



BACKGROUND: Public Health Order on School Closures for Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah and Behchokò to be lifted on Monday, May 17th, 2021

Updated May 12, 2021

TESTING

- All N.J. Macpherson School Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 students and staff, anyone who was considered a contact from public exposure settings must be tested between Day 10 and 14 of their self-isolation.

If Your Exposure Was:	You Can Book Testing:
NJ Staff & Students	May 13 9 AM – 6 PM May 14 9 AM – 11 AM
Sir John Affected Classes	May 14 9 AM – 11 AM
All Other Exposures	May 14 11 AM – 6 PM May 15 9 AM – 6 PM

- The Covid Rapid Response Team is setting up a testing centre at N.J. MacPherson School for staff, students, and other contacts.
- It will operate Thursday-Saturday 9 AM – 6 PM.
- Online booking starts on Wednesday May 12, 2021.
- Testing will continue until Saturday, May 15, 2021 (9 am- 6 pm).

All contacts whose isolation period will end before Monday, May 17 will need to get tested if they meet the following criteria:

- They are **not** household contacts of confirmed cases. This requires individual public health risk assessment.
- They are between days 10-14 of their isolation period.

If the test is negative, contacts can discontinue isolation after Day 14 only if they are not symptomatic and have not been re-exposed to an active COVID case. For example:

- For those whose last day of exposure was April 30, this means your isolation ends Saturday May 15.
- For those whose last day of exposure was on May 1, this means your isolation ends May 16.

This applies to about 800 contacts.

It does NOT apply to household members of active cases.

Parents are asked to have their child bring the COVID assessment card to school once they have been told their test result is negative.



ISOLATION

Many families in Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah and Behchokò are experiencing isolation requirements that are more strict than self-isolation after travel. There are differences between self-isolating after travel and isolation related to a contact or case of COVID-19. The recent cluster outbreak at N.J. Macpherson School in Yellowknife requires all individuals to isolate as contacts of COVID-19. The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) identifies that exposure to COVID-19 has taken place in this setting. The risk of transmission is known to be higher, especially when infections are caused by the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant.

Contacts must isolate for a minimum of 14 days (red category listed in [public exposure notifications](#) are considered contacts with exposure dates, times and locations outlined):

- Even if the contact is an adult who has been fully vaccinated, the 14-day isolation period does not change.
- If household members cannot isolate separately from the contact in the home, they must follow the same isolation requirements.
- The 14-day period starts the day after the date of exposure and ends the day after Day 14
- If you develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, isolation may be longer than 14 days.
- If you test positive, the health care provider, in consultation with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, will notify you about when to discontinue isolation.

If you or your child has COVID-19 or has symptoms:

- You can't leave your accommodation for any reason. This includes going outdoors.
- If there is a medical emergency, call 911 and let the operator know you are isolating and have COVID-19 or are a symptomatic contact of a person with COVID-19.

If you or your child are contacts of a person with COVID-19 or live in the same house AND do not have symptoms:

You must remain on your property. However, you can go outside for fresh air provided you have your own outside space (e.g.: yard, outdoor entrance, balcony).

- If you require medical care, you may leave your property provided you wear a nonmedical mask and take a private vehicle or a taxi to the hospital or medical appointment.
- If there is a medical emergency, call 911, and let the operator know you are isolating as a contact of a person with COVID-19.
- No visitors are permitted inside your accommodation or outside on your property, except for outside deliveries where a two-metre distance is maintained.

How to isolate safely



- If household members are living in a home with a case or contact of COVID-19, they should try to isolate in a separate location in the home from the individual.
- Family members who must care for an individual with COVID-19 are advised to follow the [Advice for Caregiver](#) guidelines on the GWNT COVID-19 website.

How long can isolation last?

- If you were in contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (red category in the [Public Exposure Notifications](#)) you must complete 14 days of isolation from the date of exposure, have no symptoms of COVID-19, and test negative on day 10-14 of isolation.
- If you tested positive for COVID-19 a health care provider, in consultation with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, will notify you when to discontinue isolation.
- If you develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 depending on the severity of your infection isolation may be longer than 14 days.
- Household contacts who must care for a person (such as a child) with COVID-19, and are not able to maintain distance will have to isolate longer. They will have to isolate for 14 days past the recovery date of the person with COVID-19. This means that isolation may be for up to 28 days or longer. The date of your exposure will be determined by a health care provider.