



BACKGROUND: Risk Metrics and Restrictions

Emerging Wisely 2021 is not about removing the threat of COVID-19 but about understanding and effectively managing risk which will allow us to prevent and respond to outbreaks.

RISK METRICS: How is the CPHO determining changes to restrictions?

We can ease restrictions as conditions change and new information becomes available, especially as we learn more about the effectiveness of existing COVID-19 vaccines against new variants of concern. If required, the OCPHO may also enhance restrictions if necessary, and target specific restrictions as necessary.

The OCPHO believes the targets outlined in Emerging Wisely 2021 will allow for:

- Safety for NWT communities in which some populations remain under vaccinated.
- The ability to hold gatherings, both indoors and outdoors, at full capacity.
- An acceptable risk of a person returning to the NWT with COVID-19.
- The ability to safely decrease required isolation periods for partially vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers
- Mitigation of the severe implications caused by COVID-19 variants that may not be affected by existing vaccines.

Emerging Wisely 2021 sets out four categories that describe overall risk *(Unless otherwise stated, vaccination coverage is for population 18+).

- Red: highest risk, lowest vaccination coverage
- Orange: high risk, low vaccination coverage
- Yellow: moderate risk, moderate vaccination coverage
- Green: low risk, high vaccination coverage

	Easing restriction	Conditions*		
		Vaccine Coverage NWT	Vaccine Coverage Canada	National Daily Cases (weekly average)
Timeline ----->Earlier Later<-----	Relaxing Outdoors	66-75% Partial		
	Relaxing Indoors	66-75% Full or		
		75% Partial		
	Decrease Self-Isolation		66-75% Partial	<1,000
	Leisure Travel	75% Full	66-75% Full	<1,000
	Lift All Restrictions	75% Full (in 12 and older residents) and		<1,000
66-75% Partial (in total population,				



		which includes all children younger than 12)		
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- Partial Vaccination: Two weeks after first dose of a two-dose vaccine
- Full Vaccination: Two weeks after final dose of any vaccine
- To help with contact tracing and to allow for a rapid response to an outbreak, Self-Isolation Plans will still be required until all travel restrictions are lifted.
- All travellers should self-isolate and seek medical guidance immediately if any COVID-19 symptoms show up or if they are named as a close contact or as part of an outbreak.

RESTRICTION: Easing outdoor public health restrictions in the NWT

Easing outdoor public health restrictions in the NWT will end most limitations on outdoor gatherings as of June 9, 2021 if physical distancing between people (2m) is possible. Children under 12 do not need to physically distance. There are additional requirements for some events and activities that will be in effect under the eased Public Health Order, however, all events and activities may take place.

Some gatherings pose a greater risk because of the nature of the activity and/or proximity of contacts. For outdoor gatherings, the events and activities that require additional planning and CPHO approval include:

- Events larger than 200 people
- [Outdoor Sports](#): Follow provincial/territorial COVID-19 protocols from applicable sports organization.
- [Outdoor funerals](#): Funerals or celebrations of life still need approval or exemption from the CPHO.
- [Businesses and organizations](#) (specifically restaurants and bars):
 - Capacity limit of 200 people
 - Must be able to maintain physical distance (2m) between people from separate groups
 - If unable to abide by these measures, a mitigation plan can be submitted to ProtectNWT for approval by the CPHO.

Exemption plans previously approved by the CPHO pursuant to the June 12, 2020 Public Health Order remain in effect.

RESTRICTION: Easing indoor public health restrictions in the NWT (anticipated early summer)

Up to 200 people can gather indoors in one space without an exemption. . This includes household gatherings. You may welcome visitors into your home as you please. Exposure plans will still need to be approved for indoor live singing, wind instrument performances, indoor dancing, hand games, funerals, and indoor winter sports.



Exemption plans previously approved by the CPHO pursuant to the June 12, 2020 Public Health Order remain in effect.

RESTRICTION: Easing Self-isolation and Testing Requirements for Domestic Travel (anticipated early summer)

Vaccination Status	Self-isolation Requirements	Testing Requirements	Household member
Fully Vaccinated	none	No test* * Exception: Day 1 and Day 14 Test required for essential workers in high risk settings and for those isolating in small communities.	Same as traveller regardless of vaccination status of household member
Partially Vaccinated	8-days	Day 8 Exit Test	Same as traveller regardless of vaccination status of household member
Unvaccinated	10-days	Day 10 Exit Test	Same as traveller regardless of vaccination status of household member

**International travel is not eligible for this reduction and is required to follow federal restrictions.*

- Any traveller coming from outside the NWT with an exemption, and travelling straight to a small community will require a day 14 test.
- Essential workers working with vulnerable populations, in congregate settings, or in small communities need a negative day 1 test prior to beginning work and a day 14 test.
- To help with contact tracing and to allow for a rapid response to an outbreaks, Self-Isolation Plans will still be required until all travel restrictions are lifted.

The CPHO will lift the non-essential travel recommendation for NWT residents once the self-isolation restriction is eased.

ALL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED (anticipated in fall)

All restrictions lifted means: no self-isolation requirements; travel restrictions; or limits on indoor or outdoor activities. NWT residents should be aware that when this happens the structures put in place to respond to the pandemic will be removed. There will be no enhanced testing or increased contact tracing capacity. COVID-19 compliance and Enforcement will stand down. There will be no monitoring of the border. We will have adjusted to living with COVID-19.