

# MEMO

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**To :** Organizations of the region

**From :** Véronique Morin medical advisor for Marie Rochette, Director of Public health of Nunavik

**Date :** August 25th, 2021

**Subject :** **Modifications to the Nunavik Entry Management Program to ensure the protection of Nunavik from the fourth wave of COVID-19**

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## PREAMBLE

- Given the increase in COVID-19 cases in the rest of the province;
- Given the expected predominance of the delta variant of COVID-19;
- Given the characteristics of the delta variant which include a shorter incubation period, higher contagiousness and severity
- Given the insufficient vaccination coverage in Nunavik to prevent community transmission of COVID-19.
- Given that vaccinated persons, although carrying a lower risk, can still be a vector of the disease.

The Public Health Department is changing some of the guidelines related to measures in place for travellers to Nunavik.

## DIRECTIVE

Effective immediately:

- The **second screening scheduled on Day 7** following the traveller's arrival in Nunavik will be **advanced to Day 5**:
  - For travellers with a **short stay of less than 5 days in Nunavik**, the second screening will **have to be done the day before departure from the region** by contacting the CLSC of their community to make an appointment. Note that travellers staying less than 72 hours are not required to undergo the second screening.
- Recent studies show that the vaccine (here, moderna) is 75-85% effective against the delta variant (including asymptomatic infections). Vaccinated individuals are rarely hospitalized but may be carriers and transmit the virus to others. The risk to the community is less, but it is present. To protect against this possibility, we ask protected travellers to apply certain protective measures during the first 10 days of their arrival in the territory;
  - Everyone must wear a mask in the workplace and in businesses.

- Masks should be worn and the 2m distance should be respected by travellers if they are visiting family or friends or if people who do not live with them are visiting their home within 10 days of arrival.
- Travellers are encouraged not to attend large gatherings within 10 days of arrival in the area.
- Self-monitoring of symptoms until day 14 of arrival is requested and anyone with symptoms related to COVID-19 should consult.

#### As of September 8

- All travellers **aged 1 year and older** will be required to be screened as part of the entry management program in Nunavik;
  - Pre-departure screening must be completed within 72 hours prior to travel and proof of a negative result must be presented at the airport on the day of departure.
  - Screening on Day 5 following arrival in the territory must be done by contacting the CLSC in your community to make an appointment as soon as possible.

A **grace period will be in effect for a period of 2 weeks**. During this grace period, if a traveller between the ages of 1 and 5 years old arrives on the day of his departure, without pre-departure screening, he will be authorized to travel. However, the traveller must be screened at the CLSC of the community upon arrival on the territory and it is the responsibility of the parents to contact the CLSC to make an appointment.

To make an appointment or for any information regarding pre-departure screening, please contact the Nunavik Travellers' Clinic by email: [rdv-ntc.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:rdv-ntc.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca) or by phone: Tel. 1-514-341-8888 or toll free 1 833 341-3888.

For more information on travel to Nunavik, please visit <https://nrbhss.ca/fr/nunavik-voyage>.

These modifications could be reduced again when the epidemiological situation allows it.

Thank you for your collaboration.