



## **Emerging Wisely Current State: Relaxing Phase 2 – Next Steps Community Update – January 8, 2021**

### **Moderna Vaccine Quick facts:**

- The first vaccines were delivered in the NWT December 31, 2020 to long term care residents and staff in Behchoko and Yellowknife.
- The Moderna vaccine was selected as the most viable vaccine option for all three territories due to its ability to be shipped and stored to remote communities at a normal freezer temperature.
- A resident requires two doses of vaccine given four (4) weeks apart to build immunity against COVID-19.
- The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority has redeployed or hired an additional 43 nurses and 18 logisticians to roll out the vaccine in NWT communities.
- Travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements will not be lifted immediately upon administration of the vaccine. They will be re-evaluated as vaccination levels rise across the territory, and across Canada.
- This phased approach for delivery, as described in the Strategy, identifies priority groups are as follow:
  - Advanced age: the risk of COVID-19 severity starts to increase after age 60. Most vulnerable in this category are those who live in long-term care facilities or in shared living environments.
  - Existing chronic disease and multiple medical conditions: residents with conditions like chronic lung, kidney, or heart disease are at greater risk for experiencing severe form of COVID-19 and its complications. Those who travel outside the NWT regularly for medical care are at even greater risk.
  - Likelihood of transmitting COVID-19 to those at high risk of severe illness and death is another important consideration. This risk group may include frontline health care workers, or those who provide care to high-risk vulnerable populations.
  - Resident workers who live in NWT but work regularly out of territory or at work camps with out-of-territory workers are at elevated risk of acquiring COVID-19 and transmitting to family, household members or those in the community.
  - Living in a remote community, including Indigenous communities, with limited health infrastructure in comparison to larger centers.

For more information, please call the Town Office at 867-587-3700 during our regular business hours of 8:30am-5:00pm or email [towninformation@normawells.com](mailto:towninformation@normawells.com)