



**EMBARGOED until June 12, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. MST**

## **Backgrounder: Amendments to the Travel Restrictions**

### **What's Happening?**

The Chief Public Health Officer of the Northwest Territories is making changes to the Northwest Territories (NWT) travel restrictions to establish and clarify requirements for existing and additional categories of travellers entering the NWT, and to permit travel between the NWT and Nunavut.

### **What are the changes?**

Those coming up to the Northwest Territories to work, including just for a short-term on contract, will be able to travel and proceed to communities in the Northwest Territories.

They will need to complete a Worker Self-Isolation Plan and have it approved before they arrive and will need to self-isolate for 14 days once they arrive.

The changes also formalize how ProtectNWT has been managing those wanting to move and take up permanent residency in the Northwest Territories. New residents will need to submit a Resident Self-Isolation Plan and have it approved before they travel within the NWT and will need to self-isolate for their first 14 days.

In both cases, documentation will need to be provided to show the intent to work in or move to the NWT.

Those falling into each of these categories will need to provide this documentation when they file a Self-Isolation Plan (SIP) **before traveling within the territory** in order to have it verified.

The changes also clarify that out of territory students enrolled in a post-secondary institution in the NWT need to complete a Resident Self-Isolation Plan and self-isolate for their first 14 days after arriving.

The changes to the Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol also expand the NWT bubble to include Nunavut. Now persons traveling from Nunavut, who have not recently traveled anywhere else beforehand, will be able to travel within the NWT without self-isolating when arriving.

The Order also allows the Chief Public Health Officer to grant exceptional circumstance approvals to non-resident family members to visit for the purposes of family reunification and to others for compassionate reasons, such as attending a funeral.



### What are they meant to achieve?

- Make sure those coming to the territory are isolating for an incubation cycle to stop the chain of infection early.
- Clarify requirements for those traveling within the Northwest Territories to work.
- Allow families to re-unify.
- Clarify rules for post-secondary students.

### What does that look like going forward?

Individuals entering the territory, who do not meet the criteria outlined in one of the exemptions, are not allowed to travel within the Northwest Territories.

If they arrive at a NWT border checkpoint by road, **it is an offense to proceed to our communities**

If they arrive at an airport and a return flight is not immediately available **they will be directed to self-isolate at a designated isolation facility until the next available flight. It is an offense to proceed to our communities**

If they arrive by water, **it is an offense to proceed to our communities.**

Everyone after entering the Northwest Territories must self-isolate for 14 days – unless they have an exemption. Those exemptions for essential workers, those coming up to support them with services like childcare, remote camp workers, and infrastructure workers, remain the same.

Self-isolation must still be completed in one of the four hubs with few exceptions.