

A Path Forward: Next Steps

Yukon's plan for lifting COVID-19 restrictions

Our plan is a phased approach to easing restrictions while keeping Yukoners safe. At all times we aim to minimize the importation risk of COVID-19 into the territory and contain the spread of the disease. Because the situation is rapidly evolving and because so many of the actions we take will be informed by COVID-19 conditions in other provinces, territories and neighbouring jurisdictions, this Yukon plan is a living document.

Strengthening our foundation

We strengthen our foundation by reducing importation risk, enhancing self-isolation measures, improving supports for self-isolation, using rapid testing in higher risk environments and vaccinating as many people as possible. This will allow us to move to the next phase.

Important note:

Any future dates for phases are subject to change based on the 6 key criteria. Steps within each phase will be gradual and dependent on high vaccination rates, low case counts and a better understanding of the impacts of the COVID-19 variants. Individual public health measures may be adjusted at different times based on overall COVID-19 risk levels.

Decisions about when and how to move forwards or backwards are guided by 6 key criteria:

1. Yukoners are following the public health orders, directions and the Safe 6 plus 1.
2. Preventative measures and guidelines are in place and being complied with.
3. High capacity for testing and contact tracing is available.
4. Importation risk is minimized to keep Yukoners safe.
5. Health system capacity is meeting current needs and prepared to respond to changing conditions.
6. There is no community spread of COVID-19.

Public health measures	Current phase – as of May 25, 2021 Aim: With our foundation strengthened we can gradually start lifting public health measures.	Next phase Aim: With our foundation strengthened we can continue to lift public health measures	Post state of emergency phase Aim: Lift the state of emergency and eliminate most public health measures.
Borders and self-isolation requirements	<p>Self-isolation requirements are lifted for those who are fully vaccinated, provided their vaccine status can be verified.</p> <p>Self-isolation is required for those who are not fully vaccinated using one of these options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self-isolate alone or with travel companions. 2. Self-isolate in a shared space. Household members who are not fully vaccinated must also self-isolate and maintain a 2-metre distance from the traveller. <p>Scope of self-isolation plans have been broadened to include work isolation and tourism industry isolation where safe to do so.</p>	<p>Consider forming bubbles with other jurisdictions when it is safe to do so.</p> <p>Consider location alternatives for self-isolation when and where it is safe to do so.</p> <p>Explore modified lengths of self-isolation with enhanced testing measures as supported by evidence.</p>	
Travel within Yukon	Limit travel to communities. Travel respectfully within Yukon and to communities.	Work with individual communities to support safe travel and visitation.	
Social bubbles, physical distancing and masks	<p>Social bubbles are limited to 20 people from no more than 5 households.</p> <p>Social bubbles should be small and consistent.</p>	<p>Consider modification to physical distancing requirements in partnership with other Canadian jurisdictions driven by improved understanding of the impacts of variants.</p> <p>Consider modification to requirement of mandatory masks when supported by high vaccination rates and better understanding of variants.</p>	
Gatherings	<p>Social gatherings Indoors: up to 20, with physical distancing Outdoors: up to 100, with physical distancing</p> <p>Organized gatherings Indoors and outdoors: up to 200, with physical distancing</p> <p>Masks are required in indoor public spaces.</p>	Consider modifications to guidelines to allow for larger and safer gatherings for potlatches, celebrations of life and weddings when supported by high vaccination rates and low COVID-19 activity.	<p>Restrictions to be lifted or adjusted based on recommendations by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p> <p>Adjusting restrictions will be based on assessments of the epidemiology here and in neighbouring jurisdictions and progress of the national vaccine rollout.</p>
Businesses and services	Bars and restaurants may return to full capacity for table service, provided there is room for staff and guests to move safely between tables.	Consider lifting physical distancing requirements at bar tops and counters.	
Recreation and entertainment	<p>Camps and recreational programs can have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 participants indoors with physical distancing and mask wearing; and • 100 participants outdoors with physical distancing. <p>Increased capacity for gyms and recreation centres up to 200, with physical distancing both indoors and outdoors.</p>	Consider increasing capacity for gyms and recreation centres with approved plans.	
Education and childcare	<p>Resumption of in-person K–12 education for the 2021–22 school year.</p> <p>Return to Yukon University campus to be determined in consultation with Yukon University Board.</p>	<p>When supported by high vaccination rates and improved understanding of variants, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaxing distancing and masking requirements in schools. • Relaxing requirements for approved plans for some or all education and childcare facilities. 	

UPDATED MAY 29, 2021

Public health experts predict that there will be continued waves of COVID-19 infections across Canada. Yukon may need to move back to earlier phases in order to help limit and contain the spread of the virus.

Every Yukoner has a part to play in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and saving lives. With your help we can continue to reopen our society.

Everyone should receive the COVID-19 vaccine and continue to follow the Safe 6 plus 1: <http://practisesafe6.ca>

For detailed information and the full version of A Path Forward: Yukon's plan for lifting COVID-19 Restrictions visit: <https://yukon.ca/path-forward-next-steps>

To see guidelines with specific public health measures and requirements visit: <https://yukon.ca/guidelines-covid-19>