



BACKGROUNDER: Isolation Centre Cost Coverage Changes

Beginning on January 5, 2021 residents who choose to travel for discretionary reasons like leisure or shopping will no longer have their isolation centre stays covered by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Policies have not changed for non-resident travelers - who remain responsible for their own isolation centre costs.

The table below outlines who pays for various types of self-isolation or travel.

Type of Travel or Self-Isolation	Example	Who Pays?	Notes
Discretionary	Visiting family or friends or going on a shopping trip	The traveller	The traveller will have to make arrangements for their self-isolation, including any costs incurred.
Employment	Individual travelling or moving to the NWT for employment purposes	The employer or the traveller	The traveller will have to make arrangements with their employer or other party for their self-isolation, including any costs incurred.
New Resident	Individual moving to the NWT	The traveller	The traveller will have to make arrangements for their self-isolation, including any costs incurred
Compassionate	Travelling from a small community to Vancouver for the funeral of a family member Travelling from a designated isolation community to Toronto to attend to a serious illness in the family but unable to safely isolate at home on return because there is an elder in the home with respiratory illness	The GNWT	To be verified with supporting documents or a Statutory Declaration "Family" means: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Parent● Step-parent● Sibling● Spouse● Common-law spouse● Child● Step-child● Foster child● Father-in-law● Mother-in-law



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grandparent ● Grandchild ● Son-in-law ● Daughter-in-law ● Brother-in-law ● Sister-in-law ● Any relative permanently living with an individual or vice-versa
Medical Travel	Travelling to a medical appointment in Edmonton	The GNWT	Isolation centres remain an option for all NWT residents returning from medical travel
Medically-Advised Self-Isolation	<p>A person came into contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case and does not have a suitable place to isolate.</p> <p>They contact Public Health and are advised to stay in an isolation centre to keep the community safe.</p>	The GNWT	<p>Advised by a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doctor ● Public health official ● Health care professional <p>Generally not associated with travel.</p>
Unique or unforeseen circumstances requiring self-isolation in an isolation centre	The Chief Public Health Officer determines an individual needs to stay in an isolation centre for any reason.	The GNWT	Only for exceptional circumstances.

Engagement on Policy Decisions

While developing new policies for isolation centre cost coverage, the GNWT engaged with:

- Indigenous governments
- Community governments
- Business stakeholders

There was broad consensus that there needed to be changes to isolation centre cost coverage to be responsible to taxpayers, while ensuring there is consideration for compassionate grounds to support residents facing difficult situations during the pandemic.



Timing

Anyone arriving on or after January 5, 2021 will be subject to these new policies.

Make arrangements prior to travel

All non-essential travel outside the territory is strongly discouraged given the high rates of COVID-19 in other Canadian jurisdictions. However, if you do need to leave the territory for any reason, please:

- Make your preferred arrangements – you do not need to stay in an isolation centre. You can stay in other accommodations.
- File your Self-Isolation Plan as early as possible and identify how you will self-isolate.
- Be aware of COVID-19 restrictions in the area you're traveling to.
- Stick to the healthy habits we know work to stop COVID-19 transmission when you do travel – both for your own benefit and the benefit of the NWT:
 - Physical distancing of at least six feet,
 - Wear a non-medical mask when keeping distance is tough,
 - Keep crowds small and spaces large,
 - Wash your hands – and do it a lot,
 - Keep your coughs and sneezes to yourself,
 - If you're not feeling well, stay home, call your health centre and get assessed for COVID-19, and
 - Be a responsible self-isolator whenever required.

Enforcement

Enforcement will also be stepped up at isolation centres in order to ensure compliance during these critical months.

Anyone who does not stick to their self-isolation plan and stay away from others could be subject to warnings or a fine of up to \$1725.

Let's All Do Our Part

The Chief Public Health Officer has urgently advised everyone to avoid non-essential and leisure travel while the pandemic continues to challenge our country.

This Policy supports those recommendations. It's best right now to stay put – especially in these crucial months as we vaccines work their way to residents next year