



JUN 25 2020

JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 339-19(2): Emerging Wisely Plan

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on June 12, 2020 regarding the Emerging Wisely Plan.

As part of the public health risk assessment framework included in the Emerging Wisely Plan, the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) has publicly stated what might take a community or the Northwest Territories (NWT) back a Phase or back to containment. As mentioned in the House, we fully expect a second wave to hit Canada anywhere from August to November this year. We all need to do our part to keep NWT residents safe if we want to continue relaxed measures within the territory.

The public health requirement to go back to a more restrictive phase will be determined by case-specific public health risk assessments based on the nature of NWT cases, contacts, and context of potential and confirmed exposures. Circumstances that could force us to go back might be an outbreak in an at-risk or vulnerable population or evidence of community spread.

Should there be evidence of community spread in one small community, this community would go back to the Containment Phase. Should there be evidence of community spread in Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, or Yellowknife, a public health risk assessment based on the nature of cases, contacts, context of potential and confirmed exposures would determine if the community should go back a Phase or go back to the Containment Phase.

Should a community go back a Phase, travel restrictions in and out of that community would be put in place. Should two or more communities in a region go back a phase, travel restrictions in and out of the region would be put in place. Should the NWT get an influx of travel-based cases, but all successfully self-isolate, the NWT would not need to go back a phase.

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In the event that the CPHO determines the NWT, or a community or region, needs to go back a Phase, or back to Containment, this would be done through a Public Health Order. We would follow the same process we have with other Orders. The CPHO will brief myself and Cabinet on the measures being taken. The CPHO would also brief Regular Members, as she has previously. If it is the case that only a certain community or region would go back a phase, the CPHO would be sure to provide notice and brief the local community and Indigenous leadership.

Thank you.



Diane Thom
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs