



Public Health Order – COVID-19 RELAXING PHASE 2 (effective June 12, 2020)

WHEREAS the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer, declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 2020 and renewed commencing on June 10, 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 June 12, 2020 to address travel restrictions and self-isolation protocol (“the June 12, 2020 order”) which remains in effect;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer issued an Order dated June 3, 2020 relaxing certain gathering and business restrictions (“the June 3, 2020 order”);

The Chief Public Health Officer, in accordance with subsection 42(e) of the Act hereby revokes the June 3, 2020 order and replaces it with the following:

Symptomatic Persons

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 that persons displaying symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat, runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of appetite, loss of taste, or loss of smell shall self-isolate and contact a local health care provider.

Restrictions on Gatherings

2. 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 that:

Indoor Gatherings

- a. Persons are prohibited from gathering in a group in excess of 25 persons in an indoor location.



- b. Any persons gathering in an indoor location shall maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from persons who do not reside in their household.
- c. Members of a household may have up to 5 additional persons from outside their household in a dwelling place, so long as the total number of people in the dwelling place does not exceed 10 persons. Persons in a dwelling place in accordance with this section are not required to physically distance. For greater certainty, where more than 10 persons reside in the same household, this provision does not prohibit those persons from being in the same dwelling place at the same time.
- d. Indoor organized sports may be played with the exception of multi-player squash, racquet ball, enclosed court sports, contact boxing, wrestling, contact martial arts, contact mixed martial arts, speed skating, hockey, broomball, curling, lacrosse and gymnastics.
- e. Indoor funerals are prohibited.
- f. Indoor gatherings involving singing and playing of wind and brass instruments, with persons who do not reside in the same household, are prohibited.

Outdoor Gatherings

- g. Persons are prohibited from gathering in a group in excess of 50 persons in an outdoor location.
- h. Any persons gathering in an outdoor location shall maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from persons who do not reside in their household, except as follows:
 - i. Children 12 years of age and under may engage in outdoor play or sports with one another and are not required to maintain a minimum distance from one another while so engaged in outdoor play or sports.
 - ii. Persons may play outdoor sports. Spectators are required to maintain a minimum of 2 metres distance from one another. Players should physically distance where possible and should adhere to COVID-19 guidelines from their national and provincial sports organizations. Players and spectators together must not exceed 50 persons in any outdoor location.



- i. Outdoor gatherings may exceed 50 persons in the following circumstances, provided organizers obtain prior approval from the Chief Public Health Officer and comply with any directions issued:
 - i. Outdoor theatres and plays; and
 - ii. Outdoor farmer's markets.
- j. Outdoor garage sales of any size are prohibited.
- k. Outdoor funerals and burials may proceed with a maximum of 50 persons, provided organizers seek prior approval from the Chief Public Health Officer and comply with the [Protocol for Funerals and Burials during COVID -19 Pandemic: Relaxing Phase 2](#) and with any further directions issued.

Businesses and Facilities

- 3. Pursuant to section 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 that:
 - a. Except as otherwise provided in this order, or otherwise approved by the Chief Public Health Officer, businesses and facilities are prohibited from having more than 25 persons in any indoor location and more than 50 persons in any outdoor location.

Businesses and Facilities that must close

- b. The following businesses and facilities shall remain closed to in-person access by members of the public:
 - i. curling rinks;
 - ii. gymnastics clubs; and
 - iii. indoor theatres.

Businesses and Facilities that may open

- c. Businesses and facilities not ordered to close pursuant to subsection 3(b) of this order may operate, provided they comply with their obligations under section 88 of the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#) made pursuant to the [Safety Act](#), to develop and implement an exposure control plan to eliminate or minimize worker exposure to COVID-19. Employers operating businesses and facilities shall complete a [WSCC Workplace Risk Assessment](#) and make the completed form readily available on request



from a Public Health Official. Employers shall also require their workers to complete a [WSCC Field Level Risk Assessment](#) before beginning work at any work site.

- d. In addition to the requirements set out in paragraph 3(a) and (c) limitations are imposed on certain businesses and facilities as follows:
- i. Restaurants and bars may operate under the following conditions:
 - 1. No more than 25 customers indoors;
 - 2. No more than 50 persons in outdoor dining areas and patios, in addition to the number of customers indoors;
 - 3. Physical distancing of at least 2 metres shall be maintained amongst persons from different households, whether indoors or outdoors;
 - 4. Dance floors shall remain closed; and
 - 5. Live music is prohibited.
 - ii. Movie theatres may operate to a maximum of 25 customers per theatre, subject to prior approval from the Chief Public Health Officer.
 - iii. Pools may operate for instructor certification only.
 - iv. Kindergarten to grade 12 schools are permitted to open and offer classes, provided they obtain prior approval and comply with further direction from Chief Public Health Officer.
 - v. Colleges and adult learning facilities and trade schools may operate provided they obtain prior approval and comply with further direction from Chief Public Health Officer.
 - vi. Children's summer camps may operate, provided organizers seek prior approval from the Chief Public Health Officer and comply with any further directions issued.
 - vii. Golf courses and ski clubs may operate provided that indoor clubhouses limit customers to maximum of 25 individuals where physical distancing of at least 2 metres can be maintained.



- viii. Offices may operate provided that they limit in-person staff to the minimum number of staff required to carry out operations, to a maximum of 25 persons per floor or office location.
- ix. Libraries may operate with limited access provided they obtain prior approval from the Chief Public Health Officer and comply with any directions issued.

Essential Businesses

- e. The following essential businesses and facilities are permitted to have more than 25 persons in any indoor location and more than 50 persons in any outdoor location provided that they limit in-person staff to the minimum number of staff required to carry out operations:
 - i. Dental clinics – provided they comply with Northwest Territories dental standards as directed by the Chief Public Health Officer
 - ii. Shelters (i.e. homeless, warming, family violence, sobering);
 - iii. Food rescue and food banks;
 - iv. Grocery and large retail stores;
 - v. Pharmacies;
 - vi. Gas Bars and Convenience Stores;
 - vii. Banks;
 - viii. Liquor Stores;
 - ix. Greenhouses;
 - x. Media;
 - xi. Workplaces where persons are engaged in the provision of essential services including but not limited to, health and social service providers, postal service workers, correctional officers, 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; and
 - xii. Workplaces where persons are engaged in the construction of public and Indigenous infrastructure projects and the mineral and petroleum resources industry.
- f. Any other business or facility not listed in paragraph 3(e) may seek approval from the Chief Public Health Officer to permit more than 25 persons in any indoor location and more than 50 persons in any outdoor



location. If approved, they must comply with any further direction from the Chief Public Health Officer.

Exemptions

4. 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 section 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 section 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 about this order, or wishes to apply for an approval or exemption related to this order can contact Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297. Persons can obtain a copy of this order from Protect NWT or from <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/>.

This order is effective June 12, 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