

Chief Public Health Officer update

Good afternoon. I am pleased to announce several items today. The first is that Rankin Inlet now has the ability to provide testing if a positive case is confirmed in-territory. I'd like to commend the medical and laboratory staff, especially Matt Stacey and Dr. Jasmine Pawa, who have been working tirelessly to become acquainted with the GeneXpert machine, and to ensure that it can be managed safely, efficiently, and accurately. Getting this machine up and running is a significant step forward for Nunavut, as this now fulfills our criteria of obtaining reliable and effective in-territory diagnostic capacity. When coupled with the fact that we still have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 inside the territory, we have now met two of our three conditions. While the situation in southern Canada will continue to play a role in our approach moving forward, we are now in a better position to consider reducing some restrictions in the territory.

I have one other piece of news I would like to share. Moving forward, Kitikmeot medical travellers receiving treatment in Yellowknife are no longer required to undergo the 14-day isolation period, and instead will be permitted to return home immediately. This decision has been made through consultation with the Northwest Territories and is contingent on there being no active cases of COVID-19 in the NWT. Please note that this is for medical travellers only, and this is only when their treatment is provided in Yellowknife. Any medical traveller who needs to leave the Northwest Territories to receive treatment in other cities in Canada will still be required to complete their 14-day isolation period. For all medical travellers to whom this new rule applies who are currently in quarantine, we are working to get you home as soon as possible.

As always, our main goal is the safety, health and well being of Nunavummiut. I would like to thank you all for your patience, understanding and support as we continue to care for our families and our communities.

As part of the Government of Nunavut's (GN) effort to protect Nunavummiut against the risk of COVID-19, GN Departments are implementing the following:

Department of Health Services

COVID Hotline and Self-Assessment Tool

Anyone who has reason to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 is advised to call the COVID hotline at 1-888-975-8601 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., or notify their community health centre right away, and immediately isolate at home for 14 days.

For the latest COVID-19 information and GN Departments updates in all languages:

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>; <https://www.gov.nu.ca>



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Anyone with access to internet can also take the online self-assessment tool nu.thrive.health

Volumes

Total (All Isolation Locations)	
Traveler Type	Guests in Isolation as of May 21
Medical Travel	190
Public	86
Students	0
Total	276

Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
May 21	39
May 22	13
May 23	14
May 24	6
May 25	31

Critical Worker Requests

As of May 21, there are 1080 requests, 838 of which are critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	916	84.8%
Denied	122	11.3%
Pending	48	3.9%
Total	1080	100%

Nunavummiut's health is our shared responsibility! Remember: wash your hands and surfaces, practice social distancing, listen to the advice of health officials, and stay home if you're sick.

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