



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

Updated: January 17, 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. Please be advised, the COVID-19 situation in Nunavut is dynamic and highly variable across the Territory; and the current version of this document may not reflect all up to date health measures. Please regularly review the Government of Nunavut's [COVID-19 Information Resource Website](#) for the most current Territorial public health measures, including restrictions on travel and social gatherings.

### Scientific Research Licensing Services

The NRI's staff are currently working hard to address a backlog of research license applications and renewal requests received during the recent territorial lockdown. We apologize for any delay in processing your application and we ask for your patience. 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).

We understand that COVID-19 has forced many license holders to defer, postpone, modify, and even cancel their planned research activities in Nunavut in 2021 and 2022. **Please notify the NRI immediately should you need to alter, defer, or cancel your licensed research activities in 2022.** A license amendment may be required for modifications to a research project (e.g. for significant changes to the timing, duration, methods, and location of research activities, or to the names and number of research team members).

Before amending a research license, we may also need to conduct additional community consultation and/or secure new or updated regulatory approvals which may also require additional processing time. We thank you for your patience and understanding. \* **All**

**applicants must provide confirmation of community support for any planned visits to a Nunavut community.**

## **Travel to Nunavut to Undertake Research**

Under the current Public Health Emergency in Nunavut, travel to Nunavut communities to conduct non-essential research activities is strongly discouraged. Please carefully review the [Travel and Isolation](#) section of the Government of Nunavut's [COVID-19 Information Resource Website](#) for the latest information on travel restrictions in place for residents and non-residents entering and leaving the territory.

If you are fully vaccinated (have had 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use or recognized by Health Canada), you do not need authorization from Nunavut's CPHO to travel to and within Nunavut. Fully vaccinated researchers must present their proof of vaccination certificate (PVC) to the airline. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated researchers must isolate for 14-days at an out-of-territory isolation hub prior to entering Nunavut. If you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, contact [nuisolationreservations@nunavutcare.ca](mailto:nuisolationreservations@nunavutcare.ca). Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated researchers must comply with the Government of Canada Guidelines which may involve additional testing requirements.

Please visit [Public Health Orders](#) to confirm there are no community specific travel restrictions before your travel. If there are such restrictions in place, you may require Travel Authorization from Nunavut's CPHO.

As of January 17, 2022, it is recommended that any fully vaccinated travellers self-isolate for 10 days upon arrival in Nunavut.

In the event a positive COVID-19 case occurs while you are already in a Nunavut community, travel to and from the affected community may become be restricted. Plan your research field activities to account for possibly having to stay longer than anticipated due to any potential delays resulting from a COVID-19 outbreak (e.g. budget time and money for extended accommodations). In addition to adhering to all Territory-wide public health measures, please ensure that you comply with any local public health measures or guidelines as required by community authorities. \*Please visit [Public Health Orders](#) to confirm there are no community specific travel restrictions before your travel.

Prior to finalizing any travel plans to a Nunavut community, please ensure that the appropriate local authorities (e.g. the Mayor or senior administrative officer) and any local research collaborators or partners are fully supportive of your planned visit. Documented proof of current community approval is required for any research visits to Nunavut. This requirement applies both to new applicants and to multi-year license holders returning to Nunavut to continue research activities that were approved prior to the pandemic.

## **Marine (Ship-Based) Research**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 by sea, Transport Canada implemented an Interim Order restricting the ability of pleasure craft to operate in Canadian Arctic waters. Vessel operators wishing to conduct ship-based research in Nunavut should contact Transport Canada's Marine Safety and Security Division to determine whether this restriction still applies. Vessel Operators may request an exemption from the Order. Operators who are unvaccinated must also obtain permission from Nunavut's CPHO if they plan to make landfall in any Nunavut community.

## **Gatherings for Community-Based Research**

As of January 17, 2022, public gatherings for research purposes in Nunavut are strongly discouraged. The restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings in Nunavut may vary between communities and are continuously updated in response to new COVID-19 infection incidents, recoveries, and other factors. Please consult the Government of Nunavut's most recent [Nunavut wide and community specific public health measures](#) for the most current information.

Non-compliance with applicable COVID -19 related public health measures may result in a research license being revoked or suspended.

## **Access to Nunavut Arctic College Research Facilities**

NAC's research facilities (including laboratories and bunkhouses) in Arviat, Iqaluit, Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay are currently closed to the public.

## **Additional COVID-19 Information and Resources**

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Nunavut please 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.

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>