

PHAC'S ARCTIC AND NORTHERN COVID-19 RESPONSE

General Response

- PHAC is engaged with each territorial government to support requests for supplies and equipment, as well as for the development of plans, protocols and systems in collaboration with federal partners.
- PHAC is maintaining information flow to the Health Portfolio Operations Centre (HPOC) and helping to navigate concerns from Territorial health, other government departments in the North and territorial emergency management partners as they arise.
- A federal-provincial-territorial Special Advisory Committee on the Novel Coronavirus (SAC) was established to advise Deputy Ministers of Health across Canada on the coordination, public health policy, and technical content related to the COVID-19 outbreak. SAC comprises members of the Pan-Canadian Public Health Network Council and the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health of Canada. SAC is supported by several expert groups that bring together senior federal-provincial-territorial officials and public health experts: a Technical Advisory Committee, a Logistics Advisory Committee, the Public Health Network Communications Group and the Remote and Isolated Communities Working Group.
 - The Remote and Isolated Communities Working Group provides a forum to share information, develop guidance documents and tools and provide support to territorial and Indigenous governments and organizations' public health response and delivery of health services in a pandemic in remote and isolated communities including safe and effective access to quality emergency health preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery services in response to COVID-19.
- PHAC's Regional Operations Northern Unit supports operational engagements related to emergency preparedness and response with the territorial governments, various federal departments (including Indigenous Services Canada and Public Safety Canada), and community-based stakeholders to streamline federal response to territorial needs and coordinate appropriate federal support in the North.

PPE and Procurement

- On March 11, as part of Canada's COVID-19 Response Fund, the federal government announced \$50 million to PHAC to support the purchase of PPE and medical supplies. PHAC is working rapidly to allocate PPE and medical supplies to the provinces and territories as per an approach agreed upon by federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) Ministers of Health. From the bulk procurement, to date the three northern territories have been allocated approximately:
 - 23,000 N95 respirators or equivalents (e.g. KN95s)
 - 24,000 gloves
 - 61,000 surgical masks
 - over 3,800 additional PPE items, including testing swabs, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes.

- In addition to the bulk procurement listed above, Provinces and Territories can request supplies from Canada's National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS), which is intended to provide surge capacity in support of P/T response during an emergency. PHAC has responded to 9 requests for assistance from the territories. Supplies have included N95 masks, gloves, surgical masks, face shields, ventilators, gowns, hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes, boot covers, coveralls, and eyewear.

Testing

- The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) is supporting northern and remote communities with COVID-19 testing through the deployment of Point of Care technologies and test reagents for diagnostic testing, specifically aimed at building capacity for sites and communities who experience challenges with conventional testing methods. The NML is also providing training as needed to sites with respect to installation, set-up and testing performance.
 - As of the end of the week of May 4, 26 instruments and more than 1300 tests will have been distributed to remote communities throughout Canada.

Isolation Sites

- PHAC has established a federal isolation site in Yukon to address current international land border travel from Alaska and is actively planning to support future border travel health models across the Territories.
- In addition, territorial-bound international travellers entering Canada at southern points of entry, and requiring isolation, are accommodated in federal isolation sites in southern Canada.

Continued Preparedness and Recovery Phase

- PHAC is engaging with federal and territorial partners regarding the preparations and supports needed for continued preparedness and ongoing support into recovery phase.