



# **Direction and Guidelines for the Delivery of Critical, Essential and Other Services**

## **Section VI**



## Updated: April 2, 2020

The following document explains the measures employers and employees must take to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 throughout Yukon while striving to maintain critical, essential and other services. As of yet, there are no known instances of community transmission of COVID-19 in Yukon and it is imperative that strict measures be in place to reduce that likelihood.

Compared to southern jurisdictions, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) has recommended stricter measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Similar to the two northern jurisdictions of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, Yukon has put in place legal orders and associated guidelines and recommendations that recognize the unique vulnerability of communities across Yukon and the limits of Yukon's existing health support infrastructure. Community spread of COVID-19 or the introduction of COVID-19 into a Yukon rural community has the potential to place a considerable burden on residents and to overwhelm scarce health resources such as small community hospitals and nursing stations.

The attached guidance on Critical, Essential and non-Essential Services is intended to help workers, business and government make business continuity decisions and plan their service delivery while following the legal orders made under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and the guidance provided by the CMOH, for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic warrants.

It should be noted that the lists of Critical and Essential Services do not exempt those delivering these services from the legal orders and the guidance of the CMOH. The orders apply to the delivery of Critical Services, Essential Services and non-Essential Services in specific ways.

The information provided below is subject to change, based upon the advice of Yukon's CMOH and any further orders made by the Minister of Community Services under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*.

## VI. Guidelines for the delivery of services that require travel to, or from, Yukon's rural communities

The CMOH has strongly recommended against non-essential travel into and out of Yukon's rural communities. This recommendation means avoiding any travel to, or from, any community located outside of Whitehorse for any reason other than:

- receiving or delivering Critical Services;
- seeking urgent medical attention; or
- returning home to self-isolate as directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

If residents of rural communities are unable to self-isolate in their communities as directed, they should contact the Government of Yukon's Health Emergency Operations Centre. Email: [covid19info@gov.yk.ca](mailto:covid19info@gov.yk.ca).

It is recognized that travel by workers to Yukon's rural communities to deliver Critical Services, Essential services and non-Essential Services may occur.

The following guidance, along with the engagement process set out in Annex 4, applies to those providing any services in Yukon's rural communities.

- Entities providing any services should take all reasonable measures to prevent the risk of transmission of COVID-19 by a worker who provides services by:
  - implementing a company-wide physical distancing policy for all workers requiring a minimum physical distance of 2 metres between workers and other people, including in vehicles;
  - ensure compliance with the legal order to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people;
  - increasing regularly scheduled cleaning with a disinfecting agent such as antimicrobial disposable wipes or a bleach solution;
  - supporting and maintaining high levels of hand hygiene, ensuring that workers have access to hand hygiene products and are able to follow physical distancing rules;

- supporting rapid response for an essential worker who develops symptoms;
- requiring workers to self-declare to their supervisor and to 811 or their health care practitioner, if they have come in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 and to self-isolate if instructed by a health practitioner;
- requiring workers showing [symptoms of COVID-19](#) to phone 811 or their health practitioner and self-isolate for 14 days until otherwise instructed by their health care provider or by Yukon Communicable Disease Control.

Workers providing services should:

- self-monitor daily for signs and symptoms of illness, including taking a daily temperature;
- follow protocols for infection prevention and control including diligent hand hygiene;
- comply with the legal order to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people;
- avoid close contact with other workers while at work (for example, maintain a 2-metre separation and avoid shared spaces);
- maintain 2-metre physical distancing when travelling to and from work and between shifts, including in vehicles;
- not share personal items such as electronics, personal protective equipment, utensils, food or cigarettes and vaping devices;
- reduce in-person encounters whenever possible;
- [self-isolate](#) at home on days when not required at their workplace;
- report to their supervisors and to 811 or their health care practitioner, if they have come in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 and to self-isolate if instructed by a health practitioner;
- avoid any unnecessary public establishments or stops
- if stops are unavoidable (for example, fueling), stay 2 metres away from others and depart as soon as possible; and
- plan their travel to their destination, ensuring they have sufficient gas, food and supplies so they do not need to stop along the way.

For the mining, resource and construction sector, the adjustment to business practices and service delivery means making provisions for workers to remain in camps or in other designated accommodations (for example, hotels) and not visit or interact with others within rural communities. Note that the legal order requires that the 14-day period of self-isolation be completed before a worker enters a camp. [Read the interim Guidelines for Work Camps.](#)

The following guidance applies to residents and others who are travelling in or out of rural communities for other purposes:

- Communities and residents should strive to limit their residents' exposure to interactions with residents or visitors from Whitehorse, as far as practicable. This is because Whitehorse is the primary "point of entry" to Yukon for visitors from other provinces, territories and countries. They may be more likely to be vectors for COVID-19 transmission.
- Residents of communities outside of Whitehorse should attempt to organize delivery of grocery or supply orders or designate one or more residents to collect grocery or supply orders on behalf of others in order limit the opportunities for COVID-19 transmission in the vulnerable rural communities.

### **Acknowledgment**

The CMOH, the Government of Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization and the Minister of Community Services realize that these are extraordinary measures that may cause hardship for people, families, communities and businesses.

By carefully following the legal orders and the directions of the CMOH, Yukoners can each take responsibility and help to control of the spread of COVID-19 in Yukon.

We wish to thank you for carefully following the orders, recommendations and guidelines and for contributing to protecting Yukon from COVID-19.