



Guidelines for Research Activities in Nunavut during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Updated: May 2022

This guidance document is intended for anyone who plans to conduct research in Nunavut during the COVID-19 pandemic and who requires a license under Nunavut’s Scientists Act. Information is also provided for researchers who wish to utilize Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)’s research facilities during the pandemic. We will update this document regularly to reflect changes to the public health measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our territory.

Nunavut’s Minister of Health lifted the Territorial Public Health Emergency on April 11, 2022. As a result, all remaining COVID-19 public health restrictions across Nunavut are suspended. All residents and visitors however are encouraged to continue taking the necessary precautions to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. This means staying home when you are sick, wearing a mask when appropriate and avoiding gatherings if you have been exposed to COVID-19.

Please regularly consult the [Government of Nunavut’s COVID-19 Information Resource Website](#) for the most current information on COVID-19 in Nunavut.

Scientific Research Licensing Services

The recent easing of restrictions on travel to Nunavut has resulted in a significant increase in the number of requests for new scientific research licenses and license renewals. If you plan to conduct research in Nunavut in 2022, please submit your license application or renewal request as early as possible (preferably at least 90 days prior to your desired start date for research). Please notify the NRI immediately if you need to alter, defer, or cancel your licensed research activities in 2022. A license amendment as well as additional consultations and regulatory approvals may be required for significant changes to a research project (e.g. for changes to the timing, duration, methods, and location of research activities, or changes to the names and number of research team members). We thank you for your patience and understanding. If you

have any questions regarding scientific research licensing, please contact the NRI's Manager of research Licensing, [Moshia Cote](#), at any time.

Travel to Nunavut to Undertake Research

There are currently no restrictions on travel to any Nunavut community to undertake research. The NRI strongly advises that any researchers wishing to travel to Nunavut be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. To be allowed to board an inbound aircraft to Nunavut, or to travel out of a Nunavut airport, **you must provide proof of your COVID-19 vaccination or approved exception document to the airline at check in.** You cannot travel to or from a Nunavut airport if you are exhibiting: (1) a fever and cough; or (2) a fever and breathing difficulties; or if you have or have had COVID-19 in the last 10 days or have developed signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 10 days.

If you develop COVID-19 or begin experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID, you may be required to wait up to 10 days before boarding an aircraft for travel to or from Nunavut, unless you present a medical certificate confirming that your symptoms aren't related to COVID-19. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic, you would still NOT be allowed to travel by air into or out of Nunavut.

If you do test positive for COVID-19 while in Nunavut, you are not required to show a negative COVID test result to the airline before being allowed to travel, provided you complete the necessary wait period after the onset of your symptoms.

Remember:

- If you have COVID, you can't fly for 10 days after detecting symptoms.
- If you don't have COVID and you're vaccinated, you can fly.
- If don't have COVID, and aren't vaccinated, you can fly with a negative test taken at the airport.

For travel related inquiries please call the Government of Nunavut's COVID-19 travel hotline at 1-833-524-0735 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, on weekdays.

Gatherings for Community-Based Research

As of April 11, 2022, there are no longer any restrictions on gathering sizes in Nunavut for any purposes. Masks are no longer mandatory for the public; however private businesses may continue to require staff and patrons to wear masks. The Government of Nunavut requires that masks be worn at all GN offices (including Nunavut Arctic College facilities). Masks are also mandatory at all Nunavut health facilities and Elders' facilities. We also strongly recommend that researchers continue to wear masks in all public places and especially when attending gatherings or conducting research activities (e.g. community consultations, focus group sessions, interviews, training, etc.).

Isolation in Nunavut is no longer mandatory for COVID-19 positive individuals. However, if you become sick with COVID-19 while in Nunavut to conduct research, please avoid public places and immediately postpone any research activities that involve interactions with community residents. Community research activities should not be resumed until you are symptom free.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Nunavut please continue to do the following:

- Stay home if you feel unwell;
- Maintain physical distancing from others;
- Wash or sanitize your hands often;
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve;
- Avoid touching your face;
- Wear effective masks in public.

Please frequently consult the websites below for more information on the measures being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Nunavut:

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

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/chief-public-health-officer-orders>

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/nunavuts-path>

For COVID-19 inquiries, including information on symptoms, testing, treatment, and advice for preventing the spread of the virus, please call 1-888-975-8601 between 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST.

Access to Nunavut Arctic College Research Facilities

NAC's research facilities (including laboratories and bunkhouses) in Arviat, Iqaluit, Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay have reopened to the public. To book accommodation or lab space, please contact the NRI's Manager of Research Support Services, [Rick Armstrong](#). Masks must be worn at all times in NAC's research facilities.

If you become infected with COVID-19 or start to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while staying in a NAC bunkhouse, please immediately notify Rick Armstrong. The NRI will complete a risk assessment and determine the appropriate measures you should take to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 to other guests in the bunkhouse. Should you need to isolate, you may also be eligible for isolation support from the Government of Nunavut (contact IsolationSupports@gov.nu.ca). Depending on the risk of transmission in your bunkhouse, you may be required to find alternative accommodation arrangements to help protect other guests.