



NOT IN EFFECT UNTIL OCTOBER 22, 2021

Public Health Order – NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER (effective October 22, 2021)

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 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 issued Public Health Order – COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER - RELAXING RESTRICTIONS (effective June 29, 2021), which included gathering restrictions (“the June 29, 2021 order”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer has assessed the risk to the public health and now wishes to amend the indoor and outdoor gathering restrictions within the Northwest Territories;

The Chief Public Health Officer, in accordance with subsection 42(e) of the Act hereby amends the June 29, 2021 order as follows:

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 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, shall self-isolate and contact a local health care provider.

Restrictions on Gatherings

2. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purposes of decreasing the effect of or eliminating a health hazard 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:



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Dwelling Places

- a. Persons are prohibited from having more than 5 persons from outside their household in a dwelling place, and from having more than a total of 10 persons in that dwelling place at any one time, except that 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. Persons in a dwelling place in accordance with this part (a) are not required to physically distance. Dancing, singing and playing of wind and brass instruments in a dwelling place are prohibited when persons from outside the household are present.
- b. Notwithstanding part (a) of this paragraph, a household where all persons residing in the dwelling place are:
 - i. fully vaccinated, or
 - ii. under the age of 12 years of age;may permit up to 25 fully vaccinated persons in their dwelling place at any one time. Persons in a dwelling place in accordance with this part (b) are not required to physically distance.

Gatherings other than at Dwelling Places

- c. Persons are prohibited from gathering and persons, businesses (including restaurants and bars), organizations and facilities are prohibited from permitting persons to gather at an indoor or outdoor location, unless the persons, businesses, organizations and facilities:
 - i. (a) permit no more than 25 persons to be present at their indoor location at any one time, and
(b) permit no more than 50 persons to be present at their outdoor location at any one time;
 - ii. ensure a physical distance of at least 2 metres from any person who is not a member of their group can be maintained by each person;
 - iii. if required to do so pursuant to section 88 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* made pursuant to the *Safety Act*, develop and implement an exposure control plan, to eliminate or minimize worker exposure to COVID-19. Employers shall make the completed plan readily available, on request from a Public Health Officer; and
 - iv. in the case of persons playing indoor or outdoor sports and persons, businesses, organizations and facilities permitting indoor or outdoor sports at their indoor or outdoor location, ensure players adhere to COVID-19 guidelines from their national and provincial sports organizations, where



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applicable, and maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from other players when possible.

- d. A person, business, organization or facility that is unable to meet the restrictions at part (c) of this paragraph or that wishes to permit gatherings in numbers higher than the limits set out at part (c)(i), may permit persons to gather and persons may gather at an indoor or outdoor location provided they submit an Application to Vary from Public Health Order Requirements to Protect NWT for this purpose and that application is approved by the Chief Public Health Officer. The gathering must proceed in compliance with any approval conditions, which will be set out on a Certificate of Approval, which is required to be posted at a location readily visible to the public near the entrance to the location.

Where the Certificate of Approval requires persons attending the location to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and for the person, business, organization or facility to verify proof of being fully vaccinated to permit entry, persons entering the indoor or outdoor location who are 12 years of age or older must provide government issued photo identification prior to entry and one of the following pieces of documentation, which includes their name, showing that they are fully vaccinated:

- i. a Northwest Territories issued Proof of Vaccination Credential (available at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/request/proof-vaccination> or at a local health centre);
 - ii. an official Vaccination History record issued by the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority, the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority or the Tlicho Community Services Agency;
 - iii. a proof of vaccination form from a jurisdiction outside the Northwest Territories that provides the person's name and at least one of the following:
 - (a) date of birth,
 - (b) healthcare card number,
 - (c) address, or
 - (d) an inter-jurisdictional QR code; or
 - iv. an official exemption from vaccination document issued by the Chief Public Health Officer for those persons who are unable to receive an approved COVID-19 vaccine for medical or other approved reasons. Requests for approval of an exemption with supporting documentation can be submitted to Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca.
- e. Notwithstanding part (c) of this paragraph, the following essential businesses and facilities may exceed the limits on gatherings set out at (c)(i) without complying



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with the requirements of part (d), provided they limit in-person staff to the minimum number of staff required to carry out operations and comply with any conditions that may be imposed by the Chief Public Health Officer:

- 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.

Additional Restrictions

- f. Notwithstanding part (c) of this paragraph, persons are prohibited from engaging in and persons, businesses (including restaurants and bars), organizations and facilities are prohibited from permitting persons to engage in:
 - i. indoor dancing;
 - ii. indoor singing;
 - iii. indoor playing of wind and brass instruments;
 - iv. traditional hand games;
 - v. indoor contact sports;
 - vi. indoor high intensity fitness classes;
 - vii. indoor winter sports; and
 - viii. indoor swimming



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except in accordance with an approval from the Chief Public Health Officer, which can be requested by submitting an Application to Vary from Public Health Order Requirements to Protect NWT. The activity must proceed in compliance with any approval conditions, which will be set out on a Certificate of Approval, which is required to be posted at a location readily visible to the public near the entrance to the location where the activity will take place.

- g. Notwithstanding any other part of this paragraph, indoor and outdoor religious or non-religious funerals or celebrations of life are prohibited, except in accordance with an approval or exemption from the Chief Public Health Officer.

Other

- h. A person is “fully vaccinated” for the purposes of this order fourteen (14) days after receiving the final dose of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine or an approved combination of Health Canada authorized vaccines.
- i. Educational institutions, early learning and child care programs, before/after school child care programs, daycares and day homes are exempt from this order and may operate provided they continue to adhere to existing plans as approved by the Chief Public Health Officer.

Approvals and Exemptions

- 3. Except as specifically set out in this order, any previously issued approvals or exemptions issued to persons, businesses (including restaurants and bars), facilities and organizations pursuant to any previous public health orders dealing with gathering restrictions are no longer valid. Persons, businesses, facilities and organizations seeking an approval or exemption must reapply for an approval or exemption by the Chief Public Health Officer under this order.
- 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*.



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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 and can obtain a copy of this Order from Protect NWT or from <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19>.

This order is effective October 22, 2021 at 5:00pm and remains in effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, unless otherwise rescinded.

Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer