

Date : 10/2/2020 4:27:12 PM

From : "Greg Paul" Greg_Paul@gov.nt.ca

To : "Adam Scarf" Adam_Scarf@gov.nt.ca, "Addy Loney"

Addy_Loney@gov.nt.ca, "Alan Kopec" Alan_Kopec@gov.nt.ca, "Alastair

Gamble" Alastair_Gamble@gov.nt.ca, "Alexander Jordan"

Alexander_Jordan@gov.nt.ca, "Andrea Heron" Andrea_Heron@gov.nt.ca,

"Andrew Auger" Andrew_Auger@gov.nt.ca, "Andrew Bucknor"

Andrew_Bucknor@gov.nt.ca, "Aneesh Prabhakaran"

Aneesh_Prabhakaran@gov.nt.ca, "Angela Chandler"

Angela_Chandler@gov.nt.ca, "Anila Aisha" Anila_Aisha@gov.nt.ca, "Anna

O'Neill" Anna_O'Neill@gov.nt.ca, "Avery Parle" Avery_Parle@gov.nt.ca,

"Barbara Deakin" Barbara_Deakin@gov.nt.ca, "Billie-Jean Smith" Billie-

Jean_Smith@gov.nt.ca, "Brad Dusome" Brad_Dusome@gov.nt.ca, "Brandi

Sneath" Brandi_Sneath@gov.nt.ca, "Brenda Colbourne"

Brenda_Colbourne@gov.nt.ca, "Brent Horn" Brent_Horn@gov.nt.ca, "Brett

Scarf" Brett_Scarf@gov.nt.ca, "Brian A.B Eckersley"

Brian_Eckersley@gov.nt.ca, "Bridget O'Keefe" Bridget_O'Keefe@gov.nt.ca,

"Chris Comeau" Chris_Comeau@gov.nt.ca, "Chris Parsons"

Chris_Parsons@gov.nt.ca, "Chris Pedersen" Chris_Pedersen@gov.nt.ca,

"Christopher Gillis" Christopher_Gillis@gov.nt.ca, "Clayton Bell"

Clayton_Bell@gov.nt.ca, "Clayton Broadbent"

Clayton_Broadbent@gov.nt.ca, "Cole Cameron" Cole_Cameron@gov.nt.ca,

"Collin Sheppard" Collin_Sheppard@gov.nt.ca, "Cory Langer"

Cory_Langer@gov.nt.ca, "Curtis Gibeau" Curtis_Gibeau@gov.nt.ca, "Curtis

Jones" Curtis_Jones@gov.nt.ca, "Curtis M. Gibeau"

Curtis_Gibeau2@gov.nt.ca, "Dafydd Bellis" Dafydd_Bellis@gov.nt.ca,

"Daniel Duval" Daniel_Duval@gov.nt.ca, "Daniel Risk"

Daniel_Risk@gov.nt.ca, "Darrel Ouellette" Darrel_Ouellette@gov.nt.ca,

"Darren Bilinski" Darren_Bilinski@gov.nt.ca, "Darren Cochrane"

Darren_Cochrane@gov.nt.ca, "Dawn Radix" Dawn_Radix@gov.nt.ca, "Dawn

Skinner" Dawn_Skinner@gov.nt.ca, "Dean DaCorte"

Dean_DaCorte@gov.nt.ca, "Dean Lushman" Dean_Lushman@gov.nt.ca,

"Debra Rosse" Debra_Rosse@gov.nt.ca, "Del Koros" Del_Koros@gov.nt.ca,

"Derek Bran" Derek_Bran@gov.nt.ca, "Dezerae Pidborochynski"

Dezerae_Pidborochynski@gov.nt.ca, "Diane Wiseman"

Diane_Wiseman@gov.nt.ca, "Don Cameron" Don_Cameron@gov.nt.ca,

"Drake Snook" Drake_Snook@gov.nt.ca, "Edward Patten"

Edward_Patten@gov.nt.ca, "Eliezer Asombrado"

Eliezer_Asombrado@gov.nt.ca, "Elvisi Hwata" Elvisi_Hwata@gov.nt.ca,

"Erik Couture" Erik_Couture@gov.nt.ca, "Ernest Chassie"

Ernest_Chassie@gov.nt.ca, "Frank Hope" Frank_Hope@gov.nt.ca, "Garett

Ashlie" Garrett_Ashlie@gov.nt.ca, "Geno Holick" Geno_Holick@gov.nt.ca,

"Geoff Green" Geoff_Green@gov.nt.ca, "Ginny Paul"

Ginny_Paul@gov.nt.ca, "Greg Krivda" Greg_Krivda@gov.nt.ca, "Gregory

Brandford" Gregory_Brandford@gov.nt.ca, "Isaac Embodo"

Isaac_Embodo@gov.nt.ca, "Jacob Parsons" Jacob_Parsons@gov.nt.ca,

"James McKay" James_McKay@gov.nt.ca, "James Millar"

