



**June 30, 2021**

## **COVID-19 Update: Whitehorse Correctional Centre & Yukon Community Corrections**

The Corrections Branch continues to monitor and assess the dynamic situation presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic with extreme care to ensure that its operational response is appropriate in the circumstances and proportional to the level of risk presented as new developments arise.

Over the course of the last year and a half, the Branch has altered its daily operations in line with the risk of potential exposure and transmission of the virus at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC). A fulsome outline of the proactive practices, as well as the changes that both the WCC and Yukon Community Corrections have adopted over this time period, is available in memoranda dated March 23, 2020, April 1, 2020, May 12, 2020, and June 16, 2021. These public documents can be found at Yukon.ca by searching for the keywords “Corrections Updates”.

Given the recent updates from the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) regarding the rise in active COVID-19 cases in Yukon and the widespread transmission of the virus throughout the territory and its communities, in consultation with the institutional physician and the office of the CMOH, WCC will be implementing the following measures immediately:

- All staff are required to wear disposable surgical masks while in the correctional centre or on escort in the community. Until further notice, staff will no longer be permitted to wear personal or employer-provided cloth masks while in the correctional centre or while on a community escort.
- Enhanced protocols as a result of the current rise in active COVID-19 cases have been implemented and are to be followed as part of the standard intake process for all individuals admitted to the WCC or the Arrest Processing Unit. These enhanced protocols include the use of an updated COVID-19 Screening Tool and provide for the rapid testing of all new inmates upon admission to the WCC as well as those returning from temporary absences in the community where the Safe 6 plus 1 public health guidelines were not followed.

As a result of engagement with some of Yukon’s remote communities and First Nations offices, Yukon Community Corrections will be extending its suspension on probation officer visits to remote communities until further notice.

As the situation presented by COVID-19 evolves in Yukon, the Corrections Branch will continue to take a measured approach aimed at ensuring the health and safety of correctional staff, clients, and the public while also ensuring the provision of humane essential services guided by the principle of least restrictive measures.

Sincerely,



Andrea Monteiro  
Director, Corrections