

COVID-19 GN Update

June 18, 2020

Premier's Update:

Good morning. There are still no confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 in Nunavut.

The total number of people under investigation to date is 1,288. 137 people are currently under investigation.

The Prime Minister announced earlier this week that the Canada Emergency Response Benefit – CERB – will be extended for another two months. While this is a great relief to those people who cannot work because of COVID-19, I want to remind people that it is a benefit for a specific reason.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but if your regular employment or your income has not been impacted by the pandemic, you are likely not eligible for CERB, and the federal government may need you to pay it back later on. Please don't apply or access this funding if it is not meant for you. Otherwise, you may find yourself with a bill you cannot afford to repay.

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

Calling Ahead at Health Centres

Unless you are experiencing a medical emergency, please call your health centre first before going in. Describe your symptoms, and health care providers can conduct a telephone assessment and may schedule in-person appointments for appropriate care.

Wearing Masks at Health Centres

If you are presenting at a health centre with respiratory symptoms like coughing, sneezing, or a runny nose, please wear a mask. If you do not have a mask, please tell whoever receives you at the health centre of your symptoms, and they can provide you with one.

New Email for Travellers

A new email address has been established for Nunavummiut planning travel outside of the territory. All travellers must submit an Isolation Reservation Request Form to NUisolationreservations@nunavutcare.ca as soon as travel plans are known to ensure that the travel team can identify room availability and reserve stays in a designated isolation facility. More information can be found on the Department of Health website.

Isolation sites concern inbox

A new email address has been established to better address concerns and comments from clients completing 14-day isolation in the Isolation Sites in Southern Canada. The new email will take pressure off the COVID toll free line, patient relations and the CPHOtravel requests inbox. The new email address is isolationrelations@gov.nu.ca.

Volumes

Total (All Isolation Locations)		
Traveler Type	Guests in Isolation as of June 17	
Medical Travel	240	
Public	197	
Students	0	
Total	437	





Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
June 18	56
June 19	9
June 20	12
June 21	3
June 22	50

Critical Worker Requests

As of June 17, there are 1,667 requests, 1,238 of which are critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	1470	88.2%
Denied	188	11.3%
Pending	9	0.5%
Total	1667	100%

Travel through the Common Travel Area

As of June 17, there are 15 approved requests for travel into Nunavut from the Northwest Territories.

Ongoing services:

Access to health care services will remain available in all communities seven days a week. All non-urgent requests will be triaged daily. Immediate access to urgent and emergent health care services are and will continue to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All clients are asked to call before presenting at a health facility.

Beginning June 8, there will be an increased availability of in-person health assessments at health centres across the territory.

- In Iqaluit, public health, the emergency room and inpatient unit will remain open.
- Well baby clinics, prenatal visits and immunizations are continuing across Nunavut.
- Physicians will continue community visits. If this is not possible, the visits will be conducted by telehealth or by phone.
- Lab and Diagnostic Imaging services at QGH have resumed regular services

Adjusted services:

Appointments at health facilities are being triaged, this means the appointment may be over the phone or in person.

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





Medical travel services have been reduced to urgent medical travel only. Clients will be advised of these changes and involved in discussions.

In Iqaluit, outpatient clinics and rehab are triaging all appointments and conducting appointments. All upcoming appointments are being triaged.

The inpatient ward at QGH is allowing limited visitors to the inpatient ward following a questionnaire.

MHA has moved to telephone check in and support for some clients. Scheduled appointments for medication pick up and administration remain the same. If you are in crisis, present to the health centre. Home visits to administer medications will be treated on a case by case basis.

Beginning June 15, normal dental services are permitted to resume, though this service may not be available in all communities immediately. For communities where normal service resumption is delayed, emergency services are still available.

Closed /Cancelled/Suspended services:

Speciality clinics have been cancelled. Work is underway to determine which clients can be seen by phone/virtual care.

All non-essential travel for mental health clients and families are cancelled. All non-essential travel for families visiting clients in care is cancelled.

No visitors will be allowed at long term care facilities in Nunavut – Continuing Care Centres (CCCs) and Elders' Homes.

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

Department of Community and Government Services

Requests to enter Nunavut for construction-related projects

Requests to enter the territory for construction related projects or to travel within the territory for construction related projects can be emailed to CPHOconstructionrequests@gov.nu.ca

Construction workers who completed isolation to date: 269

Construction workers who completed isolation as of June 17, 2020			
Departure Date	Number	Destination	
15-Jun-20	17	lqaluit	
15-Jun-20	14	lqaluit	
15-Jun-20	1	Resolute Bay	
15-Jun-20	1	Rankin Inlet	
16-Jun-20	18	lqaluit	
16-Jun-20	13	Pond Inlet	
16-Jun-20	8	Rankin Inlet	
16-Jun-20	8	Gjoa Haven	
17-Jun-20	8	Iqaluit	

GN office buildings in all communities remain closed to the public at this time. If a member of the public needs to meet with GN staff, alternate arrangements need to be made. Please call ahead of time and make an appointment.

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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