

News Release

For Immediate Release

Public health measure to ease across Nunavut

Iqaluit, Nunavut (March 9, 2022) – Today, Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut’s Chief Public Health Officer, and Minister of Health John Main are announcing Nunavut’s plan towards lifting the Public Health Emergency by April 11.

“Over the past two years, the Government of Nunavut has done its part to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in our communities. Nunavummiut have the tools, including a safe and effective vaccine, access to self-testing and an abundance of information on how to protect themselves from the harms of this virus,” said Minister Main. “Today, in consultation with the Chief Public Health Officer, we are announcing our plan toward lifting the Public Health Emergency.”

The first phase of this plan will be a gradual and safe easing of public health measures across the territory beginning on March 14.

At this time, the communities of Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk will remain at the current level of public health measures until COVID-19 cases improve.

Public Health Measures in Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk Igloodik and Taloyoak will be as follows:

- Outdoor gatherings increase to 50 people.
- Indoor gatherings increase to 10 people plus household members.
- Restaurants and licensed facilities may open at 25 people capacity or 25 per cent capacity, whichever is less. No singing or dancing will be permitted.
- Public indoor gatherings increase to 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less.
- Gym capacity is 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. Group sessions limited to 10 people.
- Libraries, museums, and galleries capacity increases to 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. Group tours limited to 10 people.

- Arena capacity may increase to 50 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less, as well as a maximum of 50 spectators.
- Team sports are permitted.
- Places of worship are limited to 50 people or 25 per cent capacity, no singing.
- Masks remain mandatory

Public Health measures in all other communities will be as follows:

- Indoor gatherings increase to 15 people plus household members.
- Public indoor gatherings increase to 50 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less.
- Group counselling increased to 20 people, masks mandatory.
- Outdoor gatherings increase to 100 people.
- Restaurants and licensed facilities may open at 50 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. Singing and dancing is permitted.
- The Iqaluit theatre may open at 50 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less, per screening room with no moving between rooms.
- Gyms and fitness centres capacity increases to 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. Group sessions are limited to 10 people.
- Swimming pools may open for 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. Group sessions are limited to 10 people.
- Libraries, museums, and galleries capacity increases to 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. Group sessions are limited to 10 people.
- Taxis may allow multiple fares if first customer consents and everyone is masked.
- Arena capacity increases to 50 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less, as well as a maximum of 50 spectators.
- Team sports are allowed.
- Places of worship capacity increased to 50 people or 50 per cent capacity. Singing is permitted.
- Territorial Park buildings may open.
- Long-term care facilities may allow two visitors per resident from their immediate family.
- All schools and daycares can open at 100 per cent capacity.
- Masks remain mandatory.

As of Monday March 14, the Government of Nunavut will reduce its public reporting of COVID-19 case data to once per week.

Every two weeks for the next six weeks, the Government of Nunavut will continue to ease measures and restrictions in preparation to ending the Public Health Emergency by April 11. Ending the emergency assumes the previous weeks go well, and there is evidence that the health system will be able to manage COVID-19 as it would any other condition.

“COVID-19 is here to stay, and it is time to move away from life under public health measures. These changes will allow the Government of Nunavut to shift resources to integrating COVID-19 response into the regular health care system.” said Dr. Patterson. “As in the past, we will move forward with easing measures in a gradual and evidence informed approach that will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 in our communities.”

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