



PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER DATED MARCH 1, 2022 - COVID-19 TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

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”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer previously issued Public Health Order COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS (effective January 7, 2022) (hereinafter the “January 7, 2022 order”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer has assessed the risk to the public health and now amends the January 7, 2022 order with this public health order (hereinafter the “Order”);

The Chief Public Health Officer, in accordance with Sections 25, 33(1) and 42(e) of the Act hereby orders as follows:

TRAVELLERS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

All Persons Travelling within the Northwest Territories:

1. Pursuant to Sections 25 and 33(1) of the Act, persons travelling within the Northwest Territories, when that travel originated from across any inter-jurisdictional border, are required:
 - (i) if they are a resident of the Northwest Territories,
 - a. prior to entry, or within 24 hours of entry, into the Northwest Territories, to complete and submit a self-isolation plan to Protect NWT; or
 - if they are a non-resident of the Northwest Territories,
 - b. prior to entry into the Northwest Territories, to complete and submit a self-isolation plan to Protect NWT;
 - (ii) to comply with the requirements of this Order and with any additional conditions of the Chief Public Health Officer, if applicable, that are communicated in writing to the person by Protect NWT or the Chief Public Health Officer. If there is a conflict between the terms of this Order and the additional conditions of the Chief Public Health Officer, the additional conditions must be followed;
 - (iii) if they travel to a community outside of Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Norman Wells, on or prior to the end of the fourth full day (Day 4) after their entry into the Northwest Territories, to take a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 test (including an authorized at-home rapid antigen test) on
 - a. (i) their day of arrival in the Northwest Territories or Day 1 (which is the first full day after their entry into the Northwest Territories) or on the next



- available day if testing is not available on Day 1 if they are travelling directly to the community. The test may be taken in the community, or
- (ii) if they are travelling on a later day to the community, then on the day before they travel to the community. The test must be taken in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson or Norman Wells; and
- b. Day 4, or the next available day if testing is not available on Day 4;
- (iv) if advised by Protect NWT to do so as a result of the type of work the person is intending to undertake on or prior to the end of the eighth full day (Day 8) after entry into the Northwest Territories (including but not limited to working or volunteering in high-risk settings or with persons vulnerable to COVID-19, as identified in the self-isolation plan), to take a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 test (including an authorized at-home rapid antigen test) on:
- a. their day of arrival in the Northwest Territories or Day 1 (which is the first full day after their entry into the Northwest Territories), or on the next available day if testing is not available on Day 1; and
- b. Day 4, or the next available day if testing is not available on Day 4;
- (v) if they have travelled outside of Canada during the eight (8) days prior to their entry into the Northwest Territories:
- a. to take a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 test (including an authorized at-home rapid antigen test) on their day of arrival in the Northwest Territories or Day 1 (which is the first full day after their entry into the Northwest Territories), or on the next available day if testing is not available on Day 1; and
- b. to take an additional Health Canada authorized COVID-19 test (including an authorized at-home rapid antigen test) on Day 4, or the next available day if testing is not available on Day 4;
- (vi) to complete and submit a symptom check form to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of Day 2 and Day 6; and
- (vii) to self-monitor and immediately self-isolate away from other persons and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, generally feeling unwell, chills, muscle aches, fatigue or weakness, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste, loss of sense of smell, skin changes or rashes.

EXEMPTIONS

Application of Exemptions:

2. For clarity, persons who qualify for an exemption, may travel within the Northwest Territories pursuant to that exemption, or they may qualify to travel within the Northwest Territories pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Order.



Indigenous Harvesters:

3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order, pursuant to Sections 25 and 33(1) of the Act, 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 are exempt from the requirements of the Order if, while they were in the area outside the Northwest Territories, they:
 - (i) did not go to a community or populated area; and
 - (ii) did not gather in any indoor location with any person who is not a member of their household.
4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order, pursuant to Sections 25 and 33(1) of the Act, non-residents of the Northwest Territories who have an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest in an area of the Northwest Territories while exercising that right within the Northwest Territories, are exempt from the requirements of the Order provided they:
 - (i) do not go to a community or populated area; and
 - (ii) do not have contact with any resident of the Northwest Territories.