James_Millar@gov.nt.ca, "Jaret Moshenko" Jaret_Moshenko@gov.nt.ca,

"Jason Winsor" Jason_Winsor@gov.nt.ca, "Jean-Claude Ouellette-Landry" Jean-Claude_Ouellette-Landry@gov.nt.ca, "Jean-Philippe Talbot" Jean-Philippe_Talbot@gov.nt.ca, "Jennifer Grant" Jennifer_Grant@gov.nt.ca, "Jenny Thompson" Jenny_Thompson@gov.nt.ca, "Jeremy Stannard" Jeremy_Stannard@gov.nt.ca, "Jessica Jonasson" Jessica_Jonasson@gov.nt.ca, "Jimmy-Lee Scott" Jimmy-Lee_Scott@gov.nt.ca, "Jody Brandford" Jody_Brandford@gov.nt.ca, "Joe Campeau" Joe_Campeau@gov.nt.ca, "John Dzurka" John_Dzurka@gov.nt.ca, "Jon Seeton" Jon_Seeton@gov.nt.ca, "Jonathon Menton" Jonathon_Menton@gov.nt.ca, "Jordan Evans" Jordan_Evans@gov.nt.ca, "Joseph Jensen" Joseph_Jensen@gov.nt.ca, "Joseph MacIntosh" Joseph_MacIntosh@gov.nt.ca, "Joshua W Osmond" Joshua_Osmond@gov.nt.ca, "Justin J. Bailey" Justin_Bailey@gov.nt.ca, "Justina Beaverho" Justina_Beaverho@gov.nt.ca, "Kelly Stevens" Kelly_Stevens@gov.nt.ca, "Kelsi R. Taylor" Kelsi_Taylor@gov.nt.ca, "Kenneth Harrison" Kenneth_Harrison@gov.nt.ca, "Kenneth Stewart" Kenneth_Stewart@gov.nt.ca, "Kevin Stevens" Kevin_Stevens@gov.nt.ca, "Kim Bergman" Kim_Bergman@gov.nt.ca, "Kyra Powder" Kyra_Powder@gov.nt.ca, "Laura Bain" Laura_Bain@gov.nt.ca, "Leanne Niziol" Leanne_Niziol@gov.nt.ca, "Leonard Brotherston" Leonard_Brotherston@gov.nt.ca, "Les J. Walters" Les_Walters2@gov.nt.ca, "Lesley Muyres" Lesley_Muyres@gov.nt.ca, "Lidya Mcleod" Lidya_Mcleod@gov.nt.ca, "Lindsey Mailloux" Lindsey_Mailloux@gov.nt.ca, "Lisa Hann" Lisa_Hann@gov.nt.ca, "Lorraine Gagnon" Lorraine_Gagnon@gov.nt.ca, "Louise Boutilier" Louise_Boutilier@gov.nt.ca, "Magnus A Palsson" Magnus_Palsson@gov.nt.ca, "Margaret Edwards" Margaret_Edwards@gov.nt.ca, "Martin James" Martin_James@gov.nt.ca, "Matthew Lodge" Matthew_Lodge@gov.nt.ca, "Matthew Simms" Matthew_Simms@gov.nt.ca, "Megan Stevens" Megan_Stevens@gov.nt.ca, "Michael Bourque" Michael_Bourque@gov.nt.ca, "Michael Ross" Michael_Ross@gov.nt.ca, "Michaelis Harrison" Michaelis_Harrison2@gov.nt.ca, "Michelle Richards" Michelle_Richards@gov.nt.ca, "Mike Best" Mike_Best@gov.nt.ca, "Mike Desjarlais" Mike_Desjarlais@gov.nt.ca, "Molly Pilgrim" Monica_Pilgrim@gov.nt.ca, "Natalie Decker" Natalie_Decker@gov.nt.ca, "Natasha Jordan" Natasha_Jordan@gov.nt.ca, "Nelson Muchekeni" Nelson_Muchekeni@gov.nt.ca, "Nicholas Walker" Nicholas_Walker@gov.nt.ca, "Nick Macintosh" Nick_Macintosh@gov.nt.ca, "Nicole Normandin" Nicole_Normandin@gov.nt.ca, "Nikhil G Mathew" Nikhil_G_Mathew@gov.nt.ca, "Nineta Carp" Nineta_Carp@gov.nt.ca, "Omar Ehtesham" Omar_Ehtesham@gov.nt.ca, "Patrick J Crozier" Patrick_Crozier@gov.nt.ca, "Patrick Osmond" Patrick_Osmond@gov.nt.ca, "Paul Hann" Paul_Hann@gov.nt.ca, "Paul M. Jones" Paul_Jones@gov.nt.ca, "Pratheesh S. Saratchandran" Pratheesh_Sarat@gov.nt.ca, "Ricardo Drover" Ricardo_Drover@gov.nt.ca, "Richard Deutschmann" Richard_Deutschmann@gov.nt.ca, "Richard Keppel" Richard_Keppel@gov.nt.ca, "Rielle Nakehk'o" Rielle_Nakehk'o@gov.nt.ca, "Rob Cook" Rob_Cook@gov.nt.ca, "Robert Beaulieu"

**robert_beaulieu@gov.nt.ca, "Robert George" Robert_George@gov.nt.ca,
"Robert Purcka" Robert_Purcka@gov.nt.ca, "Robert Warburton"
Robert_Warburton@gov.nt.ca, "Rodney Gallant"
Rodney_Gallant@gov.nt.ca, "Ron Leonardis" Ron_Leonardis@gov.nt.ca,
"Ronald Lafond" Ronald_Lafond@gov.nt.ca, "Rosalie Blair"
Rosalie_Blair@gov.nt.ca, "Roxanne Farrell" Roxanne_Farrell@gov.nt.ca,
"Russell Spear" Russell_Spear@gov.nt.ca, "Ryan Hughson"
Ryan_Hughson@gov.nt.ca, "Sam Hicks" Sam_Hicks@gov.nt.ca, "Scott
Galusha" Scott_Galusha@gov.nt.ca, "Scott Smith" Scott_Smith@gov.nt.ca,
"Sean Dalton" Sean_Dalton@gov.nt.ca, "Sean Purcell"
Sean_Purcell@gov.nt.ca, "Sharon Lambert" Sharon_Lambert@gov.nt.ca,
"Shawn Vassallo" Shawn_Vassallo@gov.nt.ca, "Shawna Lafond"
Shawna_Lafond@gov.nt.ca, "Sheldon Keenan" Sheldon_Keenan@gov.nt.ca,
"Sherayah Clark" Sherayah_Clark@gov.nt.ca, "Sibongile Lusinga"
Sibongile_Lusinga@gov.nt.ca, "Stephanie Bauhaus"
Stephanie_Bauhaus@gov.nt.ca, "Stephanie Van Dyke"
Stephanie_VanDyke@gov.nt.ca, "Stephen Purcell"
Stephen_Purcell@gov.nt.ca, "Steven Bounds" Steven_Bounds@gov.nt.ca,
"Stuart Mawby" Stuart_Mawby@gov.nt.ca, "Ted Hughson"
Ted_Hughson@gov.nt.ca, "Terry Wallis" Terry_Wallis@gov.nt.ca, "Travis
Kamitomo" Travis_Kamitomo@gov.nt.ca, "Travis Rosborough"
Travis_Rosborough@gov.nt.ca, "Trevor Lizotte" Trevor_Lizotte@gov.nt.ca,
"Tyler Pond" Tyler_Pond@gov.nt.ca, "Veronica Kelsey"
Veronica_Kelsey@gov.nt.ca, "Wes Jones" Wes_Jones@gov.nt.ca, "William
Doug Wiseman" WilliamDoug_Wiseman@gov.nt.ca, "William Rintoul"
William_Rintoul@gov.nt.ca, "Wonderful Ndhlovu"
Wonderful_Ndhlovu@gov.nt.ca, "Yosuke Fukushima"
Yosuke_Fukushima@gov.nt.ca
Cc : "John Nahanni" John_Nahanni@gov.nt.ca, "Scott Mills"
Scott_Mills@gov.nt.ca
Subject : Staff on COVID-19 Restrictions/Information**

Good Day,

All Risk Assessments for staff that have been approved by Protect NWT to return to work under restrictions are currently being emailed by Mr. Bailey to the DWO's. The risk assessments will continue to be emailed and we have placed a binder labelled " Staff on COVID-19 Restrictions" in the DWO office for a copy of the risk assessment so the information is readily available to all supervisors.

Staff in the workplace are required to maintain social distancing at all times and anyone on restrictions should not be taking their lunch/supper breaks with other staff as this places others at risk when removing the PPE to eat, some alternatives are eating in different locations or outside of the normal gathering times. The Supervisors will continue to monitor the requirements and all staff have the responsibility to follow social distancing, staff on restrictions have the responsibility to ensure that all precautions in the risk assessment for the return to work are followed with no exceptions.

As always if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks

Greg Paul

Assistant Warden-Operations

Department of Justice/Corrections

Government of the Northwest Territories | Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

North Slave Correctional Complex

71 Kam Lake Rd

P.O. Box 278

Yellowknife NT X1A 2N2

Phone | Tél. : 867-669-8652

www.gov.nt.ca

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Date : 10/16/2020 12:16:49 PM

From : "Jaret Moshenko" Jaret_Moshenko@gov.nt.ca

To : "Blair VanMetre" Blair_VanMetre@gov.nt.ca, "John Nahanni"

John_Nahanni@gov.nt.ca, "Sean Fowler" Sean_Fowler@gov.nt.ca, "Lorraine McDonald" Lorraine_McDonald@gov.nt.ca, "Warren Gillis"

Warren_Gillis@gov.nt.ca

Subject : FW: HEALTH PRACTITIONER ALERT- COVID-19 UPDATES

Attachment : ALERT- Healthcare Professional Guidance Documents Update October 16.pdf;

From: Sarah Bembridge

Sent: October 16, 2020 12:05 PM

To: Kami Kandola; Deidre Falck; Caroline NewBerry; Heather Hannah; Edith Lee; Melanie Kearley; Barb Lennie; Judy Steele; Laura Seddon; STH Pharmacy; IRHSSA Pharmacy; rebecca_nash@tlichonet.net; Colleen Murphy; Ronald Melanson; Amy Stipdonk; Andrea Donovan; Chris Bessey; Lorie Steinwand; Meegan Nicholson; Andy Delli Pizzi; Anna Bergen; Sarah Bembridge; Julie A Miller; NIC Paulatuk; NIC Aklavik; NIC Fort Liard; NIC Fort Simpson; NIC FORTPROV; NIC Ft_Mcpherson; NIC FtRes; NIC Lutselke; NIC Sachs Harbour; NIC Tuktoyaktuk; NIC Ulukhaktok; DST_SHSSA_NIC Deline; DST_SHSSA_NIC Fort Good Hope; DST_SHSSA_NIC Norman Wells; DST_SHSSA_NIC Tulita; Samantha Thomas; Jeannine Gaulin; Megan Russell; Kelly Irwin; Kristin Richardson; Carolyn Coey; Megan Wood; Jaret Moshenko; Alietha Mckay; Jenelle Hurley; Myrna Matheson; Carolyn Ridgley; NTHSSA Practitioners; Lindsay Wood; Joanne Engram; Athena Wells; Sara Nash; Dale Snow; Liba Stewart; Leah MacDonald; Jennifer Daley Bernier; David Moore; Kitty Dang; Peter Workman; Madeleine Endicott; Lorie-Anne Danielson; Karyn Unrau; ournthssa; David Maguire; Damien Healy; Umesh Sutendra; Jodi Brennan; NickWithers@oems.ca; Nathalie.Sleno@forces.gc.ca; Holly Rein; Sarah Jeffrey; Fraser Lennie; Mahen Manickum; Susan Murdoch; Ryan Hewlett; Keith Carter; Christina Carter; Lisa Rayner; Alanah Jansen; lorna_scott@tlichonet.net; Sara Nash; carolyn_smith@tlichonet.net; Mike Westwick; Alexandra Turner-Davis; Karen Pardy; Jane Van Toen; Jill Rivera; Jennifer Daley; andrea.j.janzen@exxonmobil.com; Michelle J. Smith; Crystal Walsh; Erin Wyman; jenkinsk@nf.sympatico.ca; andrea.j.janzen@exxonmobil.com

Subject: HEALTH PRACTITIONER ALERT- COVID-19 UPDATES

Importance: High

Hello everyone,

Sent On Behalf of the Deputy Chief Public Health Office- Andy Delli Pizzi, MD
MSc FCFP FRCPC

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

October 16, 2020

**Alert RE: UPDATED CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS: October 16, 2020**

This alert is intended for frontline health care providers (HCPs). Please share widely with those who may not be on the list, especially locum practitioners and nurses.

All OCPHO notifications are located on the NTHSSA ournthssa website:
<https://ournthssa.ca/category/public-health-notices/>

Issue:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Julie Green extended the territory-wide Public Health Emergency under the Northwest Territories' Public Health Act on the advice of Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Dr. Kami Kandola.

The latest extension continues through October 27, 2020.

With neighbouring jurisdictions reporting increasing COVID-19 infections, the risk of introduction of infections to the Northwest Territories remains high. The OCPHO recommends healthcare providers exercise diligence when assessing individuals with exposure criteria and consult the OCPHO when questions arise regarding isolation of individuals and potential risks to the public.

To date, the NWT reports 5 confirmed recovered cases, and 3 new presumptive positive. <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/>

All Health and Social Service systems are working vigorously to support COVID 19 initiatives and meet the demands of the changing priorities of the global COVID 19 pandemic. The CPHO continues to evaluate and provide direction to identify priorities on increased testing, surveillance, and planning contact tracing efforts.

Current Public Health Orders

To limit the introduction and spread of COVID-19, the Chief Public Health Officer has issued the following public health orders that residents must follow:

- [Public Health Order – COVID-19 Relaxing Phase 2 \(effective June 12, 2020\)](#) – restricts indoor gatherings to 25 or less and outdoor get-togethers of 50 or less; while allowing more businesses and facilities to open.
- [Mineral and Petroleum Industry](#) (June 25, 2020) – requires mining and oil and gas industries to take a number of measures to protect public health and continue safe operations at all mining and gas projects in the NWT.
- [Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol](#) (As Amended July 16, 2020) – amendments apply to resident supply-chain workers and resident flight crews and airline employees to codify the precautions they must take during the course of their work to mitigate public health risks.

The CPHO also released [Emerging Wisely – Path to Eased Public Health Restrictions](#) (July 30, 2020)- to guide NWT's staged approach to public health restrictions.

Response: **New updated recommendation**

The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) advises that clinicians consider and test for COVID-19 for anyone with:

1 or more of fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath **AND/OR**

2 or more of tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat, runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, vomiting or loss of taste or smell.

Clinicians should also test if they have specific concerns for COVID-19 (e.g. severe respiratory infection or other symptoms of concern).

Individuals who meet testing criteria that are not definitively attributable to another cause and decline COVID 19 should isolate for 10 days and ensure complete symptom resolution to discontinue isolation.

OCPHO recommends asymptomatic testing of individuals named as contacts of COVID-19 on day 10 of isolation. The purpose is not to end isolation early but to detect asymptomatic infections. **NEW/Updated**

Guidance on Immunized Individuals who may become Symptomatic **NEW/Updated**

The influenza vaccine is very safe and can be very effective at preventing influenza or complications.

Preventing influenza this year is even more important as it provides many benefits to the societal and health care system's COVID-19 response. Preventing influenza can prevent health care assessments, reduce hospitalizations, protect long term care residents, conserve PPE supplies, and maintain testing capacity.

Individuals who receive influenza vaccinations may develop vaccine side effects consistent with COVID-19 symptoms. The OCPHO recommends health authorities exercise caution and diligence when determining risk and considerations for health care providers (HCP's) presenting to work and the public presenting for services as follow:

- Immunized person should be counseled about the risk of short-term self-limited side effects, including local reactions and systemic reactions
- Common side effects following influenza immunization such as low-grade fever, headache, muscle/joint aches, are similar to symptoms for COVID19.
- If a vaccine recipient develops these symptoms after vaccination in the expected timeframe (within 24-48 hours) they should speak with their employer to complete a risk assessment if they are presenting to work with these symptoms.
 - If the individual meets criteria for COVID-19 testing, assessment by an HCP is recommended
- If symptoms develop outside the expected time frame for common side effects of the vaccine the individual should consult an HCP for further assessment.

Reporting: **New/updated information**

As set out in the [NWT Public Health Act, Reportable Disease Control Regulations \(Section 4\) and Disease Surveillance Regulations \(Sections 6-10 and Schedule 3\)](#) health care professionals and laboratories are legally required to report a diagnosis or formed opinion of a reportable disease to the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) or designate **within the timeframe identified in the regulations**.

Health Care Professionals

Report the following **immediately** by telephone to the OCPHO's reporting line (867) 920-8646:

- Confirmed or Probable Cases

- Suspect Cases if:
 - They are hospitalized
 - They who have lived, worked, trained, volunteered or visited a closed facility
- Contacts of a confirmed or probable case
 - All outbreaks or suspect outbreaks
 - [Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in children \(MIS-C\)](#)

Reporting Forms

HCPs must submit COVID-19 investigation reporting forms to the OCPHO in a timely manner, i.e. within 24 hours, or as specified on the form. HCPs must fax the forms to the Medical Confidential fax line (876-873-0442), or send them electronically via [secure file transfer \(SFT\)](#).

1. [COVID-19 Report Form for Testing \(Part A\)](#) for **all** COVID-19 tests including:
 - › suspect cases
 - › symptomatic clients without [exposure criteria](#)
 - › asymptomatic tests

2. For a confirmed or probable case:
 - › [COVID-19 Report Form for Confirmed Case-Part B](#)
 - [COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Form to identify settings of exposures](#)
 - [Contact Line List, submitted upon initiating, updating, or completing a contact investigation](#)
 - [The COVID-19 Case Status Report Form-Part C](#) to report all status updates of the case should submit Part C to report any significant changes in clinical status, and at least once weekly where the status is unchanged, until the case recovers and is non-communicable.

3. For a suspected case of Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), HCPs must submit [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Report Form](#)

Laboratories

Report all positive results **immediately** by telephone to the Reporting Line of the OCPHO (867) 920-8646 and submit the **laboratory report** to the Medical Confidential fax line (867) 873-0442 **within 24 hours**.

Testing: **New/updated information**

Follow Health and Social Services Authority (HSSA) directives regarding testing for COVID-19, and follow [Alberta Precision Laboratories- ProvLab \(APL-ProvLab\)](#) for procedures regarding specimen collection and handling.

- Acceptable specimen types for COVID-19 testing include NP swab, throat swab, NP aspirate, endotracheal tube (ETT) suction/sputum, or bronchoalveolar lavage/bronchial wash (BAL/BW)
- **NP and throat swabs are recommended** over nasal swabs for COVID-19 testing
- Collecting a respiratory sample into Universal Transport Media (UTM) or Viral Transport Media (VTM) allows detection of further respiratory pathogens including RSV and influenza
- Other infections (pertussis, tuberculosis) require specific considerations of sample or media type
- CPHO recommends testing for COVID-19 and at least influenza A, influenza B, and RSV, in the following situations:
 - the person is or will be hospitalized,
 - the person lives, works, trains, volunteers in, or visited a closed facility and has COVID-19 symptoms or [influenza like illness \(ILI\)](#)
- CPHO will provide separate guidance regarding influenza or RSV surveillance
- For patients with a lower respiratory tract infection and who are intubated, HCPs should submit a sample from ETT suction or BAL/BW for COVID-19 RT-PCR
- CPHO or delegate, or HSSA may recommend asymptomatic testing for specific populations as the pandemic evolves
- Clients may refuse testing however [appropriate isolation guidance](#) must still be followed as indicated
- For more information about diagnostic tests and education on collection method, refer to [ProvLab and NTHSSA for laboratory guidance](#):
 - [Guide to services](#)
 - [Laboratory Bulletins](#)
 - [NTHSSA Lab Memos](#)

Management of cases, probable cases, and contacts: **New/Updated**

Other jurisdictions experiencing a high volume of COVID-19 cases have identified challenges with maintaining the demand of contact tracing. It is important more than ever to ensure that when clients communicate to local public health and health centres of exposure to COVID-19 cases outside of Territory that diligence is taken to assess, isolate and consult the OCPHO.

The coordination of streamlined contact tracing from our local public health units and regional health authority is paramount to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Timely diagnosis is essential. A priority at point of assessment is to communicate the importance of maintaining isolation requirements. Further resources for management of cases and contacts includes:

- The free *Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada Contact tracing training course*. To register for any of these courses as part of the *Contract Tracing Learning Path*, please visit <https://training-formation.phac-aspc.gc.ca/> and click on "Health Emergency Management".
- Case management, contact identification, and contact follow up outlined in the COVID 19 Communicable Disease Chapter for Public Health Disease Management in the Northwest Territories <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/professionals/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
 - Additional guidance on isolation of case, contacts and household members can be found in the [COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Public Health Disease Management for the Northwest Territories, Appendix B:](#)

[Isolation Requirements for Individuals and their Household Members with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposures](#)

New and Updated Resources for Health Care Providers and the general public:
New/updated information

HSS Health Professional Site: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/professionals/en>

- [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID 19\) Interim Public Health Diseases Management for the Northwest Territories](#) **(NEW October, 16 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Report Form \(For Suspected Cases\)](#) - Part A Downloadable Word Document **(May 13, 2020)** ***This form's name will change to COVID-19 Report form for Testing***
- [COVID-19 Report Form \(For Confirmed Cases\)](#) - Part B Downloadable Word Document **(NEW August 11, 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Report Form \(Case Status Update\)](#) - Part C Downloadable Word Document **(NEW August 11, 2020)**

Contact Tracing Resources

- [Interim Public Health Management of Persons with COVID-19 Exposures/Symptoms and Management of Cases & Contacts](#) **(NEW October 16, 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Form](#) Downloadable Word Document **(September 17, 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Contact Line List](#) **(NEW September 2, 2020)**
 - [COVID-19 Contact Line List](#) Downloadable Excel Spreadsheet **(NEW September 2, 2020)**
- Contact Notification Guidelines for COVID 19 **(COMING SOON)**

Outbreak Guidance Documents

- [Interim Outbreak Management of COVID-19 in Junior Kindergarten-12 Schools](#) **(NEW September 16 , 2020)**
 - Example COVID-19 School Outbreak General Letter **(NEW September 16, 2020)**
 - Example COVID-19 School Outbreak Contact Letter **(NEW September 16, 2020)**
- [Interim Outbreak Management of COVID-19 and Influenza in Long Term Care Facilities](#) **(NEW September 25, 2020)**

NWTHSSA Health Professional Site: <https://ournthssa.ca/hubs/covid-19-information/>

Public Information: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

[Public Health Agency of Canada/Canadian Critical Care Society/Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease \(AMMI\) Canada's Clinical Management of Patients with COVID-19: Second interim guidance:](#)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/clinical-management-covid-19.html>

OCPHO will continue to provide regular updates for practitioners and the general public, and direction on public health management of COVID-19.

