

**September 8, 2020**

Dear Employer,

The number of cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to rise around the world. 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.

Anyone who returns from travel outside of the NWT is required to self-isolate for 14 days. Additionally, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested and self-isolate at home until the swab comes back negative, their fever resolves, and their symptoms improve. In either of these cases the person 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 when they may stop self-isolation. Practitioners will not be issuing any other sick notes or letters stating individuals are fit to return to work related to COVID-19 symptoms. This creates an unnecessary burden on our healthcare system and can unnecessarily expose patients who need to visit a clinic to request these documents.

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.

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 Department of Health and Social Services website at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/>

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarah Cook,  
Territorial Medical Director  
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority