



Emerging Wisely

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO
COVID-19 IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Updated: June 16, 2020

For more information, please visit www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19

Government of
Northwest Territories

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Contact Corporate Communications
Executive_Communications@gov.nt.ca

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Emerging Wisely

Responding to COVID-19 may be the greatest challenge our territory has faced in decades. It has changed the way we socialize, work, and live within weeks.

Our response to COVID-19 was aggressive and timely. By implementing public health measures, widespread testing, social (physical) distancing, and good respiratory and hygiene practices, our territory has so far managed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

While being aggressive and moving early was necessary to contain the spread initially, the need to gradually, safely ease our restrictions was always part of the plan.

In order to move into this phased recovery, it is critical that appropriate public health measures continue to be followed to reduce the risk to residents as a result of COVID-19.

Some measures will need to be in place for a long time – like travel restrictions, self-isolation protocols, and physical distancing in public places.

And expectations must be managed – because the COVID-19 crisis is far from over. While some restrictions may be eased, we may need to tighten them again to contain or slow future spread. Risk levels will rise again when the second wave of COVID-19 hits, and the risk will remain until a vaccine or treatment is available.

This document outlines where we are, and how we will safely, gradually, and wisely ease our restrictions so NWT residents can understand what is coming, what we are all working towards, and the stakes if we do not remain cautious in the face of this challenge.

The path to eased measures contains five distinct phases – our current state, and four phases of easing measures.

Current State: Containment

Relaxing Phase 1: first steps

Relaxing Phase 2: next steps

Relaxing Phase 3: careful steps past the second wave

Final Measures Lifted

Where we are

Current level of risk

With community spread continuing at high levels across Canada, the risk presented remains high to the Northwest Territories (NWT). The NWT relies in part on out-of-territory workers to maintain essential services and deliver on critical projects. Many of these workers will be coming from places where significant community spread has already occurred.

Current state of spread – NWT

As of May 11, 2020, the NWT has confirmed five cases of COVID-19, all of which were related to travel. There are currently no active cases in the NWT as all cases have recovered. To date, there is no evidence of community spread.

Current state of spread – Canada

Community spread of COVID-19 is a reality in many other jurisdictions in Canada – with the vast majority of new cases of COVID-19 in Canada now having no association with travel from another country.

Since mid-April, cases across Canada have consistently increased by 1,500-2,000 daily, with reporting of 100-200 deaths each day during the same time period. Canada’s epidemiological curve – the number of new cases reported each day compared by date over a period of time – has yet to flatten.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, the number of illnesses in Canada is continuing to increase and has not yet peaked.

As of May 11, 2020, more than 5,000 Canadians have died as a result COVID-19. More than 75% of these deaths have been related to outbreaks at long-term care and seniors homes. Closed environments have been particularly at-risk of outbreaks – including food processing facilities and other factories.

What we’ve done

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has led an aggressive response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Public Health Emergency

On March 18, 2020, a Public Health Emergency was declared. The declaration of a Public Health Emergency allows the Chief Public Health Officer to take strong, binding actions to protect all NWT residents, and swiftly respond to the daily evolving needs of the healthcare system as it tackles a pandemic.

Public Health Orders

Public Health Orders are legally binding measures from the Chief Public Health Officer to residents and organizations designed to minimize public health risk. Those orders are used under the authority of the Public Health Emergency declared in March. Since the declaration of the Public Health Emergency, four orders have been put in place targeting gatherings, businesses, out-of-territory travel, self-isolation, mineral and petroleum resources workers, essential service workers, and workers on certain public infrastructure projects.

Public Health Orders and Chief Public Health Officer Directions have responded to critical needs in our pandemic response, including:

- Restricting travel in the territory to protect residents against high levels of spread elsewhere, both across Canada and abroad.
- Requiring mandatory 14-day isolation for both residents entering the NWT and non-residents who enter on an exception basis.
- Limiting the instances of people being in close quarters with those outside their household.
- Minimizing the potential for outbreaks within high risk populations such as Long-Term Care facilities and shelters for vulnerable individuals.
- Minimizing risks related to workers traveling in the NWT from other parts of Canada to provide essential services.
- Implementing infection control and social (physical) distancing protocols for businesses and offices that remain open.

The Timeline of COVID-19 Activity in the Northwest Territories



In Brief: Public Health Orders in the NWT

Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol – prohibits most travel into the NWT by non-residents with limited exceptions; requires NWT residents entering the NWT to self-isolate for 14 days in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith before travelling to their home community; sets requirements for others like flight crews and long-haul truckers to socially distance while in the NWT.

Prohibition of Gatherings and Closures of Certain Business – bans all indoor gatherings and outdoor public gatherings; restricts private outdoor gatherings to 10 or less; closes certain businesses that cannot maintain physical distancing and enhanced disinfection requirements.

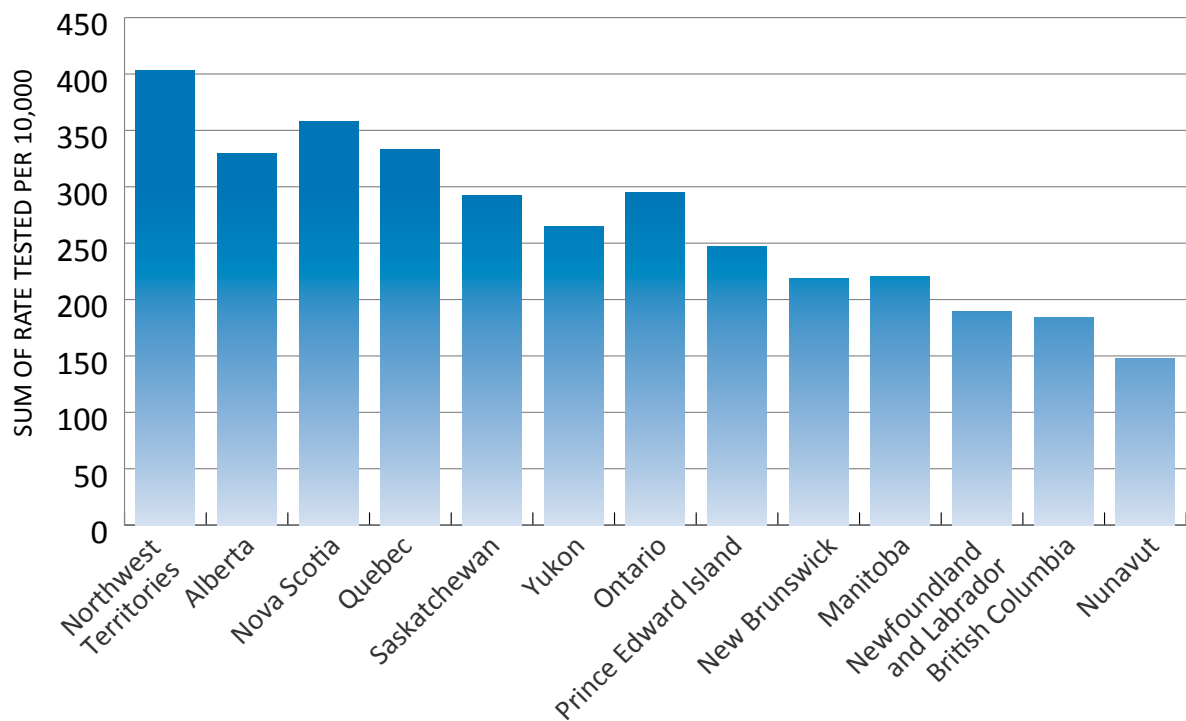
Directed at Mineral and Petroleum Industry – requires mining and oil and gas industries to take a number of measures to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and continue safe operations at all mining and oil and gas projects in the NWT.

Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol – As Amended April 27, 2020 – amends the travel restrictions and self-isolation protocols order to add measures for NWT residents, flight crews and transportation workers, and to include specific processes and requirements for essential service workers, support workers, workers on public infrastructure projects, and persons-in-transit.

Aggressive testing

The NWT has prioritized high levels of testing to track, respond to, and isolate cases as quickly as possible, and to better understand the current state of transmission within the territory. The NWT has consistently led the country in testing rates on a per-capita basis.

