

BORDER MEASURES / MESURES FRONTALIÈRES**SYNOPSIS**

The Public Health Agency of Canada has put in place successive border measures in response to COVID19 under the *Quarantine Act*.

SOMMAIRE

L'Agence de santé publique du Canada a mis en place des mesures frontalières successives en réponse à la COVID19 dans le cadre de la *Loi sur la mise en quarantaine*.

POTENTIAL QUESTION

- What is the Government doing to prevent imported cases of COVID19? How are you protecting Canadians at the border?

QUESTION POTENTIELLE

- Que fait le gouvernement pour empêcher l'importation de cas de COVID19 ? Comment protégez-vous les Canadiens à la frontière ?

KEY MESSAGES

- The Government of Canada is taking action at the border to limit the introduction and spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of Canadians.
- We have enacted emergency orders under the *Quarantine Act* to restrict discretionary entry into Canada from abroad, including the U.S., and to strengthen measures to reduce the importation risk from other countries.
- All persons entering Canada, with limited exceptions – no matter their country of origin or mode of entry – are required to quarantine for 14 days.
- There are exemptions in place on mandatory quarantine so that critical infrastructure, essential services and economic supply chains continue between Canada and the United States. Essential workers will be permitted to enter Canada, including truck drivers, firefighters and medical workers.
- Anyone not excluded from mandatory quarantine or isolation when entering Canada must have a plan and suitable location

where they can isolate or quarantine for 14 days. They must wear an appropriate non-medical mask or face covering while in transit to their final destination.

MESSAGE CLÉ

- Le gouvernement du Canada prend les mesures appropriées à la frontière pour limiter l'introduction et la propagation de COVID-19 et pour protéger la santé des Canadiens.
- Nous avons promulgué des décrets d'urgence en vertu de la *Loi sur la mise en quarantaine* afin de restreindre l'entrée au Canada en provenance de l'étranger, y compris des États-Unis, et de renforcer les mesures visant à réduire le risque d'importation en provenance d'autres pays.
- Toutes les personnes entrant au Canada, à quelques exceptions près - peu importe leur pays d'origine ou leur mode d'entrée - sont tenues de mettre en quarantaine pendant 14 jours.
- Des exemptions sont en place pour la mise en quarantaine obligatoire afin que les infrastructures essentielles, les services essentiels et les chaînes d'approvisionnement économiques continuent entre le Canada et les États-Unis. Les travailleurs essentiels seront autorisés à entrer au Canada, y compris les camionneurs, les pompiers et les médecins ouvriers.
- Quiconque n'est pas exclu de la mise en quarantaine ou de l'isolement obligatoire lors de son entrée au Canada doit avoir un plan approprié de 14 jours pour isoler ou mettre en quarantaine pendant 14 jours. Ils doivent porter un masque ou un couvre-visage non médical approprié pendant le transport vers leur destination finale.

IF PRESSED ON FEDERAL QUARANTINE SITES

- Individuals who do not have an appropriate isolation or self-quarantine plan will be directed to a federally designated Quarantine Facility.
- Hotels have been designated as Quarantine Facilities in a number of cities, including Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal.

SI L'ON INSISTE SUR LES SITES DE QUARANTAINE FÉDÉRAUX

- Les personnes qui ne disposent pas d'un plan d'isolement ou de mise en quarantaine personnelle approprié seront dirigées vers un poste de quarantaine désigné par le gouvernement fédéral.
- Des hôtels ont été désignés à titre de postes de quarantaine dans un certain nombre de villes, dont Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto et Montréal.

IF PRESSED ON HOW WE SCREEN TRAVELLERS

- As travellers enter the country, they receive information on the symptoms of COVID-19. They must acknowledge that they understand the quarantine requirement and provide contact details for follow-up.
- Border Services Officers conduct preliminary screening of all travellers based on criteria and questions developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Those who show symptoms of COVID-19, or who indicate that they do not have a suitable plan for quarantine, are directed to an official from the Public Health Agency of Canada for further assessment.

SI L'ON INSISTE SUR LE PROCESSUS DE CONTRÔLE DES VOYAGEURS

- Dès leur arrivée au pays, les voyageurs reçoivent de l'information sur les symptômes de la COVID-19. Ils doivent certifier qu'ils comprennent leur obligation de se mettre en quarantaine et fournir leurs coordonnées pour un suivi.

- Les agents des services frontaliers effectuent un contrôle préliminaire auprès de tous les voyageurs en se basant sur les critères et les questions établis par l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada. Les personnes qui présentent des symptômes de la COVID-19, ou qui indique qu'ils n'ont pas de plan de quarantaine convenable, sont redirigées vers un officiel de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada pour une évaluation complémentaire.

