

PROTOCOL Critical Employees and Isolation

Since March 24, 2020 travel through all points of entry into Nunavut is prohibited to all travellers except for Nunavut residents, travellers from the Northwest Territories, non-residents moving to Nunavut for employment, non-residents travelling to Nunavut for family reunification, critical workers, essential workers, and anyone with an urgent and substantial need to enter Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut must balance public health measures and the need to control the spread of COVID-19, with appropriate flexibility to ensure essential services continue to operate. Individuals who need to travel to Nunavut should therefore follow the protocol provided below.

Nunavut and Northwest Territories Common Travel Area

Nunavut and the Northwest Territories have established a common travel area allowing unrestricted travel within the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. All travellers seeking to enter Nunavut from the Northwest Territories must complete a traveller's declaration and submit it to the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO). Travellers who leave the common travel area must complete a 14-day isolation period prior to returning to Nunavut.

Nunavut residents returning from anywhere other than the Northwest Territories

Nunavut residents are encouraged to avoid all non-essential travel outside of the territory. However, before returning to Nunavut, any person who has left will be required to enter mandatory isolation at a GN designated isolation facility outside of Nunavut for 14 days, even if they are asymptomatic¹, unless they also meet the "critical employee" criteria as defined below. Following completion of the mandatory isolation, the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) will provide them with a letter to confirm that they are approved for travel to Nunavut. Residents will have to present the letter as well as a proof of residency at the time of check-in before boarding the plane.

Non-Nunavut residents entering from anywhere other than the Northwest Territories

Non residents of Nunavut must apply for authorization to enter Nunavut. Non-residents may enter Nunavut for the purposes of commencing employment, family reunification, have an urgent and substantial need to do so, or they are required to provide an essential service in one of the communities. These travellers will also be required and must plan to spend the mandatory 14-day isolation in one of the designated facilities. If travellers in either category have been outside Canada, they must provide proof of compliance with federal quarantine orders. Any person entering Nunavut from outside Canada at a designated or temporary port of entry must report to the CPHO within 60 minutes of arrival and may not leave the port of entry until they are cleared to enter Nunavut.

¹ The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. These may occur within 14 days of possible exposure to a case.

Critical employees

A critical employee is defined as an employee who has an urgent and substantial need to enter Nunavut from any place in Canada other than the Northwest Territories in order to complete work that is critical to the well-being of the Territory.

1. Returning from another Canadian jurisdiction and *asymptomatic*:

Nunavut residents & non-residents

- Must contact the CPHO's office prior to booking their flights and provide a letter for the CPHO's review and approval. The letter should include the following:
 - The employee's travel history over the past three weeks;
 - The employee's name and birthdate²;
 - A statement that the employee is asymptomatic;
 - A brief explanation as to why the employee is deemed critical; and
 - The measures that will be taken by the employee to self-isolate outside of work hours.
- Upon arrival in Nunavut, the employee must commit for the initial first 14 days to:
 - Provide a daily update to their manager/supervisor on the status of their health and disclose the presence or absence of any signs or symptoms;
 - Self-monitor daily for signs and symptoms of illness;
 - Follow infection prevention and control protocols; including diligent hand hygiene;
 - Practice social distancing of two meters, reduce close contact with colleagues, and avoid shared spaces where possible (i.e., facilitate virtual arrangements);
 - If a front-line health care provider, wear a mask at all time even if they are asymptomatic;
 - Maintain appropriate physical distancing with others (at least 2 meters) when travelling to and from work and between shifts;
 - Remain isolated at home on days when not required at their workplace;
 - Self-isolate immediately if symptoms develop and contact the public health unit or health centre to receive further instructions.

2. Travelling from another Canadian jurisdiction and *symptomatic*:

- Cannot return to the territory.
- After all symptoms have disappeared, they must contact the CPHO's office prior to making any travel arrangements to Nunavut.

3. Arriving from another country and *asymptomatic*:

- Enter mandatory isolation at a GN designated isolation facility outside of the Territory for 14 days. The federal quarantine requirement can be satisfied at the GN designated isolation facility.
- If the employee develops symptoms before the end of the 14-day isolation period, they must get tested and remain in isolation until test results are returned.

² This information will be kept confidential by the CPHO.

- If the result is negative, the employee can then travel to the community where their work is located as soon as the 14-day isolation period ends, provided they no longer have symptoms; or
- If the result is positive, the employee cannot return to Nunavut until they are cleared by the CPHO, DCPHO or designated alternate (e.g. medical officer of health).

4. Arriving from another country *and symptomatic*:

- Cannot return to the territory.
- After all symptoms have disappeared, they must contact the CPHO's office prior to making any travel arrangements to Nunavut.

Please contact CPHOtravelrequests@gov.nu.ca for more information.