

November 23, 2021

Dear Employer,

The global pandemic related to COVID-19 is ongoing. It is critically important to follow the directives of the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer to reduce the risk of transmission in the Northwest Territories.

Individuals who return from travel, who may be contacts of COVID-19 or who may have contracted COVID-19 may be required to self-isolate. Additionally, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested and self-isolate at home until their swab comes back negative, their fever resolves, and their symptoms improve. In these cases an individual will not be able to report to work.

All people who are assessed or swabbed for symptoms by a healthcare professional will receive a form stating if they need to isolate and if so when they may stop self-isolation. Practitioners will not be issuing any other sick notes or letters stating individuals are unfit to go to work or that they are fit to return to work related to COVID-19 symptoms. This creates an unnecessary burden on our healthcare system.

We appreciate your cooperation in excusing your employees from work or accommodating alternative work arrangements (such as working from home if they are well enough) if they have been required to self-isolate due to COVID-19 or if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

WSCC provides guidance to employers on risk assessment and workplace precautions which can be found at <https://www.wsc.ca/news/covid-19-and-workplace-general-precautions-and-risk-assessment-northwest-territories#Risk-assessment-document>.

For the latest guidance please visit the GNWT's COVID-19 website at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/>

Sincerely,

Dr. AnneMarie Pegg
Territorial Medical Director
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority