

## ORDINANCE 2021-16-5

Date: December 30, 2021

Subject: Updated restrictions on travel to and from Nunavik - Update

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**WHEREAS** the daily number of COVID-19 cases increased very rapidly in most regions of Quebec;

**WHEREAS** a new variant of concern of COVID-19, the Omicron variant, has been detected over the past few days in several regions of Quebec including Nunavik;

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 Omicron variant is the predominant variant in the Province of Quebec since December 15, 2021;

**WHEREAS** the Omicron variant could be three to four times more contagious than the Delta variant;

**WHEREAS** the protection conferred by two doses of a vaccine against COVID-19 would not be sufficient to prevent infections with the Omicron variant;

**WHEREAS** the protection conferred by three doses of a vaccine against COVID-19 offers enhanced protection to prevent infections with the Omicron variant;

**WHEREAS** the uncertainty regarding the impact of the Omicron variant on the already weakened healthcare network in the region and in the South;

**WHEREAS** the importance of putting in place measures to limit the introduction of the new Omicron variant in the region and thus protect the population;

**WHEREAS** the measures concerning the obligation to present a vaccine passport for all travels between the Nunavik communities as well as to and from the Nunavik region, described in Directive 2021-20, remain in effect;

In accordance with section 106 of the *Public Health Act*, the regional director of Public Health has modified the restrictions on travel to and from the communities of Nunavik.

## TRAVEL WITHIN NUNAVIK

***Travel from a community on Orange + or Red alert***

**OR**

***Travel to a community on Orange + or Red alert:***

Regardless of the means of transportation, only persons of the following categories are authorized to travel **from a community on Orange + or Red alert** OR to travel **to a community on Orange + or Red alert** (with the exception of North-South or South-North travel):

- those who reside in the destination community they are travelling to;
- those who must travel to provide or receive essential services in the education, public-security, justice, health, social, day-care, municipal, telecommunications, airport, mining, construction and maintenance sectors, as well as their dependants who reside on the territory;
- those whose travel is necessary for humanitarian reasons;
- those whose work involves commercial transport of goods or persons in the region;
- those required to travel to the destination community according to a court order or a court judgment;
- detained persons who must be transferred from a correctional institution to another institution or under the custody of the police for transfer to a detention facility.

Persons whose regular flight is not paid for by an organization must apply for authorization to travel by filling out the form <https://forms.office.com/r/cr56c0K0bc> or contacting [covid-lockdown.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:covid-lockdown.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca).

The organizations of Nunavik are responsible for assessing the relevance of their employees', consultants' or contractors' travel. In the case of persons travelling to obtain health care, social services or youth-protection services, this responsibility falls on the relevant health centre. Thus, each organization must determine the degree to which travel of an employee, consultant, contractor—and client in the case of the health centres—is essential and cannot be postponed. Reservation of airfare via the *TMS* system is proof of authorization to travel.

***In the case of travel from a community at the Orange + or Red alert to another community of Nunavik,*** the following additional measures apply:

- all persons, with the exception of children under the age of one year, must have undergone a COVID-19 test (PCR or IDNOW test) performed within a 72-hour period preceding the travel<sup>1</sup>. A child for whom testing is too difficult will not be refused boarding, even without a test;
- all persons must undergo a COVID-19 test between the fourth and seventh days after arrival in the community (PCR or IDNOW test);

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1. In the event that the CLSC is unable to perform the screening test within 72 hours of departure, a test on arrival in the community is recommended.

- all persons unprotected<sup>2</sup> against COVID-19 must undergo quarantine of 10 days, including children under the age of 12 years.

***Travel from a community at the Green, Yellow or Orange alert to a community on Green, Yellow or Orange alert:***

Starting December 8, 2021, travel from a community at the Green, Yellow or Orange alert to a community at the Green, Yellow or Orange alert will no longer be limited to the traveller categories described above.

Persons whose regular flight is not paid for by an organization must apply for authorization to travel by filling out the form <https://forms.office.com/r/cr56c0K0bc> or contacting [covid-lockdown.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:covid-lockdown.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca).

**TRAVEL FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION TO NUNAVIK  
OR  
TRAVEL FROM NUNAVIK TO A DESTINATION OUTSIDE THE REGION**

From December 29, 2021 to January 26, 2022, only those categories of people are allowed to travel from outside the region to Nunavik:

- those who go to their principal residence;
- those who must travel to provide or receive essential services in the education, public-security, justice, health, social, day-care, municipal and airport sectors as well as their dependants who reside on the territory;
- those who work or exercise their profession on behalf of a construction, telecommunication or maintenance company insofar as the work to be performed is essential. Essential work is work which, if not carried out, endangers the health or safety of the population or which endangers the integrity of an infrastructure and/or systems;
- those whose travel is necessary for humanitarian reasons;
- those whose work involves commercial transport of goods or persons in the region;
- those required to travel according to a court order or a court judgment;
- detained persons who must be transferred from a correctional institution to another institution or under the custody of the police for transfer to a detention facility.

2. A **person protected** against COVID-19 Omicron variant, for the purposes of quarantine management under this ordinance, is a person who has received a booster dose (3rd dose) of COVID-19 vaccine for at least 14 days OR who had COVID-19 confirmed by a lab test or an IDNOW test and has received 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine when the prescribed minimum intervals between vaccines and infection have been observed.

**An unprotected person** is a person who does not meet the previous definition. This definition currently includes people under the age of 18 for whom booster dose have not yet been approved.

### ***Travel from outside the region to Nunavik***

A Nunavik Territory Authorization Access (NTAA) is required for travel from outside the region to Nunavik:

- A questionnaire to apply for authorization to access the territory must be filled out at least 72 hours before departure;
- Before departure, all persons, with the exception of children aged under one year, must present proof of a negative result for a COVID-19 test performed within a 72-hour period before travel<sup>3</sup>. A child for whom testing is too difficult will not be refused boarding, even without a test result;
- All persons aged 12 years and older, barring a medical exemption, must wear a procedural mask of good quality at all times on board the aircraft;
- Quarantine is not required for persons protected<sup>4</sup> against COVID-19 Omicron variant who present proof of such protection before their travel;
- All persons unprotected<sup>5</sup> against COVID-19 must undergo quarantine of 10 days, including people under the age of 18;
- Essential workers deemed critical are allowed to go out of quarantine in the course of their work. Quarantine should be observed outside of work.
- All persons, protected or unprotected, are required to do a rapid self-test the day of travel to the region (Day 0) as well as on Day 2, Day 4, Day 6 and Day 8.
- All persons must submit to a COVID-19 test at the CLSC/nursing between the fourth and seventh days after their arrival in Nunavik.

### ***Travel from Nunavik to a destination outside the region***

Persons whose regular flight is not paid for by an organization must apply for authorization to travel by filling out the form <https://forms.office.com/r/cr56c0K0bc> or contacting [covid-lockdown.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:covid-lockdown.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca).

### **TRAVEL BY CHARTERED FLIGHT**

The same travel restrictions and conditions apply for travel by chartered flight. Persons travelling by chartered flight must send their application for travel authorization to [covid-charter.flights.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:covid-charter.flights.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca).

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3. A PCR-lab test is required. An IDNOW test may be accepted in special circumstances. Rapid antigenic tests are not accepted.

4. A **person protected** against COVID-19 Omicron variant, **for the purposes of quarantine management** under this ordinance, is a person who has received a booster dose (3rd dose) of COVID-19 vaccine for at least 14 days OR who had COVID-19 confirmed by a lab test or an IDNOW test **and has received 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine when the prescribed minimum intervals between vaccines and infection have been observed.**

5. An **unprotected person** is a person who does not meet the previous definition. This definition currently includes people under the age of 18 for whom booster dose have not yet been approved.



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Director of Public Health

- c.c. Members of the Nunavik Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee  
Mayors of the 14 Northern Villages  
Horacio Arruda, Assistant Deputy Minister, *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux*  
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