Public Health Order – COVID-19 ISOLATION AND SELF-ISOLATION ORDER - NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (effective February 14, 2022)

WHEREAS the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer, declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the Public Health Emergency has been subsequently renewed and remains in force;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer may take certain actions including issuing directions or orders for the purpose of protecting the public health under the authority of the Public Health Act, S.N.W.T. 2007, c.17 (hereinafter the “Act”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer previously issued Public Health Order COVID-19 ISOLATION AND SELF-ISOLATION ORDER – NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (effective January 7, 2022)(hereinafter the “January 7, 2022 order”)

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer now wishes to amend the January 7, 2022 order;

The Chief Public Health Officer, pursuant to section 25 and section 42(e) of the Act, hereby orders the following:

Persons Who Test Positive For COVID-19

COVID-19 Reporting Requirement - Positive Test Results

1. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purpose of decreasing or eliminating the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease (COVID-19), all persons in the Northwest Territories who receive a positive test result from a COVID-19 test that is not administered at a Health and Social Services Authority facility in the Northwest Territories, including but not limited to
   i. at-home COVID-19 tests, and
   ii. COVID-19 tests administered by private COVID-19 test providers, are required to notify Protect NWT (at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297) of the positive result. For clarity, notification is not required for a positive test result from a COVID-19 test that is administered at a Health and Social Services Authority facility, as a record of that positive test result shall be made by a health care professional.
Isolation Requirements

2. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purpose of decreasing or eliminating the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease (COVID-19), all persons in the Northwest Territories who receive a positive test result showing that they are infected with COVID-19 shall immediately isolate in accordance with the isolation requirements set out at Appendix “A” of this Order and comply with any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer communicated by public health officials and health care professionals, which may include COVID-19 testing requirements. Unless a longer or shorter period is communicated to the person by a public health official or health care professional, the person may end their period of isolation, as follows:

Fully Vaccinated and Non-Fully Vaccinated Persons

a. Fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated persons,
   i. if they have no Symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the seventh (7th) day after the day they tested positive, they may end their period of isolation at that time; or
   ii. if they have Symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the seventh (7th) day after the day they tested positive, then they may end their period of isolation once their Symptoms of COVID-19 are improving, and they have not had a fever (38°C Celsius or higher) for 24 hours;

and they can end their isolation on condition that:
   iii. they physically distance (at least two metres) from other persons where possible and wear a face mask when outside their residence until the later of
      a. the end of the tenth (10th) day after the day they tested positive, or
      b. the end of the tenth (10th) day after they commenced having Symptoms of COVID-19; and
   iv. they comply with any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer, if applicable, communicated by public health officials and health care professionals.

COVID-19 Contacts:
Persons Sharing Accommodation with a Person who has tested Positive for COVID-19

3. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purpose of decreasing or eliminating the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease, all persons in the Northwest Territories sharing accommodations with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 shall immediately isolate in accordance with the isolation requirements set out at
Appendix “A” of this Order. Unless notified that they are sharing accommodations with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 by a public health official or a health care professional, persons are required to notify Protect NWT (at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297) or a health care professional if they become aware that they are sharing accommodations with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 and they are required to comply with any directions of the Chief Public Health Officer communicated by public health officials and health care professionals, which may include COVID-19 testing requirements. Unless a longer or shorter period is communicated to the person by a public health official or health care professional, the person may end their period of isolation, as follows:

**Fully Vaccinated and Non-Fully Vaccinated Persons**

a. Fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated persons,
   i. if they have no Symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the seventh (7th) day after the later of
      a. the day the person they are sharing accommodations with tested positive, or
      b. the day the person they are sharing accommodations with commenced having Symptoms of COVID-19, then they may end their period of isolation at that time; and they can end their isolation on condition that:
   ii. they physically distance (at least two metres) from other persons where possible and wear a face mask when outside their residence until the later of
      a. the end of the tenth (10th) day after the day the person they are sharing accommodations with tested positive, or
      b. the end of the tenth (10th) day after the day the person they are sharing accommodations with commenced having Symptoms of COVID-19; and
   iii. they comply with any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer, if applicable, communicated by public health officials and health care professionals.

b. Fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated persons may end their isolation period early provided:
   i. if they have no Symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the fifth (5th) day after the later of
      a. the day the person they are sharing accommodations with tested positive, or
      b. the day the person they are sharing accommodations with commenced having Symptoms of COVID-19,
then they may end their period of isolation provided they take a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 test administered by an authorized health care provider on or after the sixth (6th) day and they receive a negative result; and they can end their isolation on condition that:

ii. they physically distance (at least two metres) from other persons where possible and wear a face mask when outside their residence until the later of
   c. the end of the tenth (10th) day after the day the person they are sharing accommodations with tested positive, or
   d. the end of the tenth (10th) day after the day the person they are sharing accommodations with commenced having Symptoms of COVID-19; and

iii. they comply with any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer, if applicable, communicated by public health officials and health care professionals.

c. Fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated persons, sharing accommodations with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, who develop Symptoms of COVID-19 at any time shall contact Protect NWT (at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297) or a local health care provider and shall comply with any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer communicated by public health officials and health care professionals, which may include COVID-19 testing requirements, and shall include information on when the person may end their period of isolation.

For clarity, in the event of a positive COVID-19 test, the person becomes subject to the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Order.

**COVID-19 Contacts:**

**Persons Identified as a Close Contact of a Person who has tested Positive for COVID-19, where they are not Sharing Accommodations**

4. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purpose of decreasing or eliminating the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease, all persons in the Northwest Territories identified as a close contact of a person with COVID-19 (where they are not sharing accommodations) shall self-monitor for Symptoms of COVID-19, physically distance (at least two metres) from other persons where possible and wear a face mask when outside their residence until the end of the tenth (10th) day after the day they were identified as a close contact of a person with COVID-19.
If Symptoms of COVID-19 develop, they shall immediately isolate in accordance with the isolation requirements set out at Appendix “A” of this Order and contact Protect NWT (at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297) or a local health care provider. Persons shall comply with any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer communicated by public health officials and health care professionals which may include COVID-19 testing requirements, and shall include information on when the person may end their period of isolation. For clarity, in the event of a positive COVID-19 test, the person becomes subject to the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Order.

**COVID-19 Contacts:**

**Persons Identified as Contacts on the Public Exposure Notifications webpage on the GNWT COVID-19 website**

5. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purpose of decreasing or eliminating the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease, all persons in the Northwest Territories who attended or attend the exposure locations at the dates and times identified on the Public Exposure Notifications webpage on the GNWT COVID-19 website at [https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/public-exposure-notifications](https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/public-exposure-notifications), including future notifications, shall comply with the required actions identified and any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer communicated by public health officials and health care professionals. The Public Exposure Notifications webpage shall be updated as new exposure locations are identified and shall be amended as new information becomes known. For clarity, in the event of a positive COVID-19 test, the person becomes subject to the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Order.

**Symptomatic Persons**

6. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purpose of decreasing or eliminating the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease, all persons in the Northwest Territories displaying Symptoms of COVID-19 shall self-isolate in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix “B” of this Order and contact Protect NWT (at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297) or a local health care provider. Persons shall comply with any further directions of the Chief Public Health Officer communicated by public health officials and health care professionals which may include COVID-19 testing requirements, and shall include information on when the person may end their period of isolation. For clarity, in the event of a positive COVID-19 test, the person becomes subject to the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Order.

**Exemptions**

7. Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Public Health Officer may exempt a person or class of persons from the application of this Order.
8. Businesses, organizations and facilities that provide critical public safety/public infrastructure services and similar critical services, that may be impacted by the isolation requirements in this Order, may apply to the Chief Public Health Officer for an advance exemption for a person or class of persons from the application of this Order.

9. Any exemptions issued pursuant to the January 7, 2022 order continue in effect under this Order.

**General**

10. A person is “fully vaccinated” for the purposes of this Order fourteen (14) days after the person has received the final dose of a Health Canada accepted COVID-19 vaccine series.

11. A person has symptoms of COVID-19 if they have fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, generally feeling unwell, chills, muscle aches, fatigue or weakness, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste, loss of sense of smell, skin changes or rashes (“Symptoms of COVID-19”).

Any person who is subject to this Order may appeal the Order to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories pursuant to section 47 of the Public Health Act within 30 days after the day on which the Order is served on the person in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act.

It is an offence pursuant to section 49 of the Public Health Act for a person to fail to comply with the Public Health Act, its regulations or an order made under it.

Any person who has any questions about this Order, or wishes to apply for an exemption related to this Order can contact Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297 and can obtain a copy of this Order from Protect NWT or from https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19.

This order is effective February 14, 2022 at 5:00pm and remains in effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, unless otherwise rescinded.

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Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer
Appendix A
Isolation Requirements

Requirements for persons subject to isolation:

- Stay within the boundaries of your isolation location unless you are advised otherwise by a Public Health Official or your healthcare provider. For clarity, persons may go outside for fresh air provided they have their own private outside space, remain within the boundaries of their isolation location, and have no contact with persons with whom they are not sharing accommodations.
- Do not leave the boundaries of your isolation location unless you need to seek medical attention. If you need medical attention, contact your health care provider and follow their instructions.
- Do not have any visitors at your isolation location.
- If you are at risk of more severe diseases or outcomes, monitor yourself for worsening or severe symptoms.
- Call 9-1-1 if you develop severe symptoms and let them know if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or that you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Additional guidance on how to safely isolate can be found here: https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/vaccination-testing/types-isolation
Appendix B
Self-Isolation Requirements

Requirements for persons subject to self-isolation:

- Stay at your self-isolation location unless you are advised otherwise by a Public Health Official.
- You can go outdoors for fresh air. Do not go to outdoor spaces where persons congregate. Keep a 2 metre distance from other persons and wear a face mask while outside of your self-isolation location. You do not need to wear a mask if there are no other persons present.
- Do not use public transportation or share a car, taxi (other than with the driver) or other mode of transportation with any other persons you are not self-isolating with.
- Do not have any visitors at your self-isolation location.
- You are permitted to pass through common areas of a self-isolation location, such as a shared corridor or lobby, to access the outdoors, but only if a face mask is worn.
- Do not go to work, school, or enter any other indoor spaces while you are required to self-isolate.
- If you have a medical appointment or need medical care, contact your health care provider and follow their instructions.

Additional guidance on how to safely self-isolate can be found here:
https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/vaccination-testing/types-isolation