



Public Health Order – COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER - YELLOWKNIFE, N’DILO, AND DETTAH(effective September 13, 2021)

WHEREAS the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer, declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the Public Health Emergency has been subsequently renewed and remains in force;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer may take certain actions including issuing directions or orders for the purpose of protecting the public health under the authority of the *Public Health Act*, S.N.W.T. 2007, c.17 (hereinafter the “Act”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer issued Public Health Order – COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER - RELAXING INDOOR RESTRICTIONS (effective June 29, 2021), which included relaxing of gathering restrictions across the Northwest Territories (“the June 29, 2021 order”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer had previously issued Public Health Order COVID-19 RELAXING PHASE 2 (effective June 12, 2020) (the “June 12, 2020 order”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer previously issued Public Health Order COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER– YELLOWKNIFE, N’DILO, and DETTAH (effective September 9, 2021);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer has assessed the risk to the public health in the communities of Yellowknife, N’Dilo, and Dettah;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer now wishes to amend Public Health Order COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER– YELLOWKNIFE, N’DILO, AND DETTAH (effective September 9, 2021) to close schools in those communities until September 24, 2021;

The Chief Public Health Officer, pursuant to section 25 and section 42(e) of the Act, hereby orders the following:

Symptomatic Persons

1. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act and for the purposes of protecting the public health and decreasing the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease the Chief Public Health Officer hereby orders that persons displaying symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, generally feeling unwell, chills, muscle aches, fatigue or weakness, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain,



loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste, loss of sense of smell, skin changes or rashes, shall self-isolate and contact a local health care provider.

Restrictions on Gatherings

2. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, for the purposes of decreasing the effect of or eliminating a health hazard and for the purposes of protecting the public health and decreasing the risk to the public health presented by a reportable disease, the Chief Public Health Officer hereby orders that within the communities of Yellowknife, N'Dilo, and Dettah:

Outdoor Gatherings

- a. Persons may gather in an outdoor location, provided no more than 50 persons are present in their group, and:
 - i. a physical distance of at least 2 metres from any person who is not a member of their group is maintained by each person;
 - or
 - ii. in the case of persons playing outdoor sports, players adhere to COVID-19 guidelines from their national and provincial sports organizations, where applicable, and maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from other players when possible.;
- b. Businesses, organizations, restaurants and bars may permit persons to gather at their outdoor locations, provided the businesses, organizations, restaurants and bars: (a) permit no more than 50 persons to be present at their outdoor location; (b) ensure a physical distance of at least 2 metres from any person who is not a member of their group can be maintained by each person; and (c) develop and implement an exposure control plan, pursuant to section 88 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* made pursuant to the *Safety Act*, to eliminate or minimize worker exposure to COVID-19, unless exempt from the Regulations. Employers shall make the completed plan readily available, on request from a Public Health Officer.
- c. A person, business, organization, restaurant, or bar that is unable to meet the restrictions at parts a or b of this paragraph, may gather at an outdoor location or permit persons to gather at their outdoor location provided:



- i. they submit to Protect NWT a Mitigation Plan for this purpose and that plan is approved by the Chief Public Health Officer. The gathering must proceed in compliance with any conditions of the approval;
- or
- ii. the person, business, organization, restaurant or bar has already received an approval or exemption for this purpose pursuant to the June 12, 2020 order. Any conditions of the approval or exemption must be followed.
- d. Notwithstanding part b of this paragraph, outdoor religious or non-religious funerals or celebrations of life may proceed only in accordance with an approval or exemption from the Chief Public Health Officer.
- e. Except as set out in parts a to d of this paragraph, persons are prohibited from gathering and businesses, organizations, restaurants and bars are prohibited from allowing gatherings in an outdoor location.

Indoor Gatherings

- f. Persons are prohibited from having more than 5 persons from outside their household in a dwelling place, and from having more than a total of 10 persons in that dwelling place at any one time, except that where more than 10 persons reside in the same household this provision does not prohibit those persons from being in the same dwelling place at the same time. Persons in a dwelling place in accordance with this part f are not required to physically distance.
- g. Subject to parts h to k of this paragraph, persons are prohibited from gathering in a number in excess of 25 persons in an indoor location that is not a dwelling place. Businesses, organizations, restaurants and bars are prohibited from allowing persons to gather in their indoor location, unless:
- i. no more than 25 persons are present in the indoor location per floor;
 - ii. a physical distance of at least 2 metres can be maintained between persons who are not members of the same group; and
 - iii. they develop and implement an exposure control plan, pursuant to section 88 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* made pursuant to the *Safety Act*, to eliminate or minimize worker exposure to COVID-19, unless exempt from the Regulations. Employers shall make the completed plan readily available, on request from a Public Health Officer.



- h. A business, organization, restaurant or bar seeking to exceed the 25 person limit set out at part g of this paragraph, may do so provided:
 - i. they submit an Application to Vary to exceed the 25-person limit to Protect NWT and that plan is approved by the Chief Public Health Officer. They must comply with any conditions of that approval;
 - or
 - ii. they have already received an approval or an exemption from the Chief Public Health Officer pursuant to the June 12, 2020 Order allowing the 25 person limit to be exceeded. Any conditions of the approval or exemption must be followed.
- i. Essential businesses and facilities may exceed the 25 person limit in any indoor location provided that they limit in-person staff to the minimum number of staff required to carry out operations and comply with any conditions that may be imposed by the Chief Public Health Officer:
 - i. Dental clinics – provided they comply with Northwest Territories dental standards as directed by the Chief Public Health Officer;
 - ii. Shelters (i.e. homeless, warming, family violence, sobering);
 - iii. Food rescue and food banks;
 - iv. Grocery and large retail stores;
 - v. Pharmacies;
 - vi. Gas Bars and Convenience Stores;
 - vii. Banks;
 - viii. Liquor Stores;
 - ix. Greenhouses;
 - x. Media;
 - xi. Airports;
 - xii. Workplaces where persons are engaged in the provision of essential services including but not limited to, health and social service providers, supply chain workers, postal service workers, correctional officers, peace officers and others employed for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace, emergency responders, employees of and persons engaged by the Department of National Defence, municipal enforcement officers, community government essential service workers, and federal and territorial parks officers; and
 - xiii. Workplaces where persons are engaged in the construction of public and Indigenous infrastructure projects and the mineral and petroleum resources industry.



- j. Notwithstanding parts f and g of this paragraph, indoor religious or non-religious funerals or celebrations of life are permitted only in accordance with an approval or exemption from the Chief Public Health Officer.
- k. Notwithstanding parts g and h of this paragraph, the following activities are not permitted in indoor locations unless in accordance with an approval or exemption from the Chief Public Health Officer:
 - i. Team and contact sports;
 - ii. Group fitness classes;
 - iii. Dancing;
 - iv. Live music; and
 - v. Traditional Hand Games
- l. Extracurricular activities for children under 12 years of age are not permitted in indoor locations unless in accordance with an approval or exemption from the Chief Public Health Officer. For clarity, this prohibition does not apply to aftercare programs carried out in schools.
- m. Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools, colleges and trade schools shall close to in-person learning. This includes in-school aftercare programs.
- n. Day cares and day homes are exempt from this order and shall continue to adhere to existing plans as approved by the Chief Public Health Officer.
- o. Pursuant to section 42(e) of the Act, the “Public Health Order- COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER - RELAXING RESTRICTIONS (effective June 29, 2021)” is suspended while this order remains in force.

Approvals and Exemptions under the June 12, 2020 order

- 3. Any approvals or exemptions issued pursuant to the June 12, 2020 order may be relied on and will have the same conditions of approval as if they had been issued pursuant to this Order, including those issued to schools, businesses, organizations, restaurants and bars. Any previously issued approvals or exemptions for indoor sports pursuant to the June 12, 2020 order are no longer valid, and organizers must apply to have their application for approval or exemption re-assessed under this order.



Exemptions

4. Notwithstanding anything in this order, the Chief Public Health Officer may exempt a person or class of persons from the application of this order.

Any person who is subject to this order may appeal the order to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories pursuant to section 47 of the *Public Health Act* within 30 days after the day on which the order is served on the person in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Health Act*.

It is an offence pursuant to section 49 of the *Public Health Act* for a person to fail to comply with the *Public Health Act*, its regulations or an order made under it.

Any person who has any questions about this order, or wishes to apply for an approval or exemption related to this order can contact Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297 and can obtain a copy of this Order from Protect NWT or from <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19>.

This order is effective September 13, 2021 at 5:00pm and remains in effect until September 24, 2021 at 11:59pm, unless otherwise rescinded.

Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer