



**Public Health Order – TEMPORARY PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER
(effective January 4, 2022)**

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 – NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COVID-19 GATHERINGS ORDER (effective October 22, 2021), which includes gathering restrictions across the Northwest Territories (the “October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer has assessed the risk to the public health and now wishes to partially suspend, for a temporary period of time, certain of the gathering restrictions and approvals provided for in the October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order;

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

Temporary Restrictions on Gatherings

1. 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 until January 21, 2022 at 11:59pm:

Restrictions on Persons Permitted in Dwelling Places

- a. Part (b) of paragraph 2 of the October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order, providing that up to 25 fully vaccinated persons are permitted in a dwelling place where all persons residing in the dwelling place are (i) fully vaccinated, or (ii) under the age of 12 years of age, is suspended.
- b. Accordingly, in accordance with part (a) of paragraph 2 of the October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order, 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 does not prohibit those persons from being in the same dwelling place at the same time. Persons in a dwelling place in accordance with part (a) are not required to physically distance. Dancing, singing and playing of wind and brass instruments in a dwelling place are prohibited when persons from outside the household are present.

Restrictions on High-Risk of Transmission Activities

- c. Persons are prohibited from engaging in and persons, businesses (including restaurants and bars), organizations and facilities are prohibited from permitting persons to engage in:
 - i. indoor dancing;
 - ii. indoor singing;
 - iii. indoor playing of wind and brass instruments;
 - iv. traditional hand games;
 - v. indoor contact sports;
 - vi. indoor high intensity fitness classes;
 - vii. indoor winter sports; and
 - viii. indoor swimming.

Any previously issued approvals or exemptions, to the extent they permit the above listed activities, issued to persons, businesses (including restaurants and bars), organizations and facilities pursuant to the October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order, are suspended for the duration of this Order. For clarity, approvals and exemptions remain in effect to the extent they are for other activities, or partly for other activities, not listed above. In addition, approvals of capacity limits for businesses remain in effect in accordance with their approval conditions.

Restrictions on Gatherings at Locations where Liquor is served

- d. Where liquor is served at an indoor or outdoor location, persons are prohibited and persons, businesses (including restaurants and bars), organizations and facilities are prohibited from permitting persons:
 - i. to gather at a table or in a group, at that location, with more than a total of 6 persons; and
 - ii. to move from one such table or group to another.

The October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order

- 2. The October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order remains in effect, except as specifically provided for in this Order. In the event of an inconsistency between this Order and the October 22, 2021 Northwest Territories order, this Order shall govern.



Exemptions

3. 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 this 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 this 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 January 4, 2022 at 5:00pm and remains in effect until January 21, 2022 at 11:59pm, unless otherwise rescinded.

Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer