



Public Health Order – COVID-19 RELAXING PHASE 1 (effective May 15, 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 May 13, 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 April 27, 2020 to address travel restrictions and self-isolation protocol (“the April 27, 2020 order”) which remains in effect;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer issued an Order dated April 11, 2020 prohibiting certain gatherings and directing certain businesses be closed (“the April 11, 2020 order”);

The Chief Public Health Officer, in accordance with subsection 42(e) of the Act hereby revokes the April 11, 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 10 persons in an indoor location.



- b. Any persons gathering in an indoor location shall maintain a physical distance of 2 metres or more 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 not be played with the exception of indoor tennis and badminton.
- 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 25 people in an outdoor location.
- h. Any persons gathering in an outdoor location shall maintain a physical distance of 2 metres or more 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, with the exception of rugby. 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 25 persons in any outdoor location.



- i. Outdoor gatherings may exceed 25 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 25 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 1](#) 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 10 persons in any indoor location and more than 25 persons in any outdoor location, and all persons who attend a business or facility shall maintain a physical distance of 2 metres or more from persons who do not reside in their household.

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;
 - iii. swimming pools;
 - iv. indoor portions of bars and nightclubs;
 - v. indoor theatres and movie theatres;
 - vi. indoor dine-in portions of restaurants; and
 - vii. colleges, adult learning facilities, and trade schools; and
 - viii. dental offices, with the exception of emergency services.



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 in paragraph 3(a) and (c) limitations are imposed on certain businesses and facilities as follows:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Children's summer camps may operate, provided organizers seek prior approval from the Chief Public Health Officer and comply with any further directions issued.
 - iii. Gyms and fitness centres may operate, but shall be limited, in any indoor location, to personal training to a single client or a single group of clients who are all from the same household. Group fitness classes may be offered in an outdoor location.
 - iv. Golf courses and ski clubs may operate, provided that indoor clubhouses remain closed.
 - v. Outdoor tourism operators may operate, provided no more than 10 persons are permitted in one vehicle at any time.
 - vi. 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 10 persons per floor or office location.
 - vii. Restaurants and bars may offer take-out and food delivery, and food trucks may operate. Restaurants and bars may operate outdoor



dining areas and patios, subject to prior approval from the Chief Public Health Officer.

viii. Libraries may operate by appointment only.

Essential Businesses

- e. The following essential businesses and facilities are permitted to have more than 10 persons in any indoor location and more than 25 persons in any outdoor location provided that they limit in-person staff to the minimum number of staff required to carry out operations and that physical distancing of at least 2 metres between persons can be maintained where possible:
- i. Dental clinics – for emergency procedures only;
 - 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 workers, 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 10 persons in any indoor location and more than 25 persons in any outdoor location. If approved, they must ensure physical distancing of at least 2 metres between persons is maintained and comply with any further direction from the Chief Public Health Officer.



Parks and Campgrounds

- g. Campgrounds, including private campgrounds and public campgrounds that are within a Territorial Park which have been developed to accommodate campers, are closed to persons for the purpose of overnight camping.
- h. Public parks and outdoor recreational areas may open or remain open. This includes, but is not limited to, Wayside Parks as set out in the *Wayside Parks Regulations* made pursuant to the *Territorial Parks Act*, municipal parks, beaches, playgrounds, and outdoor cook shelters. For greater certainty, persons may attend at public parks and outdoor recreational areas as long as they comply with paragraph 2 of this order.
- i. All indoor communal cook shelters, and public washrooms which have showers available, and which are located in public parks, are closed to the public. No person shall enter into or use indoor communal cook shelters, and public washrooms which have showers available, as set out earlier in this paragraph.

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 May 15, 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