

## Community Update – August 7, 2020

### Emerging Wisely Current State: Relaxing Phase 2 – Next Steps

#### Criteria for Self-Isolation Exemptions to Isolate in a Non-hub Community

The Travel Restrictions and Self-isolation order continues to identify Inuvik, Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith as the four designated communities that people must self-isolate in.

There have been concerns raised recently with respect to NWT residents requesting and having special approval granted to isolate in non-designated communities. The Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) has taken steps to ensure the enforcement of the travel restriction and self-isolation order is implemented with compassion and flexibility in mind, however, there remains some misunderstanding of the approach around when, or under what circumstance such an approval would be granted

There are two very clear criteria, one of which must be met when granting an exemption:

1. There must be a tangible need to recognize that a degree of compassion be exercised
2. There must be some scenario that suggests the situation meets an exceptional circumstance

*Please review the Thresholds for Criteria for Self-Isolation Exemptions document for more details*

#### Compassionate, Exceptional and Family Reunification Exemptions to Self-Isolation

The Office of the CPHO will also consider compassionate, family reunification and other exceptional circumstance exemptions from travel restrictions on a case-by-case basis. These exemptions are approved by the Office of the CPHO, not the Town of Norman Wells.

#### What is considered a Compassionate, Family Reunification or an Exceptional Circumstance Exemption?

##### Compassionate Exemption

- Death or illness in the family
- Childcare needs
- Fleeing domestic violence

##### Family Reunification

Reunite with an NWT resident(s) that fall into at least one of the following groups:

- Immediate family member
- Close relation

##### Exceptional

- Retrieval or drop off of family member or property
- Pre-relocation house hunting trip

Applicants must file a self-isolation plan with ProtectNWT...submitted well in advance of travel dates and return to the NWT.

If you do not fit one of these categories and are seeking an exemption, contact ProtectNWT by emailing [protectnwt@gov.nt.ca](mailto:protectnwt@gov.nt.ca) or calling 8-1-1 or 1-833-378-8297 for guidance on how to submit a request.