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Constituency Office
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Emerging Wisely Q&As

PHASE 1: mid-to-late May

PHASE 2: mid-to-late June

PHASE 3: to be determined

When does Phase 1 start?

As early as Friday, May 15th or next week depending when legal orders are finalized.

Will all schools open?

All School Boards have decided to NOT re-open schools due to the complex operational challenges faced by schools at this time. Education Leaders will use the new recommendations of the CPHO to help in the planning for the 2020-21 school year.

When do playgrounds open?

Phase 1.

When can I go camping?

During Phase 1 day-use areas are open and you can overnight camp on the land but not in existing campgrounds, public or private until Phase 2. Other restrictions still apply, like no outdoor gatherings of more than 25 people, no communal food or beverages and practice physical distancing.

Can my friendship circle change?

The Public Health Chief Officer (CPHO) strongly recommends that you keep it to the same five or a similar model to keep your circle as small as possible, use common sense, and keep each other safe.

If there are 2 people in your home can you have 8 instead of 5 friends?

No, the limit is still 5 or if you have 7 household members you can only have another 2 for the maximum 10 in your home.

Can I drive with people in my car?

Cars are the same as homes, keep with your household members or your fav five. If someone needs a ride to attend an appointment or pick up groceries, wear masks and with the warmer weather keep windows open.

I BELIEVE IN OUR NORTH.

Can I visit my friends or family in the hospital?

You would have to check with the NWT Health and Social Services Authority as they maintain the specific policies on visitation, visit <https://www.nthssa.ca/en>

Can I hug Grandma?

Yes, you can hug Grandma and even Grandpa, but always use common sense especially if they are high-risk, wash your hands, cough, or sneeze into your arm.

Can phases proceed as planned if new COVID-19 cases are from travel?

Yes.

Will the NWT's Enforcement Task monitor the different phases?

Yes, increasing their scope of work will be instrumental in investigating complaints. Complaints can be made by call 8-1-1 or email protectnwt@gov.nt.ca.

What is required of businesses to reopen?

You must first complete a workplace risk assessment. While the WSCC does not review or approve these assessments, their OHS Inspectors can provide guidance. Call 920-3888 or email Covid-19@wsc.ca.

Note that Inspectors will request a copy of the completed risk assessment if they are responding to concerns or conducting a workplace inspection. CPHO orders require that completed Risk Assessments need to be available at the work site. See <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-.../.../services/employers-employees>

When will non-essential GNWT workers go back to work?

You may see a return Phase 2 (mid-to-late June). The GNWT is working on plans for the gradual, safe and orderly return of employees over the coming weeks and months. Even after the territory has moved into Phase 2, many employees will continue to work from home. Your manager will reach out and provide specific plans for your worksite and unit while recognizing your unique situations including health and childcare.

What about our travel restrictions?

Travel into the Territory is still restricted and not recommended for the foreseeable future. Strict measures are in place as all our cases are related to travel outside our border. The NWT is at a higher risk with our limited health care facilities, large number of vulnerable people and remote communities.

However, if you choose to travel outside of the NWT, it is suggested you check the government website of your destination province or territory to see if they have specific requirements or restrictions on visitors. If you are travelling by air, passengers are required to wear a face covering. You will also have to self-isolate for 14 days when you return. You will also be required to complete a self-isolation plan online within 24 hours of crossing the border and you will need to submit a symptom check form on the 2nd, 6th,

10th and 14th days of your self-isolation. See <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/health-and-well-being/self-isolation-plan>

What if you have a family member down south who is sick?

You can apply for a compassionate exemption to the travel order if you have a family member or friend in need. Contact Protect NWT at 1-833-378-8297 or email protectnwt@gov.nt.ca. Exemption applications are reviewed on a base-by-case basis by public health officials.

Can family and friends visit me this summer?

The CPHO has prohibited ALL travel into the NWT by non-residents to prevent the spread of COVID-19. There are limited exceptions. See <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/travel-moving-around>

How will the GNWT account for the shortfall in the Tourism industry?

The NWT can not open its borders to international or even national visitors while there are still many cases of COVID-19 across Canada and the world. The GNWT is speaking with the Government of Canada regarding the needs of our Tourism industry and the need for economic relief.

Do I have to wear a mask when I leave my home?

You are encouraged to use a mask when venturing out of your homes into places where it is difficult to maintain distance from other people. A mask will help keep people with COVID-19 from unknowingly passing along the virus.

When will garage sales be allowed?

In Phase 3.

When can we dine in at restaurants?

In Phase 2.

Can restaurants open their patios in Phase 1?

Restaurants can submit their plans to the CPHO through protectnwt@gov.nt.ca.

When can food trucks open?

Phase 1.