Persons in Transit:

5. Persons travelling through the Northwest Territories in transit to a destination outside the Northwest Territories, when that travel originated from across any inter-jurisdictional border, are exempt from the requirements of this Order, provided they:
 - (i) are in the Northwest Territories for no longer than thirty-six (36) hours; and
 - (ii) self-monitor and immediately self-isolate and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, generally feeling unwell, chills, muscle aches, fatigue or weakness, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste, loss of sense of smell, skin changes or rashes.

Supply Chain Workers/Flight Crew:

6. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order, pursuant to Sections 25 and 33(1) of the Act, persons providing services in the course of importation or 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, including flight crews and other airline employees, are exempt from the requirements of this Order, provided they:
 - (i) are present in the Northwest Territories for less than thirty-six (36) hours, and



- (ii) self-monitor and immediately self-isolate away from other persons and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, generally feeling unwell, chills, muscle aches, fatigue or weakness, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste, loss of sense of smell, skin changes or rashes.

Mineral and Petroleum Resources Industry Workers:

- 7. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order, pursuant to Sections 25 and 33(1) of the Act, persons are permitted to travel to and work at mineral and petroleum resources industry work camps, provided they:
 - (i) travel directly to the workplace from a destination that is outside the Northwest Territories without a stop or layover in any community of the Northwest Territories, other than Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson or Norman Wells while in transit; and
 - (ii) self-monitor and immediately self-isolate away from other persons and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, generally feeling unwell, chills, muscle aches, fatigue or weakness, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste, loss of sense of smell, skin changes or rashes.

Chief Public Health Officer Exemption

- 8. In addition, notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Public Health Officer may exempt a person or class of persons from the application of this Order.

GENERAL

- 9. Where reference in this Order is made to a “Day”, the day of entry into the Northwest Territories is considered Day 0. Day 1 is the first full day after entry into the Northwest Territories.
- 10. A “resident” of the Northwest Territories for the purposes of this Order includes new residents moving to and taking up residence in the Northwest Territories and students who would be residents of the Northwest Territories except that they are resident outside the Northwest Territories for the purpose of study.
- 11. The provisions of this Order are separate to any federal requirements related to COVID-19 that the person is required to follow.
- 12. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order, persons under two (2) years of age are not required to take a COVID-19 test.



13. Any person in the process of self-isolating, or exempt from self-isolation, at the time this Order comes into effect becomes subject to the terms of this Order once effective, and their approved self-isolation plan, approval or exemption is deemed amended to reflect the terms of this Order.
14. Any person who has received approval for a self-isolation plan, or any other type of approval or exemption that will begin after the time this Order comes into effect, must comply with the terms of this Order. Their approved self-isolation plan, approval or exemption is deemed amended to reflect the terms of this Order, as if that self-isolation plan, approval or exemption had been issued pursuant to 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 this 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 at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297. A copy of this Order can be obtained from Protect NWT or from <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19>.

This Order is effective from March 1, 2022 at 6:00am and remains in effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, unless otherwise rescinded.

Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer



APPENDIX 1

Self-Isolation Requirements

Requirements for persons subject to self-isolation:

- Stay at your self-isolation location unless you are advised otherwise by a Public Health Official.
- You can go outdoors for fresh air. Do not go to outdoor spaces where persons congregate. Keep a 2 metre distance from other persons and wear a face mask while outside of your self-isolation location. You do not need to wear a mask if there are no other persons present.
- Do not use public transportation or share a car, taxi (other than with the driver) or other mode of transportation with any other persons you are not self-isolating with.
- Do not have any visitors at your self-isolation location.
- You are permitted to pass through common areas of a self-isolation location, such as a shared corridor or lobby, to access the outdoors, but only if a face mask is worn.
- Do not go to work, school, or enter any other indoor spaces or while you are required to self-isolate.
- If you have a medical appointment or need medical care, contact your health care provider and follow their instructions.

Additional guidance on how to safely self-isolate can be found here:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/vaccination-testing/types-isolation>