Please contact OCPHO or the public health officer on call at 867 920-8646 if there are any questions.

Sarah Bembridge, R.N., B.N.

Territorial Manager Public Health and Communicable Disease,

Office of the Chief Public Health Officer
Department of Health and Social Services, Government of the Northwest Territories
5th floor, Tatsaotıne(tah-sah-t'ee-neh) Building
5015 – 49th st.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 767-9066 Extension: 49875 / Fax 867-873-0442
Email: sarah_bembridge@gov.nt.ca / www.hss.gov.nt.ca

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

October 16, 2020

**Alert RE: UPDATED CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS: October 16, 2020**

This alert is intended for frontline health care providers (HCPs). Please share widely with those who may not be on the list, especially locum practitioners and nurses.

All OCPHO notifications are located on the NTHSSA ournthssa website:

<https://ournthssa.ca/category/public-health-notices/>

Issue:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Julie Green extended the territory-wide Public Health Emergency under the Northwest Territories' Public Health Act on the advice of Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Dr. Kami Kandola.

The latest extension continues through October 27, 2020.

With neighbouring jurisdictions reporting increasing COVID-19 infections, the risk of introduction of infections to the Northwest Territories remains high. The OCPHO recommends healthcare providers exercise diligence when assessing individuals with exposure criteria and consult the OCPHO when questions arise regarding isolation of individuals and potential risks to the public.

To date, the NWT reports 5 confirmed recovered cases, and 3 new presumptive positive.

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/>

All Health and Social Service systems are working vigorously to support COVID 19 initiatives and meet the demands of the changing priorities of the global COVID 19 pandemic. The CPHO continues to evaluate and provide direction to identify priorities on increased testing, surveillance, and planning contact tracing efforts.

Current Public Health Orders

To limit the introduction and spread of COVID-19, the Chief Public Health Officer has issued the following public health orders that residents must follow:

- [Public Health Order – COVID-19 Relaxing Phase 2 \(effective June 12, 2020\)](#) – restricts indoor gatherings to 25 or less and outdoor get-togethers of 50 or less; while allowing more businesses and facilities to open.
- [Mineral and Petroleum Industry](#) (June 25, 2020) – requires mining and oil and gas industries to take a number of measures to protect public health and continue safe operations at all mining and gas projects in the NWT.
- [Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol](#) (As Amended July 16, 2020) – amendments apply to resident supply-chain workers and resident flight crews and airline employees to codify the precautions they must take during the course of their work to mitigate public health risks.



The CPHO also released [Emerging Wisely – Path to Eased Public Health Restrictions](#) (July 30, 2020)- to guide NWT's staged approach to public health restrictions.

Response: **New updated recommendation**

The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) advises that clinicians consider and test for COVID-19 for anyone with:

1 or more of fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath **AND/OR**

2 or more of tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat, runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, vomiting or loss of taste or smell.

Clinicians should also test if they have specific concerns for COVID-19 (e.g. severe respiratory infection or other symptoms of concern).

Individuals who meet testing criteria that are not definitively attributable to another cause and decline COVID 19 should isolate for 10 days and ensure complete symptom resolution to discontinue isolation.

OCPHO recommends asymptomatic testing of individuals named as contacts of COVID-19 on day 10 of isolation. The purpose is not to end isolation early but to detect asymptomatic infections. NEW/Updated

Guidance on Immunized Individuals who may become Symptomatic NEW/Updated

The influenza vaccine is very safe and can be very effective at preventing influenza or complications.

Preventing influenza this year is even more important as it provides many benefits to the societal and health care system's COVID-19 response. Preventing influenza can prevent health care assessments, reduce hospitalizations, protect long term care residents, conserve PPE supplies, and maintain testing capacity.

Individuals who receive influenza vaccinations may develop vaccine side effects consistent with COVID-19 symptoms. The OCPHO recommends health authorities exercise caution and diligence when determining risk and considerations for health care providers (HCP's) presenting to work and the public presenting for services as follow:

- Immunized person should be counseled about the risk of short-term self-limited side effects, including local reactions and systemic reactions
- Common side effects following influenza immunization such as low-grade fever, headache, muscle/joint aches, are similar to symptoms for COVID19.
- If a vaccine recipient develops these symptoms after vaccination in the expected timeframe (within 24-48 hours) they should speak with their employer to complete a risk assessment if they are presenting to work with these symptoms.
 - If the individual meets criteria for COVID-19 testing, assessment by an HCP is recommended
- If symptoms develop outside the expected time frame for common side effects of the vaccine the individual should consult an HCP for further assessment.



Reporting: New/updated information

As set out in the [NWT Public Health Act, Reportable Disease Control Regulations \(Section 4\) and Disease Surveillance Regulations \(Sections 6-10 and Schedule 3\)](#) health care professionals and laboratories are legally required to report a diagnosis or formed opinion of a reportable disease to the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) or designate **within the timeframe identified in the regulations**.

Health Care Professionals

Report the following **immediately** by telephone to the OCPHO's reporting line (867) 920-8646:

- Confirmed or Probable Cases
- Suspect Cases if:
 - › They are hospitalized
 - › They who have lived, worked, trained, volunteered or visited a closed facility
- Contacts of a confirmed or probable case
- All outbreaks or suspect outbreaks
- [Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in children \(MIS-C\)](#)

Reporting Forms

HCPs must submit COVID-19 investigation reporting forms to the OCPHO in a timely manner, i.e. within 24 hours, or as specified on the form. HCPs must fax the forms to the Medical Confidential fax line (876-873-0442), or send them electronically via [secure file transfer \(SFT\)](#).

1. [COVID-19 Report Form for Testing \(Part A\)](#) for **all** COVID-19 tests including:
 - › suspect cases
 - › symptomatic clients without [exposure criteria](#)
 - › asymptomatic tests

2. For a confirmed or probable case:
 - › [COVID-19 Report Form for Confirmed Case-Part B](#)
 - [COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Form](#) [to identify settings of exposures](#)
 - [Contact Line List, submitted upon initiating, updating, or completing a contact investigation](#)
 - [The COVID-19 Case Status Report Form-Part C](#) to report all status updates of the case should submit Part C to report any significant changes in clinical status, and at least once weekly where the status is unchanged, until the case recovers and is non-communicable.

3. For a suspected case of Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), HCPs must submit [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Report Form](#)



Laboratories

Report all positive results **immediately** by telephone to the Reporting Line of the OCPHO (867) 920-8646 and submit the **laboratory report** to the Medical Confidential fax line (867) 873-0442 **within 24 hours**.

Testing: **New/updated information**

Follow Health and Social Services Authority (HSSA) directives regarding testing for COVID-19, and follow [Alberta Precision Laboratories- ProvLab \(APL-ProvLab\)](#) for procedures regarding specimen collection and handling.