Total rate by Province/Territory per 10,000 in population as of May 11, 2020



Education and awareness

The GNWT has run comprehensive public awareness campaigns to ensure residents, businesses, governments, and other stakeholders have the information they need to protect themselves and each other from COVID-19.

Campaigns have included social media posts, TV, radio, and print ads, and direct outreach to stakeholders and residents, and have focused on:

- Requirements under the Public Health Orders
- Service delivery during the crisis
- Social (physical) distancing of more than two metres
- Respiratory health and hygiene
- Frequent hand-washing
- Mental health and addictions
- Social distancing on-the-land

An 811 line has also been established as a single entry point for information and services for residents, meaning that residents can use one easy number to reach the established self-isolation, enforcement, and regional centre accommodations lines. The line also has staff to provide callers with accurate information about COVID-19 and how it relates to residents of the NWT.

Compliance and enforcement

In early April, the GNWT formed the Compliance and Enforcement Taskforce. The Taskforce is made up of experienced enforcement officers from across government appointed as Public Health Officers and trained to enforce the Public Health Orders.

Residents can submit complaints either by phone or through email. The Taskforce then assesses the situation, and responds using an education-first approach – meaning they will always seek to set things right using information before handing out tickets. The Taskforce has the capacity to address complaints in every community in the territory.

Emerging Wisely

Overview

This plan is built on a phased approach to slowly and responsibly lift restrictions on residents, businesses, and society, while aiming to maintain the territory’s approach of eliminating or minimizing community spread through the life of this pandemic.

This choice is based on a few key principles:

- Remote communities are particularly at risk of spread once COVID-19 is introduced.
- The capacity of the territory’s healthcare system to respond must be protected.
- The NWT is uniquely positioned to implement a containment strategy due to its geographic location.

As measures are gradually lifted, the Chief Public Health Officer will carefully monitor the state of the pandemic in the NWT, Canada, and internationally. The Chief Public Health Officer will continue to advise the GNWT on appropriate approaches to ensure we emerge from this pandemic wisely.

Public health officials will also take steps to:

- Mitigate the risk of increased local transmission due to lifting of restrictive public health measures.
- Manage risks of importing the virus from outside the territory.
- Protect vulnerable/high-risk populations like elders, those with underlying or immune-compromising health conditions, and settings like long term care facilities, homeless shelters, and remote, Indigenous communities to minimize outbreak risks.
- Maintain health care and public health capacity demands below critical levels while testing, isolating and treating every case, as well as tracing every contact
- Ensure there are appropriate conditions and controls in place so that residents, businesses, and communities are aware, educated, and engaged on what they must do to adjust to a new way of living for a long period of time.
- Put in place mitigation measures in workplaces, schools and other essential gathering places
- Monitor impacts to inform decision-making regarding modifications to approach.
- Communicate frequently and transparently to the public to highlight their role in reducing the risk of COVID-19.

This plan will be guided by Public Health Orders, which will be put in-place and repealed as necessary, as well as the compliance with and enforcement of those measures, general public health awareness, and the support of government agencies, such as the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission.

Certain measures will require a Public Health Emergency to remain in-place until the pandemic is resolved.

Long-term measures

For the duration of this pandemic, the following overarching orders and recommendations must remain in-place to protect the territory, and to allow for greater freedom within the territory.

- **Travel restrictions:** travel prohibitions and restrictions in the territory will remain in place; those who have traveled outside the territory will continue to be required to self-isolate upon their return to the NWT, with limited exemptions as currently set out by the Public Health Order.
- **Social (physical) distancing:** businesses will continue to be directed to put in place social (physical) distancing measures, and people will be asked to continue keeping at least two metres apart from those who you don’t live with whenever possible and where risk is not mitigated by personal protective equipment.
- **Non-medical mask use by residents in public:** while it is not mandatory, if everyone wears a face covering, then we are all better protected from the spread of COVID-19 through each other’s droplets.
- **Enhanced hand-washing:** all residents must take responsibility to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer to neutralize infection as much as possible.
- **Good respiratory hygiene:** as COVID-19 spreads primarily through droplets when we cough, spit, or sneeze, we all need to be extra careful to do it into a Kleenex or flexed elbow.
- **Strong guidance for vulnerable populations:** this could include limits on visitation and other measures in-place at long-term care homes, and other locations serving vulnerable populations like correctional facilities and homeless shelters, as well as strong recommendations that those who are elderly, immune-compromised, or have pre-existing conditions should be very careful when leaving their homes.
- **Strong infection control protocols:** to include environmental cleaning, hand-washing, facial coverings or personal protective equipment (PPE), exclusion of sick individuals and other engineering and administrative controls. Enhanced care and precaution will be required by all businesses, governments, and organizations until a vaccine is available.

