

RESPONSE:

Although COVID-19 has brought a new normal into all of our lives, the daily ebb and flow of goods, people and products, continues across our borders as needed so that families, businesses, and healthcare can continue to provide necessary and essential services.

The scope of necessary travel across our borders allows individuals to travel for reasons including: work, medical care, child custody or compassionate reasons approved by Public Health. Testing and self-isolation requirements have been identified for each of these groups, in order to decrease the risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19.

New Brunswick is under a state of emergency, under which unnecessary travel into New Brunswick is prohibited. The emergency measures order is posted in full text on the gnb.ca/coronavirus webpage. The order lists what is accepted as necessary travel into the province.

Peace officers patrol points of entry and airports and turn away travelers whose travel is not authorized as necessary. Individuals who manage to gain entry are subject to charges and to being removed from the province.

The order does not prohibit travel out of the province. It does impose conditions on entry into the province, including self-isolation for most. New Brunswick residents are always permitted to return home. Individuals who choose to travel unnecessarily are required to self-isolate from others for at least 14 days in a separate dwelling with its own bathroom, kitchen, and bedroom.

REQUEST:

I am writing because we are conducting research regarding travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canadians are being told not to travel outside of the country right now unless it is considered "essential."

Please provide answers to the following:

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

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

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