- Acceptable specimen types for COVID-19 testing include NP swab, throat swab, NP aspirate, endotracheal tube (ETT) suction/sputum, or bronchoalveolar lavage/bronchial wash (BAL/BW)
- **NP and throat swabs are recommended** over nasal swabs for COVID-19 testing
- Collecting a respiratory sample into Universal Transport Media (UTM) or Viral Transport Media (VTM) allows detection of further respiratory pathogens including RSV and influenza
- Other infections (pertussis, tuberculosis) require specific considerations of sample or media type
- CPHO recommends testing for COVID-19 and at least influenza A, influenza B, and RSV, in the following situations:
 - › the person is or will be hospitalized,
 - › the person lives, works, trains, volunteers in, or visited a closed facility and has COVID-19 symptoms or [influenza like illness \(ILI\)](#)
- CPHO will provide separate guidance regarding influenza or RSV surveillance
- For patients with a lower respiratory tract infection and who are intubated, HCPs should submit a sample from ETT suction or BAL/BW for COVID-19 RT-PCR
- CPHO or delegate, or HSSA may recommend asymptomatic testing for specific populations as the pandemic evolves
- Clients may refuse testing however [appropriate isolation guidance](#) must still be followed as indicated
- For more information about diagnostic tests and education on collection method, refer to [ProvLab and NTHSSA for laboratory guidance](#):
 - › [Guide to services](#)
 - › [Laboratory Bulletins](#)
 - › [NTHSSA Lab Memos](#)

Management of cases, probable cases, and contacts: **New/Updated**

Other jurisdictions experiencing a high volume of COVID-19 cases have identified challenges with maintaining the demand of contact tracing. It is important more than ever to ensure that when clients communicate to local public health and health centres of exposure to COVID-19 cases outside of Territory that diligence is taken to assess, isolate and consult the OCPHO.

The coordination of streamlined contact tracing from our local public health units and regional health authority is paramount to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Timely diagnosis is essential.



A priority at point of assessment is to communicate the importance of maintaining isolation requirements. Further resources for management of cases and contacts includes:

- The free *Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada Contact tracing training course*. To register for any of these courses as part of the *Contract Tracing Learning Path*, please visit <https://training-formation.phac-aspc.gc.ca/> and click on “Health Emergency Management”.
- Case management, contact identification, and contact follow up outlined in the COVID 19 Communicable Disease Chapter for Public Health Disease Management in the Northwest Territories
<https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/professionals/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
 - Additional guidance on isolation of case, contacts and household members can be found in the [COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Public Health Disease Management for the Northwest Territories, Appendix B: Isolation Requirements for Individuals and their Household Members with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposures](#)

New and Updated Resources for Health Care Providers and the general public: New/updated information

HSS Health Professional Site: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/professionals/en>

- [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID 19\) Interim Public Health Diseases Management for the Northwest Territories](#) **(NEW October, 16 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Report Form \(For Suspected Cases\)](#) - Part A Downloadable Word Document **(May 13, 2020)** ***This form's name will change to COVID-19 Report form for Testing***
- [COVID-19 Report Form \(For Confirmed Cases\)](#) - Part B Downloadable Word Document **(NEW August 11, 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Report Form \(Case Status Update\)](#) - Part C Downloadable Word Document **(NEW August 11, 2020)**

Contact Tracing Resources

- [Interim Public Health Management of Persons with COVID-19 Exposures/Symptoms and Management of Cases & Contacts](#) **(NEW October 16, 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Form](#) Downloadable Word Document **(September 17, 2020)**
- [COVID-19 Contact Line List](#) **(NEW September 2, 2020)**
 - [COVID-19 Contact Line List](#) Downloadable Excel Spreadsheet **(NEW September 2, 2020)**
- Contact Notification Guidelines for COVID 19 **(COMING SOON)**

Outbreak Guidance Documents

- [Interim Outbreak Management of COVID-19 in Junior Kindergarten-12 Schools](#) **(NEW September 16, 2020)**
 - Example COVID-19 School Outbreak General Letter (NEW September 16, 2020)
 - Example COVID-19 School Outbreak Contact Letter (NEW September 16, 2020)



- [Interim Outbreak Management of COVID-19 and Influenza in Long Term Care Facilities](#)
(NEW September 25, 2020)

NWTHSSA Health Professional Site: <https://ournthssa.ca/hubs/covid-19-information/>

Public Information: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

[Public Health Agency of Canada/Canadian Critical Care Society/Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease \(AMMI\) Canada's Clinical Management of Patients with COVID-19: Second interim guidance:](#)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/clinical-management-covid-19.html>

OCPHO will continue to provide regular updates for practitioners and the general public, and direction on public health management of COVID-19.

Please contact OCPHO or the public health officer on call at 867 920-8646 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Andy Delli Pizzi
MD MSc FCFP FRCPC
Deputy Chief Public Health Officer

Date : 10/16/2020 6:57:31 PM

From : "John Nahanni" John_Nahanni@gov.nt.ca

To : "DST_JUS_NSYOF" NSYOF_STAFF@gov.nt.ca, "DST_JUS_NSCC" NSCC_All@gov.nt.ca

Subject : NSCC Physical Visits Suspended & Cleanliness – COVID-19

Attachment : NSCC Visits Suspended due to COVID-19 October 16 2020 All Staff and Inmates.pdf;

NSCC Physical Visits Suspended & Cleanliness – COVID-19

Today it was reported that there are 3 potential cases of COVID-19 in the Northwest Territories. 2 of the cases that are being investigated have been reported in the Yellowknife area. As a result of the increased risk to NWT residents we will need to adjust our visiting practice here at the NSCC. Until further notice physical visits will be suspended. We will review the status next week and will reassess our practice moving forward. As an alternative we will provide virtual visits so all inmates can have access to ongoing visits over the weekend.

The following schedule will be in effect until further notice.

A Pod	B Pod	C Pod	D Pod/HSA
Saturday			
115 PM to 215 PM	230 PM – 330 PM	8 PM – 9 PM	645 PM – 745 PM
Sunday			
8 15 PM – 9 15 PM	7 PM – 8 PM	230 PM – 330 PM	115 PM to 215 PM

It is imperative that we all work towards being as safe as possible, along with this requirement comes more responsibility. Please ensure that everyone cleans/sanitizes as much as possible. The following also will support the control & prevention of spreading illness, let's stay committed and work together on staying healthy.

- Do not touch your face without having your hands washed
- Wash your hands with soap and water for lengthy periods
- Maintain safe social distancing
- When not able to maintain safe social distancing ensure you are wearing a mask
- When leaving the unit all inmates must bring their mask, if walking with anybody else you must wear the mask (6 foot rule applies always)
- Heightened cleaning/sanitizing

In our environment we all need to work together to make sure that we are as safe as can be. This requires ongoing dedication to cleaning, respecting each other's space and communicating any concerns.

The following standards remain in place to support overall safety, please ensure that any illness is reported to staff immediately so we can manage the overall safety of everyone that is inside the walls of the NSCC.

- All inmates that are symptomatic (showing signs of illness) shall be secured until medically assessed
 - Any individual that is showing any flu-like symptoms shall immediately put on a procedural/medical ear loop mask – this will help prevent infecting others
 - When the affected inmate is out of their cell a mask shall be worn at all times
- All inmates shall be required to report any signs of illness to the staff so the DWO can review and make necessary precautions, staff are also required to report any observations of illness
- All staff and inmates are requested to practice safe social distancing
 - Tape has been placed on the floor around the staff desks marking the safe distance to be from the staff area – this is for the protection of all inmates and staff
 - When staff complete their round please use this time to submit any requests
 - Staff phones are not allowed to be used by any inmates under any circumstance
- It is imperative that the building cleanliness is of the highest standard, all inmates and staff must ensure that all areas are sanitized thoroughly throughout the day
 - Includes door handles, doors, common areas, cells, every place in the building that staff and inmates access. Anytime an area is used it must be sanitized prior to leaving – failure to sanitize may result in the area being restricted
 - WHMIS Supplies are being filled on a regular basis, if there are any shortages please contact the DWO and they will make arrangements

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and cooperation.

Thanks, John



October 16, 2020

MEMO

ALL INMATES AND STAFF:

NSCC Physical Visits Suspended & Cleanliness – COVID-19

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Thank you for your ongoing understanding and cooperation.

John Nahanni

Warden
North Slave Correctional Complex

c. NWT Corrections Headquarters

Anthony Jones

From: Warren Gillis
Sent: November 12, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Andrea Steed; Ann Pischinger; Anna MacLeod; Anthony Jones; Brenna MacKay-Johnson; Chelsea Bradbury; Cindi Dawn; Cindi Loutit; Colinda Laviolette; Courtney Kaeser; Delores Taylor; Dianne Dul; Doreen S. Schaefer; Eileen Tourangeau; Emilie Hudson; Erica McDonald; Flora Abraham; Gaby Koehler; Genevieve Cote; Georgina Skippings; Janelle Minute; Jenny Belyea; Jessica Shymkiw; Katherine Lapointe; Kelly Kenny; Khaled El Mostapha; Kimberly Bennett; Kristen Froese; Kristy Evans; Krystal Brown; Laura Hunter; Linda Germo; Lois Mezenberg; Loretta L. Laviolette; Marie-Pier Garant; Mary Cochrane-MacDonald; Mary-Lynn Berton; Michaela Douglas; Michelle A MacDonald; Miranda Norn; Nilam Ambawalage; Rhona Kindopp; Saskia Van Mourik; Sonia H. Davenport; Trudy Rose
Cc: Adam Wiedrick; Athena Sharp; Augustine Okolie; Balaji Rajasekaran; Bradley Brake; Cheyenne Paulette; Chris Heidema; Donna Bourque; Doug Meidl; Duncan Burke; Dwight Norn; Ed Hunter; Eugene Gagnon; Freda Emile; Gordon Villeneuve; Jeremy Beamish; Jerry Dion; Kelvyn Modeste; Kyle Laviolette; Margo Ziemann; Paul Cumming; Robin Durno-Allen; Shane Mandeville; Thomas Mabbitt; Toko MacDonald; Travis Phinney; Treyton Bird; Tyrrell Phinney; Warren Gillis
Subject: COVID case in Fort Smith

All Staff:

As most of you are already aware we now have a confirmed COVID case in Fort Smith. While we are being told that the individual has self-isolated right away when they returned to Fort Smith we must still take every precaution to ensure the safety of staff and inmates.

Please ensure that we get a major cleaning done today, wash everything down with the disinfecting wipes. When doing the staff screening please ensure you are looking out for your safety, the door must remain closed until you ask all the questions and then can be opened when you are ready to take the staffs temperature. The person doing the screening must wear gloves and a disposable surgical mask and make sure the person coming in the building is wearing a mask.

We will also be putting a hold on all in-person visits for the next two weeks as a precaution and all mail will be stored for 3 days before being given to the inmates.

If you have any of the symptoms please do not come to work, please call Public Health and they will let you know if you can attend the worksite or not.

Warren Gillis
Warden
Corrections
Department of Justice
Government of the Northwest Territories

Fort Smith Correctional Centre
111 McDougal Road
Fort Smith, NT. Canada X0E 0P0
Phone 867-872-6558 or 867-872-0283
Fax 867-872-6597
www.gov.nt.ca

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From: [Lorraine McDonald](#)
To: [Angela Hamilton](#); [Audley Henry](#); [Diane Chisholm](#); [Justin Minute](#); [Laverne Cameron](#); [Michelle J. Smith](#); [Sharon Caudron](#); [Curtis Gill](#); [Don Mabbitt](#); [Jeff Lamoureux](#); [Orlando Kerr](#); [Trenna Corrigan](#); [Andy McKay](#); [Anthony Beck](#); [Brendon Bonnetrouge](#); [Brent Townend](#); [Brian Morin](#); [Cheryl Melanson](#); [Daniel Beck](#); [David Sanguet](#); [Deloris Shiels](#); [Dennis Parker](#); [Faye Johns](#); [Garrett Flaherty](#); [Heather Johnson](#); [Ian Thiesson](#); [Jack Bassett](#); [Jacqueline Carriere](#); [Jason Salter](#); [Jeanette Mandeville](#); [Jonathan Wallington](#); [Kenneth Boyer](#); [Kirk Alcos](#); [Kristy Cooper](#); [Lindsay Anderson](#); [Luke Campbell](#); [Marek Napiorkowski](#); [Nicholas Dahr](#); [Norenda Unka](#); [Robert Haley](#); [Sean Ahenakew](#); [Serena Skavinski](#); [Therese Fordy](#); [Tristan Cross](#); [Vanin Gill](#); [Vince McKay](#); [Warren Durocher](#)
Cc: [Kristy Cooper](#); [Brent Townend](#)
Subject: Inmate Family Visits - Suspended
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 3:11:27 PM

Hello everyone,

Effective today, all in person family visits at the facility are being suspended until further notice. This is a precautionary measure, given the rise of COVID-19 in the south and travel out to the NWT; in addition to the cold and flu season. The inmate population has been informed today. Virtual visiting is available to all inmates as per policy.

Thank You | Mársı | Kinanāskomitin | Merci | Haı' | Quana | Qujannamiik | Quyanainni | Máhsı | Máhsı | Mahsi

Lorraine McDonald
Warden

South Mackenzie Correctional Centre
Corrections Service
Department of Justice
Government of the Northwest Territories
34 Studney Drive
Hay River, NT. Canada X0E 0R6

Phone: (867) 874-2774 or (867) 874-2798
Fax: 867-874-2953

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Date : 11/20/2020 10:29:44 AM
From : "Justin J. Bailey" Justin_Bailey@gov.nt.ca
To : "Greg Paul" Greg_Paul@gov.nt.ca, "John Nahanni" John_Nahanni@gov.nt.ca
Subject : FW: Protectnwt process
Attachment : Sample COVID_RiskAssessmentWorkSitePrecautions_NT_Fillable-ENG.pdf;Protectnwt application;FW: Protectnwt application;

Good day

Below is the process we follow when applying for exemptions to work from protectnwt.

1. Complete a WSCCrisk assessment for the employee (sample attached)
2. Complete workers application to protectnwt and include reasons for travel and if on escort, protocols that were followed:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0a66d712432849f8978aab16daf1c4f8>
3. Send email to the staff member with the PTW# that we receive from our application. (cc supervisors) Request that they complete their portion of the Worker SIP and attached the risk assessment completed (email attached of this stage for our staff member)
 - a. Mr. Bailey will follow up with employee on the process and ensure it is completed.
 - b. Mr. Bailey contacts protectnwt 1-833-378-8297 to follow-up and ensure all paperwork including declaration has been submitted to the CPHO using the PTW# for tracking.
4. Once approval or denial is received, forward approval email received from protectnwt to the staff member (cc management) informing them they have been approved and placed back on the schedule. (email attached of this stage for our staff member)
 - a. Include the risk assessment that needs to be followed and request they send you their copy of the approval letter that is provided to them from protectnwt as well.
 - b. Mr. Bailey will also call the DWO and ensure that this email is printed with the risk assessment for our Covid-19 binder in the DWO office.
 - c. Schedule is adjusted accordingly and DWO's follow up with their staff members to ensure that the risk assessments are followed.
 - d. If denied, email is provided to the employee and a phone call to confirm. Scheduled to remain on self-isolation.

Justin Bailey
Deputy Warden Scheduling and Training
North Slave Correctional Centre | Centre correctionnel du Slave Nord
Department of Justice | Ministère de la Justice

Government of the Northwest Territories | Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
71 Kam Lake Road
Box 278
Yellowknife NT X1A2N2

Telephone | Téléphone : 867-669-8664
Cell | Cellulaire : 867-445-1362

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COVID-19 and the Workplace: General Precautions and a Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment

Reference: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>


Complete the following risk assessment to identify:

- How Workers might be exposed to COVID-19, including sources such as the general public, customers, and coworkers;
- Workers' individual risk factors (e.g., older age, chronic medical conditions, pregnancy); and
- Controls necessary to mitigate or lower those risks.

Occupational Risk Levels for COVID-19

Exposure Risk Level	Sample occupations
<input type="checkbox"/> Very High	Jobs such as healthcare workers who have significant exposure to the virus and laboratory personnel who work with COVID-19 specimen.
<input type="checkbox"/> High	Jobs such as healthcare delivery and clinical support workers who must enter patients' rooms, but who may not have direct exposure to infected patients; and medical transport workers who transport patients.
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	Roles and responsibilities that require frequent or close contact with (i.e., within 2 metres of) people who may be infected. Workers in this risk group may have frequent contact with travelers who may return from locations outside of the territory, such as cab drivers, group home workers, and daycare workers.
<input type="checkbox"/> Lower Risk (Caution)	Jobs that do not require frequent close contact with (i.e., within 2 metres of) the general public. Workers in this category have minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers.

Determine hazard control measures. Can you:

 <p>Best</p> <p>Least</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate the hazard: This removes the task, equipment, chemical, or act that is causing the hazard. For example, have Workers work remotely.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute: Change the work process, person, substance, tool or equipment for a less hazardous one.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineer: Design the work site, equipment, or process to minimize, eliminate, or contain the hazard. For example can a barrier be installed to protect Workers?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrate: Limit the Worker's exposure to the hazard through safe work procedures. For example make sure Workers are trained on hand washing, know the symptoms of COVID-19, and limit exposure to the public, clients, or customers.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Protective Equipment: Used as a last resort to protect a Worker from exposure to a hazard. For example wear gloves.

Use the table on p. 3 to note the hazards and document the controls you will implement.

COVID-19 and the Workplace: General Precautions and a Risk Assessment

Table: Implement the hazard controls

Hazard that leads to exposure	Control Method
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
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For each control, you should be able to answer yes to these questions:

- Have you discussed the hazards and controls with the Workers?
- Have provided training for these control measures?
- Have you saved a copy of this risk assessment?

Step 5: Measure the effectiveness:

- Create a plan to monitor that the controls are working. For example: check during inspections, discuss at a safety meeting, develop a pre-shift checklist.
- If the control does not work, review and revise the control.
- Make sure you discuss all options with Workers.

**Regularly review this hazard assessment with Workers,
and revise when the work environment changes.**

You do not need to submit this assessment to WSCC.

To have an OHS Inspector assist you with your risk assessment, please email Covid-19@wsc.nt.ca.

**For all other concerns related to COVID-19, visit
<https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>.**

COVID-19 and the Workplace: General Precautions and a Risk Assessment

General Safety Precautions

Advise Workers that all resident returning from outside the NWT, or who are unwell, must self-isolate per the Chief Public Health Officer's direction: <https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/chief-public-health-officer-orders-travel-restrictions-and-self-isolation-those-entering>.

To reduce the risk of transmission, ensure the following safety precautions are implemented:

- Staff must maintain a distance of 2 meters between themselves and customers at all times
- Staff should wash their hands regularly with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Hand sanitizing stations should be installed in areas frequently touched by staff and customers.
- Staff should be provided with disposable gloves for handling money and garbage.
- Frequently touched areas should be disinfected more often.
- Staff should be educated about healthy respiratory practices (see <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/resources/healthy-respiratory-practices.pdf>).

Discuss the following precautions with Workers, to ensure everyone understands the necessary protective measures:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water
- Maintain a distance of 2 metres (6 feet) between yourself and others
- Do not touch your face
- Use disposable gloves when handling items others have touched
- Regularly clean and disinfect communal equipment such as telephones, keyboards, cash registers
- Encourage customers to pay electronically whenever possible
- Place signage or other visible indicators to promote social distancing in lines or waiting for service
- Limit the number of customers in the business at any given time
- If you are an essential service, evaluate your shift options. Can you reduce the number of staff of each shift, can staff work remotely or can you add more shifts?
- Wear protective gloves when handling garbage and clean your hands with soap and water when done
- Regularly disinfect high touch items such as toilets, sink taps, handles, door knobs, light switches, cellphones, frequently throughout the day
- Follow good respiratory hygiene practices: cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue away when done

References:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
<https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/resources/self-isolation-information-sheet.pdf>

For all other concerns related to COVID-19, visit <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>.

From: [Sean Fowler](#)
To: [Lorraine McDonald](#); [Warren Gillis](#); [John Nahanni](#)
Subject: Staff/ Visitor/ Contractor Temperature Screening
Date: Monday, December 21, 2020 9:58:05 AM

Good morning,

The no-touch temperature screening tools are ineffective and unreliable at gauging accurate body temperature readings, especially during the winter season. Let's remove this procedure from our COVID screening assessment in the facilities. By now, staff are aware that they are not to be reporting into work and compromising other staff and the inmates when they are ill.

In order to communicate this effectively, can you please pass this change in process on to your DWO's/ Shift Supervisors who are currently working so that they hear of the change first before you send out an all -staff communication.

Thanks,

Sean