



A Path Forward: Next Steps

MARCH 2021



SUPPORTING YUKONERS
on our path forward



Contents

Purpose.....	1
Goals.....	2
Background.....	4
Two-step approach.....	6
Step 1: Strengthening our foundation.....	7
Step 2: Gradually reducing restrictions.....	8
Criteria and monitoring.....	9
Conclusion.....	11
Table 1: Yukon’s COVID-19 risk levels and thresholds for response evaluation.....	13
Appendix 1: Public health strategy to help mitigate COVID-19 associated risk.....	14
1. Vaccination program.....	15
2. Enhanced self-isolation measures.....	16
3. Support all Yukoners to adhere to the public health measures.....	16
4. Expanded testing approach.....	17
5. Working with industry to safely bolster economic activity.....	18
6. The Safe 6 plus 1.....	19
Appendix 2: Public health measures.....	20



Purpose

A Path Forward: Next Steps is a framework for how we intend to reduce the negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic has on Yukoners and the communities we live in.

Yukon is in an enviable place. There are relatively few public health measures in place here in comparison to most other Canadian and international jurisdictions. With due diligence and commitment to those measures, we will stay safe and will gradually be able to enjoy greater normalcy in our day-to-day lives.

This path forward is a two-step strategy to support gradual lifting of public health measures. The risks and the strategy are influenced by new information and evidence that is ever-changing.

Step 1, which is part of our current phase, uses multiple tools (vaccine, self-isolation, support, testing, working with industry and the Safe 6 plus 1) to reduce importation and transmission risks.

Step 2, which will begin as we enter the next phase, builds on successful implementation of Step 1 by providing relief from public health measures within our communities (social bubbles, gathering size, events) that negatively affect the mental, physical and emotional health of Yukoners.

The more effectively we work together as an organisation and as a community, striving for the same goal of overall wellbeing, the sooner we will be able to gradually lift some public health measures while keeping the risks of COVID-19 importation and spread low. Public trust is paramount to our successful next steps toward a stronger and more resilient Yukon.



Goals

The goals of this plan are to enhance Yukoners' wellbeing and to decrease the rates of severe illness and death due to COVID-19 infection. In doing so it must also reduce and balance the risks associated with the virus (including new variants) and the risk associated with our public health measures.

1. **Enhance Yukoners' wellbeing**

This plan looks to the future with hope as we work to increase Yukoners' wellbeing by lifting restrictions within acceptable risk levels. This positive look forward will help bolster our collective wellbeing, which includes physical health, mental health and economic vitality.

2. **Decrease morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19 infection**

COVID-19 morbidity refers to illness due to infection, as well as long-term post-infection effects. COVID-19 mortality refers to the number of deaths in a population due to COVID-19 infection. With the risk of new variants now present in Canada and expected to spread rapidly, and the high case counts in jurisdictions around us, we need to keep our guard up.

Background

Since early in this pandemic, we have actively pursued a containment approach in Yukon. This was done by reducing COVID-19 importation risk as much as practical, implementing public health measures to respond to and decrease risks in the community and by testing and contact tracing to reduce spread.

From March to June 2020, reducing importation risk was done by closing our borders to most travellers other than returning Yukoners, critical and essential workers and those travelling through the territory. A 14-day self-isolation period was also required for most people entering the territory. Beginning in June, we relied exclusively on 14-day self-isolation.

For the most part, this three-pronged approach (self-isolation, public health measures and testing and contact tracing) has been successful. Known importation events have been the cause of the majority of our 72 cases to date. Since June, apart from our 14-day self-isolation requirement, the territory has been mostly open. We have not had to impose curfews or stay-at-home orders.

The primary public health measures in place in Yukon today include 14-day self-isolation for arrivals in the territory, mandatory masks in indoor spaces, limits on gathering size and physical distancing. According to preliminary data from the Canadian Index of Wellbeing survey conducted between

August 3 and September 6, 68.6% of respondents to the Yukon survey believe the public health measures were appropriate.

Despite this approval level, we understand that Yukoners are growing tired – we are missing connections with family and friends, worried about ongoing financial impacts, and constrained by inability to travel freely. We are ready for relief, and ready to put COVID-19 behind us.

In May 2020 the Government of Yukon released *A Path Forward: Yukon's plan for lifting COVID-19 restrictions*. At that time, we imagined a simple transition out of restrictions with the arrival of a vaccine.

However, we find ourselves in very different circumstances than imagined just ten months ago. The second wave that was anticipated by public health officials has occurred, and many provinces imposed extreme public health measures in response.

At the peak of the second wave in late December 2020, Canada reported approximately four times the number of new cases per day then it did during the first wave in April. Despite the fact that case counts are now stabilizing, our risk level today continues to remain higher than during the first wave.

This risk is a result of international and domestic travel, including medical travel, incoming critical and essential workers and non-essential travel. Our strongest tool against importation is effective self-isolation. Our strongest tools against spread of COVID-19 are testing of everyone with symptoms, screening in high-risk environments and contact tracing.

Effective vaccines were developed more quickly than originally anticipated. Yukon was prioritized for delivery of vaccines, allowing our population to be vaccinated months before most Canadian jurisdictions. We are fortunate that these vaccines were made available to us so quickly, but availability is only one part of the equation. We must achieve a high uptake rate for the vaccine to be most effective at protecting the population.

The vaccine may well be our most important tool to fight COVID-19, but many questions remain. How much will vaccine hesitancy reduce the effectiveness of our campaign? When will an approved vaccine be available for children? Will booster shots be required? Does the vaccine prevent us from transmitting COVID-19 to others? Will the vaccine be effective against all variants? What impact will these new, more transmissible variants have on case counts?

Despite these questions, we remain focused on achieving a vaccinated population – with more protection.

These factors complicate our planned transition to the next phase of recovery. As has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic a year ago, changing circumstances require us to pivot and be nimble as we find a new path forward.

This path must continue to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and reduce the impacts of public health restrictions. It must also provide as much clarity for Yukoners as possible.

Public health experts believe that some COVID-19 risks may remain with us for the foreseeable future, until global vaccination goals are achieved and until we determine the ongoing role of vaccines in managing the pandemic.

For these reasons, this plan focuses on balancing these two conflicting elements – reducing COVID-19 transmission while reducing the consequences of restrictions.

This will continue to be the case until the questions have answers, until Yukon and the provinces and territories achieve a level of vaccination that will effectively reduce the spread of the virus and until we understand the impact of new virus variants.

Two-step approach

A Path Forward: Next Steps takes a two-step approach:

Step 1: Strengthen our foundation

Strengthen some public health measures; ensure greater compliance with existing measures; and vaccinate as many people as possible to reduce our importation and transmission risks.

Step 2: Gradually reduce restrictions

Use the enhanced protection provided by Step 1 to reduce some of the restrictions on the day-to-day lives of Yukoners, focusing on those areas causing the greatest harms to our communities and transition into the next phase of pandemic management.

During Step 1, which falls within the current phase, measures that keep us safe and decrease risk (such as vaccination, self-isolation, testing) must be implemented or strengthened to address the factors that increase our risk (such as variants of concern, people not getting tested when symptomatic). This work will help get us to a point where we can move into the next phase and begin to lift public health measures.

Step 2 marks our transition to a new phase of our recovery that reflects modest steps forward on our journey. While we do not have a specific date when this next phase will begin, the drivers for this phase are a high vaccination rate within Yukon, low case counts in the territory and adherence to public health measures.

Particularly important is self-isolating upon entry to the territory and the Safe 6 plus 1. We expect that self-isolation will remain in place as long as case counts remain high and uncontrolled community spread exists in neighbouring jurisdictions and across Canada.

Open and effective communications is key to a common understanding and acceptance by all Yukoners of our new approach and the reasons behind the proposed actions and continued restrictions. New virus variants, their higher transmission rate and their potential to cause more severe disease figure heavily in our risk evaluation as we move towards this next phase.

We expect to remain in the next phase until the end of 2021, although this timeline may be adjusted as we learn more about vaccines and new virus variants. The state of emergency under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* will continue to be in place as long as there is significant risk to our population of COVID-19 infection, or until we establish another tool to enforce public health measures. These public health measures are critical to successful ongoing pandemic management.

Step 1: Strengthen our foundation

During the outbreaks in Yukon in November, December and January, several factors contributed to an increase in the number of cases.

These included:

- People working or circulating in the community when sick.
- Travellers from out of territory who did not comply with self-isolation requirements.
- Lack of compliance to COVID-19 Operational Plans by some local businesses.

To reduce importation and transmission risks, these factors must be addressed. A detailed description of the public health tools that we are using to achieve our goals can be found in *Appendix 1: Public health strategy to help mitigate COVID-19 risk*.

To begin with, the major focus of our efforts is on vaccinating as many adults as possible. While questions remain about the vaccine (effectiveness against variants and transmissibility, and availability for children) we do know that it prevents severe illness and death. Over time, it will provide the protection needed to allow us to lift public health measures.

But if we don't vaccinate enough Yukoners, relief from these measures is very unlikely in the short- to medium-term.

Beyond that, we will look at ways to further reduce importation and transmission risks by strengthening self-isolation requirements for people entering Yukon by air or land. We will provide additional supports to, and regular follow up with, people in self-isolation to ensure their physical and emotional wellbeing and their compliance with the requirements.

We will increase screening in higher-risk environments such as work camps and for critical workers crossing our border, using rapid testing technology to identify COVID-19 early and mitigate its spread in our communities.

We will also work closely with the business sector to examine options to support economic activity while also aligning with public health measures. This includes working with specific industry partners to create safe opportunities to use alternative self-isolation plans so economic activity can proceed while keeping the COVID-19 risk low.

Finally, we will work with employers and the public to ensure that people are not going to work or moving around the community when they are sick, which has been one of the most significant risk factors over the past few months.

Step 2: Gradually reduce restrictions

Further reducing our risks through vaccination and the measures in Step 1 will give us the flexibility over time, especially as spring approaches, to provide some relief from measures that affect the daily lives of Yukoners and move into the next phase of recovery.

This may include: reducing restrictions on our social bubble to allow us to connect with family and friends once again; increasing gathering sizes when it is safe to do so, particularly for outdoor events, to allow us to celebrate our unique Yukon heritage with festivals and markets; and the return of full-day instruction in our high schools this fall.

It also may include determining how to make events such as potlatches, funerals, celebrations of life and weddings safer, so we can once again mourn together the loss of loved ones and celebrate new beginnings together.

As case counts go down across the country, as vaccination rates increase both at home and away, and as we better understand the impact of the vaccine and new virus variants our future will include travel to other provinces and territories.

We will also be able to welcome travellers, tourists and friends from outside Yukon. Many of us will finally make those long-awaited family visits. Eventually, we will be able to travel to our favourite places in Alaska and farther abroad.

Creating a successful balance won't be easy. It will still involve compromise and sacrifice. It will require ongoing commitment to the Safe 6 plus 1, even when we're tired of these measures. And, perhaps most importantly, it will mean making a commitment to each other to get the vaccine



Criteria and monitoring

This plan aligns with and complements the original plan, *A Path Forward, Yukon's plan for lifting COVID-19 restrictions*. The same public health criteria can be followed across both documents for monitoring Yukon's progress through the pandemic.

Decisions about when and how to move forwards or backwards through the phases of these plans is guided by careful, in-depth risk assessments and the following criteria:

1. Community Engagement:

- a. Ensuring our community partners, including the public, are informed and engaged and actively participating in reducing COVID-19 risk.

2. Preventative Measures:

- a. Following the Safe 6 plus 1 public health measures.
- b. Vaccinating as many eligible Yukoners against COVID-19 as possible.
- c. Testing for COVID-19, including variants of concern.
- d. Screening higher-risk groups to identify COVID early before it can spread.

3. Public Health Capacity:

- a. Ensuring our testing and contact tracing capacity remain robust.

4. Importation Risk:

- a. Monitoring the epidemiology in other jurisdictions and numbers of travellers entering Yukon, including transit on the Alaska Highway.
- b. Using local modelling to inform importation risk.

5. Health System Capacity:

- a. Ensuring our health system is strong and can accommodate health needs, including treating COVID-19 patients and all other regular activities.

6. COVID-19 Spread and Containment:

- a. Monitoring cases, contacts of cases, variants of concern and vaccine effectiveness.

These criteria provide the Government of Yukon with an understanding of the overall status of the COVID-19 response. Each measure of risk in Table 1 in this plan exists within a larger context. Together they provide a collective picture of the overall status in the territory at any given time.

They provide local evidence that is interpreted and used by the Chief Medical Officer of Health to inform decision making about lifting public health measures when we are in a safe and stable place or about re-imposing measures if and when necessary.

Appendix 1 provides additional details on the public health strategy, including specific actions, to support the two-step plan. Appendix 2 outlines the public health measures and lists indicator thresholds for possible scenarios for safely lifting some of those measures.



Conclusion

We have managed to keep Yukon's case count low due to our public health measures, notably our requirement for incoming travellers to self-isolate for 14 days. Our vaccine program is also well underway. If successful, it should lead to improved population-level protection.

However, there is still significant COVID-19 activity in most of our neighbouring jurisdictions and new, more contagious variants of concern continue to spread in Canada and abroad. There are still many unanswered questions about vaccines and variants of concern. We must remain vigilant while continuing to maintain appropriate public health measures. The need to create and maintain the best balance between our overall wellbeing and protection from the threat of COVID-19 will be our biggest challenge in the months to come, before we can be sure of the final pathway that leads us out of this pandemic.



Table 1: Yukon's COVID-19 risk levels and thresholds for response evaluation

Note: Assessing overall COVID-19 risk is guided by the following risk indicators. Each measure of risk in this table exists within a larger context. Together they provide a picture of the overall status in Yukon at any given time. Overall risk can be assessed as low without requiring all risk indicators to be low.

		Level 1: LOW risk	Level 2: MODERATE risk	Level 3: HIGH risk	Level 4: VERY HIGH risk
RISK INDICATOR		INDICATOR THRESHOLDS FOR EACH RISK LEVEL			
Community engagement	Level of engagement with First Nations governments and community leaders	← Ongoing engagement with Yukon First Nations governments, municipal and local government leaders →			
Preventative measures	Public compliance with public-health measures and orders	← Monitor movement data, complaints and enforcement data, Environmental Health inspections →			
	Per centage of all adult Yukoners who have received the COVID-19 vaccine	75% or more	50 to 74%	25 to 49%	Less than 25%
	Effectiveness of vaccine against symptomatic infection by all COVID-19 variants of concern	Effective	Moderately effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective
	Vaccine effectiveness against onward transmission of COVID-19	High level	Moderate level	Low level	Not effective
	COVID-19 screening program for traveller groups	Implemented for all high-risk groups	Implemented for most high-risk groups	Implemented for some high-risk groups	Not implemented
Public health capacity	Percentage of total contacts contacted by Yukon Communicable Disease Control within 24 hours of the case being reported	95 to 100%	75 to 94%	50 to 74%	Less than 50%
	Number of cases per investigator	0 to 1	2 to 3	4 to 5	More than 5
Importation risk	Daily probability of importation from other Canadian jurisdictions	Less than 2%	2 to 5%	6 to 11%	12% or more
Health system capacity	Acute-care capacity level	Business as usual	Mild surge	Heavy surge	Overwhelming surge
	Personal protective equipment (PPE) supply	Normal: 12 weeks	Sub-optimal: 8 weeks	Very low: 4 weeks	Critical: less than 30 days
COVID-19 spread and containment	Number of active COVID-19 cases in Yukon	Fewer than 10 cases	10 to 19 cases	20 to 39 cases	40 cases or more
	Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Yukon	No cases	Sporadic cases; case numbers under control	Limited clusters; case numbers increasing; ability to contact trace under pressure	Community spread; case numbers increasing; limited ability to contact trace
	Presence of variants of concern in Yukon	None	More than one	Widespread	Predominating
	Per cent of people tested who are positive	Less than 1%	1% to 2%	3% to 5%	More than 5%
	Number of outbreaks in a congregate living, institutional setting or community	None	1 outbreak	1 to 2 outbreaks	More than 2 outbreaks
	Number of current high-risk exposures	0	1 to 3	4 to 6	7 or more
	Proportion of contacts with unknown source	Less than 10%	10 to 20%	20 to 40%	More than 40%

Appendix 1:

Public health strategy to help mitigate COVID-19 risk

This section outlines the public health tools that we use to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 and maintain the balance between the competing threats of the virus versus the required public health measures. These tools will help us work towards lifting public health measures in a controlled and safe way.

These tools are:

1. **The vaccination program.**
2. **Enhanced self-isolation measures.**
3. **Support to help all Yukoners adhere to public health measures.**
4. **An expanded testing approach.**
5. **Work with specific industries to safely bolster economic activity.**
6. **The Safe 6 plus 1.**

1. The vaccination program

This tool has the potential to make the greatest positive impact on reducing our collective COVID-19 risk. The ultimate goals of the vaccination programs in Yukon, nationally and internationally are to significantly reduce the negative effects that COVID-19 is having on our communities. This will be achieved by vaccinating as many eligible Yukoners as possible.

Vaccination: What we know

- a. In clinical trials, the Moderna vaccine protected approximately 94% of those who received it from symptomatic infection with COVID-19 within two weeks of receiving a second dose.
- b. Based on limited evidence, the Moderna vaccine appears to protect against the B.1.1.7 variant first identified in the UK, and to a lesser extent against the B.1.351 variant (also known as 501Y.V2 or the South African variant). Moderna is investigating a booster shot to increase immunity to this specific variant.

Vaccination: What we don't know

- a. Whether someone who has been vaccinated and is then exposed to COVID-19 can then pass the virus on to others.
- b. About the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in children
- c. How long immunity will last. If immunity begins to wane after a matter of months, we may need to provide vaccine booster shots.
- d. Whether the Moderna vaccine protects against the P.1 or Brazilian variant or other new variants.

Vaccination program goals:

- Decrease COVID-19 morbidity and mortality, meaning fewer people get sick, have severe outcomes or die of COVID-19.
- Provide barrier-free access to vaccination to as many Yukoners as possible to give us the greatest chance of reaching herd immunity.

Actions:

- Ensure all Yukoners have ready access to the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Implement and promote a communications and engagement plan to address vaccine hesitancy.
- Develop capacity for community nursing clinics to continue to administer vaccinations, as required, well into the future. This will enable us to reach those who missed the first round of vaccinations or those who have overcome their hesitancy and to administer boosters if or when they are developed.
- Provide vaccines to children when they are available and are determined safe and effective for younger age groups.

2. Enhanced self-isolation measures

- a. All domestic and international travellers arriving in Yukon must self-isolate for 14 days.
- b. International travellers arriving by air must follow the process required by the federal government, which includes testing, daily symptom reporting via the ArriveCAN app and an initial three-day self-isolation in one of the four federally designated ports of entry into Canada.

When travellers arrive in Yukon they must self-isolate for 14 days under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA). We are considering refining the current measures to reduce the risk of transmission to household contacts.

- c. All travellers in self-isolation at a self-isolation facility (SIF) are contacted daily for symptom screening, mental health check-in and to ensure they are following self-isolation requirements. Support is provided as required. Newly hired SIF support workers will provide on-site supports and mental health, medical, social and cultural referrals when appropriate.

We are currently exploring options to extend this type of support to everyone in self-isolation, including those at home or in different facilities.

- d. All travellers who are self-isolating should be tested for COVID-19 if they are symptomatic.

Enhanced self-isolation goals:

- Effectively control importation of COVID-19 into the territory.
- Limit the spread to household contacts.
- Protect the public health and acute care capacity in the territory.

- Support those in self-isolation at a SIF and at home.
- Increase compliance to self-isolation requirements.

Actions:

- Provide improved support to those self-isolating at home and in a facility other than a government-designated SIF.
- Explore testing options for those in self-isolation.

3. Support to help all Yukoners adhere to public health measures

Support will come in many forms. Since the beginning of the pandemic our approach has been to:

- a. Provide information to help Yukoners understand the reason why public health measures are in place, their importance of mitigating risk, and the positive impact that adherence has on protecting our communities from COVID-19.
- b. Ensure compliance in situations where people or businesses are not following public health measures. This includes:
 - Continued workplace inspections by Environmental Health.
 - Continued occupational health and safety inspections by the Workers Compensation Board.
 - Continued Liquor Corporation inspections.
 - Continued work with the City of Whitehorse and RCMP on enforcement initiatives.

Support goals:

- Help Yukoners understand the importance of following the public health measures.

- Ensure compliance through support rather than enforcement, where possible.
- Use enforcement where appropriate.

Actions:

- Train and orient new social support staff at the self-isolation facility.
- Continue regular communications efforts:
 - Media conferences with information from trusted sources (CMOH, Premier, Ministers).
 - Engage with champions to provide messaging from other trusted sources.
 - Provide consistent important messaging through social media platforms.
 - Provide consistent important messaging on the Yukon.ca website.
 - Offer more targeted messaging to increase reach to different population groups and different demographics.
- Explore extending funding for the CEMA Investigations Unit until December 2021.

4. An expanded testing approach

COVID-19 testing will continue to be an important part of our response. Going forward, we will expand options for testing different populations using additional testing tools. This will help mitigate the risk of importing and spreading COVID-19 in Yukon. Testing will include:

- a. Symptomatic testing at: the COVID Testing and Assessment Centre (CTAC); community health centres; the Emergency Departments of our hospitals; Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC); the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter; and in long-term care homes. This test uses a naso-pharyngeal swab for sample collection. For children and youth age 5 to 18, the mouth rinse and gargle sample collection method is available at CTAC and in community health centres. Both types of samples are sent to the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) for a the gold standard lab-based PCR test, the gold standard test.

Our clinical and lab teams are working with BCCDC on surveillance for variants of concern in Yukon. The BCCDC has the ability to screen for variants and sequence the viral DNA in suspect cases.

- b. Symptomatic testing using the GeneXpert device at Whitehorse General Hospital when a rapid result is needed. Uses include: management of in-hospital patients, vulnerable populations where follow-up can be challenging, and critical health care staff who are required to work. The GeneXpert can be used in outbreak scenarios or where significant changes to public health management would result.
- c. The Department of Health and Social Services, along with testing partners including the Yukon Hospital Corporation, is currently developing a robust evidence-based rapid testing program that is integrated into the current testing and public health system.

The program will include COVID-19 screening tests. Screening will be used to more rapidly identify COVID-19 in populations travelling into Yukon and to augment testing

in populations that are otherwise hard to reach. Uses under consideration are: flight crew travelling in and out of the territory; health-care workers coming from out of territory; workers at remote mine sites; and short-stay inmates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Positive screening results require follow-up testing using the gold standard PCR test.

- d. Not yet implemented, still under consideration and evaluation, is wastewater surveillance. This can determine the level of COVID-19 activity in a community and serve as an early indicator for possible virus outbreaks.

Expanded testing approach goals:

- Identify importation of COVID-19 as early as possible, including variants of concern.
- Maintain containment of COVID-19 to prevent community spread.

Actions:

- Continue to provide the PCR test to all who have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Implement Yukon's testing strategy, which includes:
 - Screening of selected populations based on risk, using rapid testing technologies.
 - Communication to the public about the importance of getting tested when symptomatic.
 - Communication to the public and targeted groups about our expanded testing approach.

5. Work with specific industries to safely bolster economic activity

Public health experts are engaging with specific industry groups (eg. mining, tourism and transportation), identified through collaborative work between the COVID Response Unit in the Department of Health and Social Services and several other Yukon government departments. This work will help us identify areas where alternative self-isolation plans (ASIPs) can be safely used to allow economic activity to resume within specific areas of industry. Plans are being created to allow for increased economic activity while maintaining strict public health measures and minimising risk to the community.

Working with industry goals:

- Effectively control importation of COVID-19 into the territory.
- Allow for greater economic activity.

Actions:

- Work directly with groups and industries to create ASIPs and operational plans where possible, while keeping the community safe.
- Engage with appropriate partners to ensure public health safety measures are understood and trusted, and all parties are onboard.
- Use screening as identified in 4 (c) above to reduce risks associated with working self-isolation.

6. The Safe 6 plus 1

By now these need little introduction. They are:

1. Keep 2 metres away from everyone who is not in your bubble.
2. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
3. Stay home if you are feeling sick, get tested if you have symptoms.
4. Keep gathering numbers to prescribed limits.
5. Limit travel to rural communities and be respectful when you're there.
6. Self-isolate if necessary.

Plus 1. Wear a mask in indoor public spaces.

The Safe 6 plus 1 are methods that have proven to be effective at controlling the importation and spread of COVID-19 and its variants. They are broad and work when they are used consistently. Our challenge is to combat COVID-19 fatigue and to establish a broad acceptance that these measures are necessary to keep us safe.

Safe 6 plus 1 goals:

- Limit the importation of COVID-19 into Yukon.
- Stop the spread of COVID-19 if there is an importation.

Actions:

- Enhance our current self-isolation rules to achieve better compliance.
- Provide more consistent support to everyone in self-isolation (see above).
- Provide effective communication so everyone in Yukon understands the importance of continuing to follow the Safe 6 plus 1.
- Educate the public on how to prepare an emergency self-isolation plan so they are ready to do so if needed.



Appendix 2: Public health measures

The scenarios outlined in the Next Phase column of this table assume that our local case count is low and under control and that the importation risk of COVID-19 is low based on the following:

- Robust self-isolation measures are in place.
- Significant support is available to all people in self-isolation.
- Rapid testing is readily available for high-risk environments.
- People understand the reasons for, and are adhering to, the public health measures that are in place.
- Public health capacity is strong.

Note: Lifting of some public health measures may require additional resources to ensure it is safe to do so.

Public health measure	Current Phase	Indicator thresholds (or actions) to allow lifting of public health measures	Next phase: potential options
Self-isolation requirements	All people who enter Yukon must self-isolate for at least 14 days, unless: they are a critical worker who must only self-isolate when not working; or they have an approved alternative self-isolation plan.	Work with interested parties to create safe and acceptable operational plans in order to allow for alternative self-isolation plans,	Broaden scope of alternative self isolation to include work- and tourism-related plans.
		Considerations to create a bubble with another jurisdiction include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population. • Low active case rate (less than 10 per 100,000) in the jurisdiction of interest. • High vaccination rate in the jurisdiction in question. • Existing health-care and economic partnerships with the jurisdiction of interest. 	Bubble with other jurisdictions – no self-isolation for those in the bubble.
		Evidence, risk analysis that supports this option (for example the Alberta border pilot).	Modify length of self-isolation, with enhanced testing measures.
		Work with communities to ensure safe alternatives can be offered.	Expand location alternatives for self-isolation.

Travel within Yukon	Travel to communities is limited. Travel should be respectful and follow local guidelines.	High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population. Community leaders are engaged and supportive of relaxing travel measures.	Work with communities to modify travel restrictions.
		Work with tourism operators to create safe and acceptable operational plans.	Allow back-country travel.
Physical distancing, masks, and social bubbles	Continue to follow the Safe 6 plus 1. Social bubble can include up to 5 households and 15 people in total.	High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population. Vaccines are effective against transmission. Understanding of the impacts of variants. Other jurisdictions are able to control surges, even with the presence of variants.	Change physical distancing and/or mandatory mask requirements, in partnership with other Canadian jurisdictions. Increase social bubble to 20.
Social gatherings	Unorganised social gatherings: Indoors: 10 Outdoors: 50 Organised social gatherings: Indoors: 50 Outdoors: 100	High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population. No local COVID activity of concern. Venues have COVID operational plans. Return to previous gathering numbers if there is worrisome case activity.	Unorganised social gatherings: Indoors: 20 Outdoors: 100 Organised social gatherings: Indoor: at venue capacity Outdoor: 200
	Funeral guests: Indoors: 10 Outdoors: 50 Weddings, if organised and seated: Indoors: 50 Outdoors: 100	High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population. Create a wedding/funeral liaison position to help organise these events safely.	Modify guidelines for safe larger gatherings.

Businesses and services	<p>Bars at 50% capacity; liquor services and restaurants at 100% capacity; personal services open.</p> <p>All follow physical distancing and have an approved operational plan.</p>	<p>High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population.</p> <p>Effective compliance measures are in place.</p> <p>Businesses are adhering to their operational plans.</p>	<p>Remove capacity restrictions on bars and restaurants and work toward 100% capacity.</p> <p>Consider enhanced testing measures to support.</p>
	<p>Guidance issued for people to work from home where possible.</p>	<p>High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population.</p> <p>Effective compliance measures are in place.</p> <p>Businesses are adhering to their operational plans.</p>	<p>Adjust work-from-home guidance.</p>
Recreation and entertainment	<p>Restrictions on recreation centres and gym capacity, with approved plans.</p>	<p>High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population.</p>	<p>Increase capacity for gyms and recreation centres, with approved operational plans.</p>
Education and child care	<p>Daycares, camps, recreational programming and overnight camps allowed, with approved plans.</p> <p>K-9 full-day in-class instruction with distancing and masking requirements.</p> <p>Grades 10-12 half-day in-class instruction.</p> <p>Yukon University full-day in-class instruction with approved plan.</p>	<p>High overall vaccination rate for the entire Yukon population.</p> <p>Children are eligible for vaccination.</p> <p>Vaccine is effective against onward transmission.</p>	<p>Relax distancing and masking requirements in schools.</p> <p>Return to full-day instruction for Grades 10-12.</p> <p>Relax requirements for approved plans for some or all education and childcare facilities.</p>

A Path Forward: Next Steps
Government of Yukon
March 2021





SUPPORTING YUKONERS
on our path forward

Yukon