

Please provide answers to the following:

1) How does your government define “essential” travel - be it out of territory or out of country? What would be examples of non-essential travel?

- Essential travel includes:
 - o Medical travel
 - o Travel for compassionate purposes (funerals or serious illnesses in immediate family)
 - o Travel related to a court order or legal requirements such as custody arrangements
 - o Students returning from education or apprenticeships
 - o Addictions treatment
 - o Travel for work purposes

- Some common examples of non-essential travel:
 - o Vacation purposes – like going to a beach or ski resort
 - o Shopping
 - o Visiting family members where there is no extenuating circumstances at-hand.

In the NWT, we’re recommending avoiding any travel outside the territory

NWT residents are strongly advised to avoid any international travel.

2) What measures does your government take to prevent non-essential travel?

- Our Chief Public Health Officer recommends avoiding travel unless it's absolutely necessary. We have also restricted government-funded stays in NWT isolation centres to travel deemed essential. Those who travel for non-essential purposes are required to pay for their stays in self-isolation centres upon their return.

3) What punitive measures or actions does your government take if it is determined that someone has travelled for non-essential reasons?

- Our recommendations are just that – recommendations. There are no punitive actions against those who travel for non-essential reasons. We don't have the right to prevent individuals from travelling outside our boundaries. However, since March 21 we have required self-isolation for 14 days after arrival in the NWT from other jurisdictions to keep COVID-19 at-bay. The best we can do is frame why this is the right decision to maintain the hard-won stability our territory has thus far enjoyed.