



Public Health Order – COVID-19 MANDATORY FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS – August 26, 2021

WHEREAS the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer, has declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the Public Health Emergency has been subsequently renewed and remains in force;

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, in accordance with Section 25(1) of the Act hereby makes the following Order:

FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS

1. 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 entering an indoor public place within the Northwest Territories shall, subject to the terms of this Order, wear a face mask at all times when in the indoor public place. An indoor public place is any indoor space that is not a private dwelling place used exclusively as a residence. It includes but is not limited to the following indoor spaces, with the exceptions noted herein and at paragraph 3:
 - (a) retail businesses such as grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations, banks and shopping centres;
 - (b) personal services establishments such as hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art/tattooing, except during the period of time that services are actively being provided which require removing a face mask;
 - (c) restaurants, bars and similar establishments, except while a person is seated for service at the restaurant, bar or similar establishment;
 - (d) places of worship and faith gatherings, except where necessary to temporarily remove the face mask for religious purposes;
 - (e) places for cultural or entertainment activities and services such as movie theatres, theatre performances, dance recitals, festivals and concerts, except during the period of time while a person is eating or drinking;
 - (f) places for sports and recreational activities such as fitness establishments, pools, arenas, gyms and yoga studios, except during the period of time physical exercise is taking place;



- (g) places holding events such as conventions, conferences and receptions;
- (h) places providing community, municipal, territorial and federal government services to the public, in areas that are accessible to the public;
- (i) common areas of accommodations (e.g. hotels, condominium buildings and apartment buildings), such as lobbies, elevators and hallways;
- (j) common areas of office buildings such as reception areas and elevators, except private spaces and offices not ordinarily accessible to the public;
- (k) common areas of hospitals, clinics and other places which offer medical and dental services;
- (l) common areas and public spaces on college campuses such as the library and hallways;
- (m) airports; and
- (n) taxis, public transportation, and motor vehicles shared by persons who do not reside together.

2. For the purpose of this Order, “face mask” means any medical or non-medical mask that covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin.

3. Paragraph 1 of this Order does not apply to the following:

- (a) a child under two years of age;
- (b) a child who is two years of age or older but less than ten years of age who is unable to tolerate wearing a face mask;
- (c) a person unable to put on or remove their face mask without assistance;
- (d) a person unable to wear a face mask due to a medical reason;
- (e) a person providing or receiving care or assistance, where a face mask would interfere with that care or assistance;
- (f) a person who does not wear a face mask as a result of an emergency;
- (g) a person who removes their face mask temporarily for identification purposes;
- (h) a performer, officiant or similar person who is performing activities that require vocalization at a faith gathering, wedding, funeral, celebration of life, court hearing, social event, or arts and culture event, during the period of time that they are vocalizing, provided they maintain a physical distance from other persons of at least 2 metres;
- (i) those persons attending a homeless shelter or a day shelter, provided the shelter continues to follow their existing approved COVID-19 plans in place; and
- (j) those persons attending schools, daycares and day camps, provided the schools, daycares and day camps continue to follow their existing approved COVID-19 plans in place.



4. An owner, manager or other authorized person having charge of a facility, business or other building open to the public shall post signage at each entrance advising persons that they must not enter the indoor public space unless they are wearing a face mask and must wear a face mask at all times when in the indoor public space. Exceptions provided for in this Order may be noted on the signage.
5. Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Public Health Officer may exempt a person or class of persons from the application of this Order.

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, or who wishes to apply for an approval or exemption related to 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 from <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19>.

This Order is effective on August 26, 2021 at 8:00am and remains in effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, unless otherwise rescinded.

Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer