

Backgrounder: Border Crossings and Isolation Centres

as of March 24, 2020

Travel Prohibition

On March 21, 2020 the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) issued an Order prohibiting all travel (by air, land, and port) into the Northwest Territories, with [limited exceptions](#). **As a part of this Order, all NWT Residents returning to the Northwest Territories must self-isolate in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River or Inuvik for a period of two weeks (14 days).**

NOTE: NWT Residents returning to the NWT are NOT permitted to self-isolate in any community other than Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River or Inuvik. This is a measure to avoid overwhelming health centres in small remote communities, and ensure those exposed to COVID-19 are close to well-equipped hospital care.

The Emergency Management Organization is supporting the Order prohibiting all travel to the Northwest Territories by:

- establishing isolation centres in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River and Fort Smith; and
- intercepting all travellers at airports in Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife and at ground entry points in Enterprise, Fort Smith, the Liard Highway and the Dempster Highway.

Border Crossings/Checkpoints

Checkpoints have been set up at ground entry points in **Enterprise** and **Fort Smith**.

The **Liard Highway** was closed on March 22, 2020 due to concerns that individuals crossing this border would have access to multiple communities and would need to travel a considerable distance to get to Hay River in order to self-isolate.

The **Dempster Highway** has been closed since March 21, 2020 due to blizzard conditions in the Beaufort Delta. A checkpoint will be established on this highway once it is re-opened.

Self-Isolating

Any resident who must self-isolate or has questions about self-isolating should contact protectnwt@govt.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297. If the resident is unable to self-isolate at home safely, they will be directed to a self-isolation centre located in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith or Inuvik.

Additional information on self-isolating can be found at this link: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/self-isolation>

Isolation Centres

Isolation Coordinators are in place in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River and Fort Smith.

Residents returning to the NWT who do not have access to accommodations in these communities are being directed to isolation centres.

Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik residents may self-isolate at home, provided they have a “self-isolation plan”.

Phone numbers for each isolation centre are currently being secured and will be made available to the public.