obtain further information in order to complete a self-isolation plan.

Upon verification by a Public Health Official, Northwest Territories residents shall comply with the self-isolation plan.

Northwest Territories residents who have returned to the Northwest Territories within fourteen days before the commencement of this Order shall immediately begin self-isolation in the community or location they are in for the remainder of the fourteen day period. These residents shall complete a self-isolation plan that shall be verified by a Public Health Official. These persons shall self-isolate during the time their self-isolation plan is being verified by a Public Health Official. Upon verification, they shall comply with the self-isolation plan for the remainder of the fourteen day period which begins on the day they returned to the Northwest Territories. For greater certainty, these residents do not have to self-isolate in one of the four communities set out above.

- (ii) Import/export, supply chain and flight crew workers shall self-monitor and abide by social distancing guidelines established by the Chief Public Health Officer. These workers shall immediately self-isolate and contact a Public Health Official if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.
- (iii) Persons engaged in essential services work or those involved in providing support services to essential services workers who enter the Northwest Territories must self-monitor, immediately

contact a Public Health Official appointed under the Act for directions, and to undergo a risk assessment.

Persons engaged in providing essential services or those providing support services for essential services workers, who entered the Northwest Territories within fourteen days before the commencement of this Order must self-monitor, immediately contact a Public Health Official appointed under the Act for directions and to undergo a risk assessment.

Persons exempted in paragraph 1(a)-(k) herein shall comply with the travel restrictions set out in this order and all recommendations and directions provided by Public Health Officials.

This order is effective on March 21, 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