

# A Path Forward: Next Steps Yukon's plan for lifting COVID-19 restrictions

Our goal is a phased approach to easing restrictions, while staying safe from the pandemic. 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 will be guided by 6 key criteria:

1. Yukoners are following the public health orders, directions and the Safe 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 (where we are now)	Next phase	Post state of emergency phase
	Aim: Effective vaccine rollout and focus on long-term sustainability and living safely with COVID-19.	Aim: With our foundation strengthened, we can gradually start lifting public health measures.	
Borders and self-isolation requirements	All residents of Canada can enter Yukon with requirement to self-isolate.	Broaden scope for alternative self-isolation plans to include more work-isolations and tourism industry isolation where safe to do so.  Bubble with other jurisdictions when it is safe to do so.  Explore modified lengths of self-isolation with enhanced testing measures as supported by evidence.  Consider location alternatives for self-isolation when and where it is safe to do so.	Restrictions to be lifted or adjusted based on recommendations by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.  Adjusting restrictions will be based on assessments of the epidemiology here and in neighbouring jurisdictions and progress of the national vaccine rollout.
Travel within Yukon	Limit travel to communities. Travel respectfully within Yukon and to communities.	Work with individual communities to support safe travel and visitation.	
Physical distancing and masks	Social bubbles to include 3 to 5 families or 10 to 15 people in total. Bubbles should be small and consistent.	Increase social bubbles to 20 when supported by high vaccination rates and low COVID-19 case numbers.  Consider modification to physical distance requirements in partnership with other Canadian jurisdictions driven by improved understanding of impact of variants.  Consider modification to requirement of mandatory masks when supported by high vaccination rates and better understanding of variants.	
Social gatherings	Indoors: 10 or fewer Outdoors: 50 or fewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unorganised social gatherings: Indoors: 20 Outdoors: 100</li> <li>• Organised gatherings: Indoors: at venue capacity Outdoors: 200</li> </ul> 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.	
Businesses and services	Bars constrained to 50% operating capacity. Dine-in restaurants can operate at full capacity if physical distancing can be maintained. An approved operational plan is required.	Remove capacity restrictions on bars and restaurants and work toward 100% capacity when supported by high vaccination rates and compliance with operational plans.  Consider enhanced testing measures to support safe operations.	
Recreation and entertainment	Recreation centres and libraries can open with limited capacity and have to follow guidelines.	Increase capacity for gyms and recreation centres with approved plans.	
Education and childcare	Resumption of in-person K-12 education for the 2021-22 school year.  Return to Yukon University campus to be determined in consultation with Yukon University Board.	When supported by high vaccination rates and improved understanding of variants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relax distancing and masking requirements in schools.</li> <li>• Return to full day instruction for Grades 10-12.</li> <li>• Relax requirements for approved plans for some or all education and childcare facilities.</li> </ul>	

Public health experts predict that there will be additional 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 single person in Yukon 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. All Yukoners should 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>