Essential steps

There are several milestones which ***must first be met*** before relaxing any of the NWT’s public health measures – and must remain in-place through the course of this pandemic.



Travel entry points in the NWT are strong and secure

The NWT’s busiest borders are with provinces experiencing high levels of community spread, and the situation across Canada is currently severe. In order to maintain containment, travel in the NWT must be restricted and monitored for anyone who has been outside the territory to ensure our boundaries strong and secure at every entry.

The GNWT is currently monitoring and assessing its travel prohibition and restriction measures to fill any gaps. We also must rely on residents to take responsibility and follow the orders that are in place – and report non-compliance to Protect NWT if they are aware of it.



Risks are reduced from workers coming into the territory

The NWT relies in part on out-of-territory workers, or workers who must frequently leave the territory and return, in some priority sectors. These include areas like transportation, healthcare, infrastructure, mining, and oil and gas.

Because these workers are coming from outside the territory, they are at higher-risk of contracting COVID-19; however, the nature of their work often makes it impossible for them to self-isolate when they are in the territory.

In mid-April, a Public Health Order was put in place that set out the requirements for the safe operations of remote camp workers in the mining and oil and gas industry.

More recently, the Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol Order was amended to provide clear guidance on self-isolation requirements for transportation workers, essential service workers, support workers, public infrastructure workers, and correctional officers required to travel out of territory.



Expanded community testing available

The NWT has regularly tested at the highest per capita rate in Canada. This is in part because we began testing people who had not travelled or had direct contact before most jurisdictions. While there have been relatively few cases identified in the NWT, we have learned that people can have COVID-19 without even knowing it.

We have recently expanded our testing assessment criteria to include additional, less common symptoms of COVID-19 to encourage more testing. Rapid testing systems are being brought into operation very soon.

These changes will allow the NWT to have more information to be sure we aren’t missing cases and moving forward based on a false sense of security.

They will also allow consideration of region and community-specific measures as the response to COVID-19 continues.



Situation remains stable

To begin easing restrictions, we must have zero non-imported cases until at least **May 15, 2020** – two incubation periods, or 28 days, since the test confirming the last identified case in the NWT had recovered was collected. This time period provides strong evidence that no cases have been detected, and any outstanding tests will have returned which may have indicated community spread related to the now-recovered case.

Phases of Recovery

Each phase of our recovery will be implemented in steps, with restrictions being relaxed in order of least-to-most risky based on risk assessment.

This document provides a high-level look at measures that could be relaxed in each phase, triggers for moving between each phase, and considerations for businesses and organizations.

- Current State: Containment
- Relaxing Phase 1: first steps
- Relaxing Phase 2: next steps
- Relaxing Phase 3: careful steps past the second wave
- Final Measures Lifted

Current State: Containment

This is the highest level of public health restrictions envisioned for the territory. Once measures begin to be eased, it is our intent not to return to this level of restriction unless absolutely necessary.

Relaxing Phase 1: First Steps

Measures eased

1. Interpersonal interaction increased

- **A friendship circle can be established for indoor visitors to your house:** Here’s how it works:
 - Each household can have up to five people they don’t live with come over and be inside their house. A maximum of 10 people in total can be inside the house at any time. **This is required.**¹
 - It’s strongly recommended that in your household, you keep a circle of friends as small as possible. Here are a few good ways to do it.
 - » *Keep to your fave five:* Stick with the same five people to invite over to your place. Remember – you could still hang out with others at a park or in your backyard as long as you keep two metres apart. Your fave five would just be for inside your house where the risk is highest.
 - » *Have each person in the house pick one person they will have over regularly:* this is a great way to make sure your best friends can come over for a coffee, while your household’s circle stays small.
 - » *Pick another house with your best friends or a family you get along with and have them over regularly:* this is another way to keep your circle small.
- It’s also strongly recommended that you keep physical distance of two metres in your house as much as you can to protect each other.
- If you’re having someone over who’s older, has a weaker immune system, or has an illness already, we strongly recommend no other outside visitors while they are there.
- **We are counting on you to use common sense to protect each other while we all get some relief from being cooped up.**
- **Outdoor get-togethers of 25 or less allowed** as long as physical distance of two metres can be maintained, appropriate hand-washing or sanitizing can occur, travel happens by household group, and there is no shared food or beverages. This includes funerals and weddings.
- **Playgrounds may again be used:** Disinfection control protocols must be in-place.

¹ In the rare case your household already has more than 10 people living there, the GNWT does not expect anyone to reduce their household size to comply. You will simply not be allowed to have others over. It does not prevent anyone from within that household from visiting anyone else.

2. Some businesses and organizations ordered closed may open with strict physical distancing, protective equipment, client limits, and strong infection control measures

- Several types of businesses can open if requirements are met:
 - Personal services establishments defined in the territory's order on gatherings and businesses.
 - Tourism operators using their experiences for "staycations" (i.e. only for local residents) strict client traffic limits, personal protective equipment, and social distancing measures in-place as-necessary
 - Museums and art galleries
 - Bottle depots
 - Gyms and fitness centres (**only** for personal training and outdoor classes)
 - Shuttle buses
- Some types of establishments cannot open:
 - Bars and night clubs
 - Theatres and movie theatres
 - Dine-in portions of restaurants
- All non-essential workers will still be expected to work from home wherever possible

3. Limited outdoor mass gatherings allowed with strict social distancing, protective equipment as-defined by a risk assessment, customer and attendance control, and strong infection control measures in-place

• Events being considered are:

- Farmer's Markets
- Outdoor theatres and plays

4. Organized outdoor activities may occur with disinfection and physical distancing processes in-place – and businesses and organizations offering them may open with strict limits and altered business patterns.

• This includes:

- Community Gardens
- Gun ranges
- Golf courses
- Beaches
- Boat launches
- Baseball and softball
- Outdoor soccer
- Outdoor ultimate Frisbee
- Cricket
- Outdoor summer camps or day programming

- **All must still follow outdoor gathering limits of 25 or less** – which would include everyone doing or watching the activities at any given time.

5. Elementary, middle and high schools may open

- Class size limits, non-medical mask use for those over the age of 2 (except in rare circumstances), physical distancing, enhanced hand-washing and infection control must be in-place.
- No communal or self-serve food.

6. Community gathering spaces begin opening with strict client limits based on capacity or hard caps, physical distancing, appropriate protective equipment, and infection control protocols in-place

• Spaces considered are:

- Territorial Park day-use areas and cook shelters
 - Indoor Fields and Community Gyms (excluding pools, arenas, and gymnastics gyms)
 - » Capacity limits, enhanced hand-washing and infection control protocols must be in-place.
 - Outdoor faith-based gatherings
 - » Same limits as outdoor gatherings.
 - Libraries
- Capacity limits and enhanced hand-washing and infection control protocols must be in-place.

Requirements

- All essential steps have been successfully implemented.
- No evidence of community spread within the territory through May 15, 2020.
- No widespread reports of non-compliance.

Timing

Within 1-2 weeks (Mid-to-late May 2020)

Relaxing Phase 2: Next Steps

Measures eased

1. Interpersonal interaction grows

- **Outdoor get-togethers of 50 or less allowed:** As long as physical distance of two metres can be maintained, appropriate hand-washing or sanitizing can occur, travel happens by household group, and there is no communal food or beverage provision. This includes funerals.
- **Indoor sports and day programming are allowed:** As long as there are 25 people or less in the space in which they are held and there are disinfection protocols in place. Individual needs of organizations and sports leagues will be subject to a WSCC risk assessment.
 - indoor contact sports and enclosed court sports are still prohibited
 - Gymnastics clubs are higher risk and cannot open during this phase.

2. Additional businesses and organizations may open with altered business patterns, strict physical distancing measures, and infection control procedures in-place; restrictions relaxed further on certain businesses.

- **Outdoor tourism operators:** May now accommodate 50 or less people, and 25 or less inside of a vehicle as long as appropriate physical distancing and/or protective equipment is available.

- **Movie theatres may open with reduced seating:** A WSCC risk assessment will determine what measures must be in-place to safely operate.
- **Dine-in restaurants and bars can now operate at limited capacity:** A WSCC risk assessment will determine what measures must be in-place to safely operate. Dance floors must stay closed.
- **Gyms may open with restrictions:** A WSCC risk assessment will determine class size limits and mitigation measures based on the space and equipment.
- **Client restrictions on personal service establishments are relaxed:** Additional clients will be allowed based on capacity and availability of personal protective equipment for staff and clients.

3. Organized outdoor activities may occur with disinfection and physical distancing processes in-place wherever possible – and businesses and organizations offering them are treated the same

- Maximum capacity in these spaces grows to 50 or less in line with relaxed limits on outdoor gatherings.

4. Public events with 50 or less people will be allowed with strict social distancing, proper protective equipment as-defined by a risk assessment, customer control, and strong infection control measures in-place

- **Includes events like:**
 - Community feasts and barbecues
 - Outdoor bingo
 - Small concerts

5. Restrictions eased further on community gathering spaces and additional spaces open up

- **Community and youth centres may open to the public:** Capacity restricted 50 or less staff and clients; physical distancing, hand-washing, and infection control processes must be in-place.
- **Indoor faith-based and spiritual gatherings may resume:** Capacity restricted to 25 total. All efforts must be made to keep the congregation physically distant and hand-washing and infection control protocols and equipment must be in-place.
- **Campground limitations ease further:** Common areas outdoors may now have 50 or less people as long as they're keeping their physical distance; those sharing tents may now follow the same rules as their friendship circle.

- **Pools open for instructor certification:** Allow for limited use of pools in order to train and certify staff, and prepare the facilities for re-opening in the future.

Requirements

- Phase one measures are successfully implemented.
- Cases of COVID-19 remain almost exclusively imported, with limited or no community spread and no signs of strain on the health system.
- Strong contact tracing capabilities remain intact.
- Appropriate staffing is in-place to enforce social (physical) distancing requirements in all establishments and locations in each step.

Timing

- Within 4-6 weeks of implementing phase one and maintaining the above requirements through the same period of time. (Mid-to-late June, 2020)

Relaxing Phase 3: Careful steps past the second wave

Measures eased

1. Interpersonal interactions advance further

- **Outdoor get-togethers have limits removed:** Physical distance of two metres must be maintained, appropriate hand-washing or sanitizing must occur, travel must be done by household group or friendship circle, and must be no shared food or beverage. This includes funerals.

2. Additional businesses and organizations may open with altered business patterns, strict physical distancing measures, and infection control procedures in-place; restrictions relaxed further on certain businesses and organizations.

- **Outdoor tourism operators:** All capacity limits removed, but physical distancing and infection control measures must be in-place.
- **Performance theatres may open with limited capacity:** A WSCC risk assessment will determine what measures must be in-place to safely operate. No self-serve or communal food can be served.

- **Music and community festivals which take place primarily outdoors may run:** A WSCC risk assessment will determine what measures must be in-place to safely operate. Capacity limits based on location will be required.
- **Colleges, adult classes and trade schools:** A WSCC risk assessment will determine what measures must be in-place to safely operate.

3. Restrictions eased further on community gathering spaces and additional spaces open up

- **Pools may open to the public:** Capacity will be limited based on the facility, hand-washing and infection control protocols must be enhanced. Physical distancing must be maintained as much as possible. Saunas, steam rooms, and hot tubs will remain closed.
- **Gymnastics clubs may open:** Capacity will be limited based on the facility. Physical distancing must be maintained as much as possible and enhanced hand-washing and infection control processes must be in-place.

Requirements

- All phase two steps have been successfully implemented.
- A robust, rapid-testing strategy has been implemented.
- Community spread remains limited.
- A strong system of contact tracing remains in-place and all active cases of COVID-19 can have their contacts effectively traced.
- A second surge of infections in Canada and the United States has come and gone – with new cases falling over time and the epidemiological curves demonstrably flattened.

Timing

- To be decided – the timing of a second wave in Canada and the United States cannot be predicted. However, it is forecast that the second wave could come between August and October, 2020.

Final measures lifted

All remaining public health measures may be lifted if all requirements are met.

All mass gatherings and indoor visiting returns to normal.

Requirements

- A vaccine for COVID-19 has been approved and produced
 - A successful vaccination program has been implemented for the following populations:
 - » Seniors
 - » Those with compromised immune systems due to other diseases
 - » Those who already have long-term illnesses
- If an effective treatment is approved and production capacity reaches the point where a large portion of our population could access it, public health measures may also be lifted.
 - **Note: there are currently no approved treatments for COVID-19**

Timing

- To be decided – timing will be influenced considerably by how the pandemic unfolds.
- Most experts believe it will take between 12-18 months to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 – even while research and testing advances at breakneck speed.

Re-implementing measures

There are expected to be two-to-three waves of COVID-19 infections – meaning across Canada, there will likely be more surges in cases.

To maintain containment in the NWT, we will need to be nimble enough to be able to move from less restrictive measures back to more restrictive ones very quickly. **Residents should understand that this is likely to be required.**

Once measures have begun to be eased, there are few scenarios where we would consider going back to the aggressive containment stage we are in today.

Triggers for moving back in our phases

There are several situations which would trigger consideration of taking steps back between phases three and one.

- **Cases resulting from breached protocols:** This could include non-resident, non-exempted travelers who make their way into the territory and import additional cases of COVID-19 which has led to community spread.
- **Evidence of community spread where the source could not be tracked:** A breakdown in contact tracing may necessitate a move back to stronger measures.
- **Cluster outbreaks:** Cluster refers to lot of cases grouped in one place within a very short period of time. These kinds of outbreaks present a very high-risk to communities and additional restrictions are required to effectively manage them.

Triggers for returning to aggressive containment measures

If the risk of spread of COVID-19 remains high across Canada, the following events could trigger a return to the territory's most aggressive measures:

- **Failure of travel restrictions:** If for any reason, there are catastrophic failures in our travel restrictions and public health measures protecting against the risk of exposure from travel into the territory, containment would be again considered.
- **Loss of contact tracing capabilities:** If public health staff are overwhelmed by extreme outbreaks and are no longer able to effectively track contacts, the territory and its health system would be left at extremely high-risk.
- **Health system breakdown:** If the health system is strained and effective service delivery has become impossible due to a surge, containment may again be considered.

The GNWT will do everything in its power to avoid these scenarios.

Regional and community response

Depending on how the virus advances within the NWT, consideration may be given to region and community-specific measures so freedoms may be maintained in parts of the territory not judged to be at-risk.

Measures which could be used for such a response include:

- **Inter-community travel restrictions:** To isolate communities or regions where outbreaks may be occurring.
- **Prioritized testing and isolation in communities with outbreaks:** Focused testing efforts can help public health staff get a good picture of how the virus is moving in a community, and allow for fast isolation to separate those who are healthy from those who are not.

Implementation

Each step within each phase will require considerable changes for organizations and individuals affected.

Many of these changes and approaches to mitigation are outlined in the public health risk assessment found in Appendix A. Links to additional resources on implementation are also included.

Additional public health guidance and awareness materials will be developed and distributed by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, in partnership with other government and non-government agencies.

They will be available on the GNWT's COVID-19 website.

How did we determine the phases?

A full risk assessment was completed by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer.

See 'Appendix A' for a table organized by activity, volume of contact, risk level, mitigation measures, mitigation-adjusted risk level, and tools and protocols required for each activity.

For more information

For information on how your business can prepare for relaxation, see Appendix A – *Emerging Wisely Public Health Risk Assessment*.

For information and guidance for employers, visit the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission:

<https://www.wscc.nt.ca/health-safety/covid-19>

If you have additional questions on complying, contact

ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca

For information on the GNWT's response to COVID-19, visit:

www.gov.nt.ca/COVID-19

Appendix A:

Emerging Wisely Public Health Risk Assessment

This risk assessment regularly evolves as new information and proposals come in. The up-to-date, sortable risk assessment is the most up-to-date information on what is allowed in each phase. Find it here:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/emerging-wisely-sortable-risk-assessment>