



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

Updated: January 11, 2020

This document is intended to provide guidance to researchers who plan to undertake research activities in Nunavut during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines apply primarily to research activities licensable under Nunavut's Scientists Act, and to researchers who wish to utilize Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)'s research facilities during the Pandemic. NAC will update this document regularly as the restrictions on travel, physical distancing, and other health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our territory continue to evolve. For more information about these guidelines please contact the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) at:

jamal.shirley@arcticcollege.ca

Scientific Research Licensing Services

The NRI is still able to process applications for new scientific research licenses and to renew multi-year research licenses during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additional time may be needed to process license applications so please ensure that your license applications and renewal requests are submitted early. We understand that COVID-19 has forced many researchers to defer, postpone, modify, and even cancel their planned research activities in Nunavut in 2020. **Current research license holders should notify the NRI immediately of any intention to alter, defer, or cancel research activities planned for 2021.** A license amendment may be required for changes to a project (e.g. changes to the timing, duration, methods, and location of research activities, or to the names of research team members). Changes to research activities may also require additional community consultation and/or new regulatory reviews and approvals. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Travel to Nunavut to undertake Research

Non-residents may travel to Nunavut to conduct research, however, all travel is still subject to restrictions imposed by Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our territory. Travel to Arviat for research purposes is currently not permitted. Any non-resident wishing to travel to any other Nunavut community for research purposes **must first obtain permission from the community, and complete a minimum fourteen-day isolation period at a place designated by the Chief Public Health Officer.** Requests to enter an isolation hub must be approved by the CPHO. Requests can be submitted electronically: to cphotravelrequests@gov.nu.ca and must include the following details:

- Names of all travellers requesting isolation.
- Requested dates of travel.
- Summary of reason for travel.
- Proof of consent of travel from the municipal council of the destination community.

Upon completion of the isolation period, the CPHO will issue a clearance letter authorizing the researcher to travel to Nunavut.

Please visit: <https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/travel-and-isolation#Travel%20Ban> for additional information on isolation requirements for travel to Nunavut.

Marine (ship based) Research

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 by sea, Transport Canada has imposed an Interim Order restricting the ability of pleasure craft and commercial vessels to operate in Canadian Arctic waters. Any vessel operator wishing to conduct ship-based research in Nunavut waters must first obtain special authorization from Transport Canada's Marine Safety and Security Division. Research vessel operators must also obtain permission from Nunavut's CPHO if they plan to make landfall in any Nunavut community. Social isolation requirements may be required for ship personnel who plan to enter a Nunavut community.

Land Based Research

Researchers who plan to travel to Nunavut to conduct field activities at remote research locations must obtain authorization from Nunavut's CPHO. Researchers who must transit through a Nunavut community to reach a remote field location will also need to complete the 14-day isolation period at an approved isolation hub. Researchers requesting to enter remote or non-populated areas of Nunavut via private transportation and without coming into contact with Nunavummiut may be permitted to enter Nunavut without completing the 14-day isolation period in a southern hub. Requests must be submitted to the CPHO with the following information:

- Names of all travellers requesting the exemption;

- Requested dates of travel.
- Brief summary of reasons for travel.
- Proof of consent of activities by the landowner.
- A contingency plan detailing how the applicant will avoid contact with hamlets or populated areas in the event of a health or safety emergency.

Gatherings for Community Based Research

Gatherings for research purposes in Arviat and Whale Cove are subject to the following restrictions:

Gathering Sizes	Indoor gatherings—dwelling	Not permitted
	Indoor gatherings—non-dwelling	10
	Indoor gatherings—group counselling /support groups	10; masks mandatory
	Indoor gatherings—Halls; conference spaces	50% of maximum capacity or 50
	Indoor gatherings—GN, feds, Inuit orgs, hamlets	prohibited
	Outdoor gatherings	5

Individuals must maintain a distance of 2m from others in public other than members of their immediate household. Masks are mandatory at all public gatherings.

Gatherings for research purposes in all Baffin and Kitikmeot communities, and in Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Naujaat, and Rankin Inlet, are subject to the following restrictions:

Gathering Sizes	Indoor gatherings—dwelling	15+ residents
	Indoor gatherings—non-dwelling	15
	Indoor gatherings—group counselling /support groups	20
	Indoor gatherings—Halls; conference spaces	50% of maximum capacity or 50
	Indoor gatherings—GN, feds, Inuit orgs, hamlets	50% of maximum or 50
	Outdoor gatherings	50

Masks are strongly recommended for all public gatherings. Researchers who wish to organize gatherings that exceed the number of people approved under these guidelines must first obtain

written authorization from the office of the CPHO. Requests can be submitted electronically: cphotravelrequests@gov.nu.ca

*Multi-year license holders who wish to travel to a Nunavut community to continue research activities which received community approval prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic should contact local authorities to ensure that the community is still supportive of the research proceeding.

Access to Nunavut Arctic College Research Facilities

Public access to NAC's research facilities in Arviat is currently not permitted. Licensed researchers may request access to the NAC's research facilities (including laboratories and bunkhouses) in Iqaluit, Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay by contacting NAC's manager of research support services, Rick Armstrong, at rick.armstrong@arcticcollege.ca Each request must include the following information:

- Information on the isolation measures completed by the applicant prior to or after arriving in Nunavut
- Description of the activity to be undertaken and why access to NAC facilities is needed
- Proof that the user(s) possesses the experience, training, and knowledge to safely undertake the research activity proposed
- Description of the health and safety measures to be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (PPE, cleaning and disinfection, social distancing).

To maintain social distancing requirements, a maximum of three users will be allowed access to each NAC research facility at any given time. **Users are responsible for bringing all necessary personal protective equipment, including appropriate gloves, face masks, sanitizer, lab coats, and eye protection, to undertake research activities safely. NAC is not able to provide any PPE to visiting users. Users will also need to comply with any additional safety guidelines deemed appropriate for specific research activities. Users who also require research support services from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) must submit an NRI logistics support request form.

Additional COVID-19 information and resources

Researchers are strongly encouraged to consult the websites below for more information on the measures being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

<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>