IF PRESSED ON WORK WITH ALBERTA TO DATE

- The Public Health Agency of Canada is collaborating with provinces, including British Columbia and Alberta, towards a more integrated model at airports, minimizing duplication of effort, and streamlining information collection. The Public Health Agency of Canada is also exploring the possibility of shared quarantine space with some provinces and territories.
- As the COVID19 situation continues to evolve, supplementary health screening measures, such as those implemented by other jurisdictions, may be considered.

SI L'ON INSISTE SUR LE TRAVAIL AVEC L'ALBERTA À CE JOUR

- L'Agence de la santé publique du Canada collabore avec les provinces, notamment la Colombie-Britannique et l'Alberta, sur un modèle mieux intégré aux aéroports, réduisant au minimum le chevauchement des efforts et simplifiant la collecte d'information. L'Agence de la santé publique du Canada étudie également la possibilité d'installations de quarantaine partagées avec d'autres provinces et territoires.
- À mesure que la situation entourant la COVID-19 continue d'évoluer, des mesures de dépistage sanitaire supplémentaires, telles que celles mises en œuvre par d'autres administrations, pourraient être prises en considération.

IF PRESSED ON COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- The Public Health Agency of Canada is working with the RCMP and provincial law enforcement agencies to verify compliance with the Mandatory Isolation Order.
- The Government takes a compliance promotion approach to inform Canadians of their obligations. Overall, we have found that Canadians have been responsive.
- We aim to contact all travellers subject to mandatory isolation by phone. If travellers cannot be reached or show indication of non-compliance with their obligations, they are referred to local law enforcement for follow-up.
- We also provide handouts at the border, and contact travellers through e-mail and text message throughout their isolation to remind them of their obligations.
- Penalties include a fine of up to \$1 million or imprisonment for 3 years, or both, for failure to comply with this Order. Fines for non-compliance typically range from \$275 to \$1000. At the Public Health Agency of Canada's recommendation, local law enforcement may choose to issue warnings prior to issuing a ticket.

SI L'ON INSISTE SUR LE RESPECT ET L'APPLICATION DES RÈGLES

- L'Agence de santé publique du Canada travaille avec la GRC et les organismes provinciaux chargés de l'application de la loi pour vérifier le respect de l'ordonnance d'isolement obligatoire.
- Le gouvernement adopte une approche de promotion de la conformité pour informer les Canadiens de leurs obligations. Dans l'ensemble, nous avons constaté que les Canadiens ont été réceptifs.
- Notre objectif est de communiquer par téléphone avec tous les voyageurs assujettis à l'isolement obligatoire. S'il n'est pas possible de joindre des voyageurs ou s'ils montrent des signes

de non-respect de leurs obligations, leurs coordonnées seront renvoyées aux services de police locaux pour un suivi.

- Nous fournissons également des documents à la frontière et communiquons avec les voyageurs par courrier électronique et par messagerie texte tout au long de leur isolement pour leur rappeler leurs obligations.
- Les sanctions comprennent une amende pouvant aller jusqu'à 1 million de dollars ou une peine d'emprisonnement de 3 ans, ou les deux, en cas de non-respect de ce décret. Les amendes données en cas de défaut varient généralement de 275 \$ à 1 000 \$. Les forces de l'ordre locales peuvent choisir de remettre des avertissements avant de délivrer une contravention, selon les recommandations de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada.

IF PRESSED ON BORDER PRESENCE

- We recognize the importance of having sufficient presence of the Public Health Agency of Canada at Canadian points of entry.
- As of May 21, the Public Health Agency of Canada has an initial presence at 17 key points of entry, including the four major international airports designated to receive international flights (Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal).
- By June 30, PHAC will have a presence at 36 points of entry, which cover 90% of all traffic into Canada.
- All of Canada's points of entry will continue to have 24/7 access to quarantine officer support through the remote centralized notification system (CNS).

SI L'ON INSISTE SUR LA PRÉSENCE À LA FRONTIÈRE

- Nous reconnaissons l'importance d'avoir une présence suffisante de l'Agence de la santé publique aux points d'entrée canadiens.

- En date du 21 mai, l'Agence de la santé publique avait établi une présence initiale à 17 des principaux points d'entrée, y compris les quatre principaux aéroports internationaux désignés pour recevoir des vols internationaux (Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto et Montréal).
- D'ici le 30 juin, l'Agence de la santé publique sera présente à 36 points d'entrée, ce qui couvrira 90 % de l'ensemble du trafic entrant au Canada.
- Tous les points d'entrée du Canada continueront d'avoir accès 24 heures sur 24 et 7 jours sur 7 au soutien des agents de quarantaine par l'entremise du système centralisé de notification (SCN) à distance.

IF PRESSED ON ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION

- In response to concerns expressed by Canadians, as of June 8, 2020 23:59 EDT, the Government of Canada is permitting foreign nationals who are immediate family members of Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents entry to allow them to reunite with their families.
- This applies to immediate family members who do not have COVID-19 or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and who intend to remain in Canada for at least 15 days.
- Family members who are admitted into Canada must quarantine for 14 days.

SI ON INSISTE SUR LES AUTRES EXEMPTIONS DE RÉUNIFICATION DES FAMILLES

- En réponse aux inquiétudes exprimées par les Canadiens, à compter du 8 juin 2020 23:59 EDT, le gouvernement du Canada permet aux étrangers qui sont des membres de la famille immédiate des citoyens canadiens et aux résidents permanents d'entrer pour retrouver leurs familles.
- Cela s'applique aux membres de la famille immédiate qui n'ont

pas la COVID-19 ou ne présentent aucun signe ou symptôme de la COVID-19 et qui ont l'intention de rester au Canada pendant au moins 15 jours.

- Les membres de la famille qui sont admis au Canada doivent être mis en quarantaine pendant 14 jours.

BACKGROUND

Since February 3, the Governor in Council has made fourteen Emergency Orders under the *Quarantine Act* to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in Canada – to reduce risks from other countries, to repatriate Canadians, and to strengthen measures at the border to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in Canada.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has been working with federal and provincial partners to facilitate commercial traffic to maintain the flow of essential goods and services, while continuing to protect the health of Canadians.

A travel ban is currently in place for most people entering Canada, including:

- All foreign nationals entering Canada by air;
- All travellers from the United States (U.S.), across all modes, for non-essential travel including recreation and/or tourism purposes;
- Foreign nationals entering Canada if they arrive from a foreign country other than the U.S., with some exceptions, including temporary foreign workers and international students; and
- Foreign nationals entering from the U.S. with signs or symptoms of respiratory illness.

Canada has updated its temporary border agreement with the U.S. until June 21, 2020.

All persons entering Canada, with limited exceptions – no matter their country of origin or mode of entry - are REQUIRED to isolate or quarantine for 14 days in a suitable location.

Canada has 117 land border points of entry, (many of which have low volumes of travellers), 12 international airports, 4 commercial marine ports, and 3 rail stations. PHAC is increasing the presence of designated officers, including quarantine officers, at priority points of entry across Canada. By June 30, PHAC officers will be deployed to 36 high volume points of entry, including major land borders that cover 90% of travellers.

There are exemptions in place on mandatory quarantine/isolation which permit essential workers to enter Canada, including truck drivers, firefighters and medical workers.

Cross-border supply chains are vital to ensure the continued flow of goods, including food and medical supplies for all Canadians. As such, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is working with other federal partners to share information with commercial stakeholders to provide assurances that commercial traffic is not impeded.

Enforcement:

PHAC undertakes compliance and enforcement linked to ensuring that travellers are abiding by the requirement to isolate/quarantine for 14 days. In those instances, where compliance cannot be confirmed, referrals are made to the RCMP. Maximum penalties for failing to comply with the mandatory isolation/quarantine order include a fine of up to \$750,000 or imprisonment for six months, or both.

A person who causes a risk of imminent death or serious bodily harm to another person while willfully or recklessly contravening the *Quarantine Act* or the regulations could be liable for a fine of up to \$1 million or imprisonment of up to three years, or both.

The *Contraventions Act* has now been changed to give law enforcement partners (including RCMP, provincial and local police) the enforcement power to issue tickets to people who do not comply with the *Quarantine Act*, with fines ranging from \$275 to \$1000.

Announcement from Alberta Government:

On May 20, 2020, Alberta announced new safety measures for travellers arriving at the Calgary and Edmonton international airports from outside Canada. These travellers will be required to pass through a provincial checkpoint where they will need to complete an Alberta isolation plan. Travellers will undergo a thermal scan, as elevated body temperature is a potential symptom of COVID-19.

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Special Advisory Committee:

The Government of Canada continues to work collaboratively with partners at all levels of government to respond to COVID-19 in order to protect the health of Canadians.

The Special Advisory Committee, composed of the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health and senior public health officials from all jurisdictions, has been activated since January 2020 to focus on coordination of federal, provincial and territorial response efforts across Canada.

The Committee is co-chaired by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, and by Dr. Saqib Shahab, Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan.

The Committee focuses on policy and technical public health aspects of the response as per the FPT Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events, informed by lessons learned from past public health responses and approved by all jurisdictions in 2017.

On May 1, 2020, the Special Advisory Committee released recommendations on next steps for Canada in a document entitled *Foundations for Living with COVID-19 in Canada: Lifting of Restrictive Public Health Measures*. One criteria for lifting of restrictive public health measures identified by the Committee is avoiding the risk of importation of cases.

The Special Advisory Committee on COVID-19 reports to the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health and to Health Ministers from all provinces and territories.

Deputy Ministers and Health Ministers have been working closely bilaterally and through their respective multilateral tables on key aspects of the pandemic response, such as the provision of personnel protective equipment and other supplies, testing and sharing of best practices. Engagement is taking place frequently (several times a week).

