ᑲᑐᑎᓗᒍ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᐱᕈᖅᐸᓕᐊᑎᓪᓗᒋᑦ
Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Election guidelines during COVID-19

In-person public election events pose additional risks for transmission of COVID-19 compared to alternative approaches to in-person voting. However, with the appropriate staff, venue, and equipment, it is possible to safely conduct an election while adhering to current safe spacing requirements and infection control measures.

The measures listed below must be used in combination to provide a layered protective approach.

Spacing Requirements

The venue size and layout should:

- Enable staff, volunteers, and voters to maintain a safe space of two metres from each other at all times.
- Have floor and wall signage posted throughout to remind everyone to remain 2 metres apart. Traffic flow could be indicated using arrows on the floor, and rooms could have capacity limits posted outside.
- Provide a separate entrance and exit to help with traffic flow.
- Observers should be restricted to certain areas, with specific information on this being available for any observers that may be present.
- Consider having polling stations outdoors under a shelter (weather permitting), to decrease the risk of COVID-19 spread. However, physical distancing (2 metres) requirements should still apply in an outdoor setting.

Infection control Measures

Infection control measures include, but are not limited to:

- Providing access to handwashing facilities and placing hand sanitizing dispensers in prominent locations throughout the venue.
- Providing additional respiratory etiquette supplies such as tissues and lined waste containers.
- Frequently cleaning of high-touch surfaces such as computers, desks, washrooms, writing instruments, seating areas, doorknobs, light switches, and counters.

P.O. Box 1000, Station 1000
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0
(867) 975-5712

- Scheduling times for cleaning where a private polling station is needed or have staff available on standby that can clean between voters.
- Having a screening tool at the entrance where staff and voters can do a self-assessment at arrival to ensure people are not entering who are experiencing cough, fever, shortness of breath or who feel unwell, have been travelling outside Nunavut in the last 14 days or have been in contact with someone in the last 14 days who is infected with COVID-19.
- If possible, provide an alternative voting method such as mail-in or online voting to decrease the number of people at polling stations.
- Staff wearing a mask and encouraging others to put one on as well.
- Encourage citizens who are ill to stay home and use an alternative voting method.

Operational Plan

While an operational plan for the election is not required, it may be helpful to fill in a plan to ensure you have thought of all aspects of planning the event safely.

Additional information:

The following link provides more resources that may be of use when planning and conducting an election safely. Please be sure to check the current public health orders frequently prior to the event to make sure all restrictions are being followed:

https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus