



## CAMPAIGNING DURING COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

Updated Jan 27, 2021

### ELECTION YUKON'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Elections Yukon is responsible for the administration of an election. While the *Elections Act* does not contemplate a campaign during a pandemic, Elections Yukon has a clear responsibility to protect public health to ensure a safe electoral process for all in delivering a fair, compliant and impartial election. Elections Yukon is committed to ensuring safe and secure elections for members of the Legislative Assembly, election workers, candidates, the electorate, and the public.

To do this, Elections Yukon is working in close collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services to put the necessary COVID-19 measures and precautions in place. The election will be administered following guidelines established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and leveraging the best practices of other jurisdictions. Elections Yukon had piloted a number of COVID-19 measures and guidelines for the general election for members of a school council in the fall of 2020. Additional measures may also be established by the Chief Electoral Officer to further protect election officials and the public.

Elections Yukon has developed a business continuity plan to provide the direction necessary to administer an election during various COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic scenarios. To that end, the three objectives of the Elections Yukon measures are:

- safeguarding the health of the public and election workers;
- ensuring access to electors to exercise their right to vote and be a candidate; and
- protecting the integrity of the election process and validity of the results.

The information provided below outlines some of the measures Elections Yukon will implement during the election period. It is to be considered by political entities, candidates, and scrutineers in their pre-election outreach and during the election period at various election venues such as returning offices and polling places.

These guidelines, produced in consultation with the CMOH, are to support a safe territorial general election for all stakeholders. If there is a discrepancy between this guidance and that of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the CMOH guidance would take precedence.

### General Guidance to Political Parties and Political Campaigns

The nature of election campaigns is for close contact with the public. This includes rallies, fundraising events, and campaign outreach to electors at businesses, gatherings, and at their homes. There is general concern and heightened anxiety in the public regarding in-person contact.

- Remember in your planning and due diligence measures for COVID-19 that there are Yukoners who have health concerns or are in a compromised health situation and may be vulnerable. They depend on you to follow established guidelines to protect their health.
- Develop a safety plan for your team. Considerations include a risk assessment (where people congregate, tasks of workers), implementation measures (physical distancing, masks, actions where physical distancing not possible, cleaning and hygiene), policies (such as use of masks, if in close contact, symptoms, or told to self isolate), and communication and training (briefing to teams on policies and materials).
- Minimizing face-to-face interactions where possible by finding alternate ways to accomplish objectives. This may include organizing meeting in small, physically distanced groups.
- Use of a mask is mandatory in all public spaces. Masks do not replace physical distancing requirements.
- Every person entering Yukon has to self-isolate for 14 days and complete a declaration form. Yukon residents and family members can isolate where the Yukon resident lives. Non-Yukon residents must self-isolate in Whitehorse.
- Stay home if you're feeling sick, feeling unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms; (fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, etc). Please get tested if you are symptomatic.
- Complete the online self-assessment tool; <https://service.yukon.ca/en/covid-19-self-assessment/>
- Maintain physical distancing – keep two metres away from everyone who is not a member of your social bubble.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol (use a Health Canada approved hand sanitizer).
- Follow all guidance from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

- **PRE-EVENT AND ELECTION PERIOD GUIDELINES**

### **Guidelines for Door-to-Door Campaigning by Candidates and their Representatives**

- Candidates and representatives who are feeling ill should stay home and complete the online self assessment tool <https://service.yukon.ca/en/covid-19-self-assessment/> Please get tested if symptomatic.
- Consider providing advance notice of your campaign – times and routes. This can be done by social media; you may wish to outline your safety plan. Some electors may prefer to be reached by alternate means and contact information for your political offices may be helpful.
- Doorstep protocols include ring or knock on the door and step back two steps to ensure a safe distance of at least six feet between candidates/representatives and the door/individuals at the door.

- Wear masks for the duration of door-to-door campaigning. Provide masks, gloves, and sanitizers to campaign personnel. Sanitize hands before and after contact with each household.
- Consider reducing the number of canvassers.
- Minimize contact. Candidates and representatives should not shake hands.
- Where signatures are required, encourage signatories to use their own pencil or pens. Any shared pencils should be sanitized before each use.
- Any campaign materials should be left in mailbox or on step.

### **Guidelines for Campaign Events and Gatherings**

- Plan events carefully with a COVID-19 safety plan in place.
- Organized seated in-person gatherings are limited to 50 people indoors or 100 people outdoors with physical distancing. Social gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors and 50 people outdoors with physical distancing.
- Screen at gathering entry points and ask questions regarding travel or symptoms. Don't allow people to attend who have travelled outside the territory in the last 14 days, are awaiting test results or have symptoms of COVID.
- Masks are mandatory in indoor public spaces and where physical distancing cannot be maintained; have sanitizer and masks available.
- Keep physical distancing protocols.
- Regardless of maximum gathering size, consider keeping numbers to a minimum. Additional guidance (such as screening, seating, washroom sanitization, food and drink) is provided at <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/holding-gathering-guidelines-covid-19>

### **Guidelines for Fundraising**

- Consider online fundraising outreach through platforms such as Zoom or Skype.
- Consider maximizing contributions through electronic means.
- Wear a mask and keep physical distances, as described above.
- Wash and sanitize hands frequently if handling money and cheques. Avoid touching the face.

## **ADDITIONAL MEASURES DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD**

### **Elections Yukon Measures – Offices and Polling Places**

What campaign staff and scrutineers can expect at polling places:

- Where possible, visits to the returning office should be by appointment.

- Self screening posters at entrances and, if applicable, in outdoor waiting areas.
- Signs and directional arrows to help with flow and to indicate routes.
- Floor decals to support 2 metre distancing in line up areas.
- “Wait behind this line” signage.
- Sanitizers on entry and exit at the polling station.
- Masks will be available for electors who do not have them.
- Respiratory etiquette supplies such as tissues and lined waste containers will be available.
- Sanitizer is available for electors and election officials.
- Handwashing protocols are in place.
- Masks are mandatory for elections officials.
- Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces including doors handles, voting areas, and tables.
- Additional poll attendant staff will be in place to assist in traffic control and sanitization.
- Where possible, there will be a separate entry and exit door with sanitation stations located nearby.

#### **Guidelines for Candidates and Scrutineers at the Polls**

- Larger venues may be required to support physical distancing and the capacity of the space to accommodate electors, scrutineers, and an increased number of polls.
- Scrutineers and campaign workers who are feeling ill should stay home and complete the online self-assessment tool <https://service.yukon.ca/en/covid-19-self-assessment/> Please get tested if symptomatic.
- All scrutineers entering polling locations must wear masks, sanitize their hands upon entry and observe physical distancing guidelines.
- Elections Yukon will provide a record of voters sheet at 2 hour intervals during polling day for scrutineer issue or pick up.
- Scrutineers will be seated at a safe distance from the polling tables.
- Up to two scrutineers from each candidate are allowed at each polling division. The Chief Electoral Officer may implement measures to reduce this to one scrutineer per candidate as appropriate.

# MASK REQUIRED



Protect each other when you're in shared indoor spaces.  
Wear a mask that covers your nose, mouth and chin.  
And remember to keep your distance.

This does not apply to people who cannot wear a mask because they have a medical condition or a disability.

A mask or face covering can be cloth or disposable.

---

# MASQUE OBLIGATOIRE



*Protégez-vous les uns les autres dans les espaces publics intérieurs.*

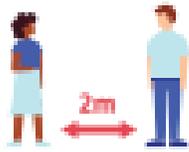
*Portez un masque qui couvre votre nez, votre bouche et votre menton.*

*Et rappelez-vous de respecter la distance physique.*

*Ne s'applique pas aux personnes qui ne peuvent pas porter de masque en raison d'un problème de santé ou d'un handicap.*

*Le masque ou le couvre-visage peut être en tissu ou jetable.*

# Practise the Safe 6



1

Maintain physical distancing – keep 2 metres away from everyone who's not a member of your social bubble



2

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol



3

Stay home if you're feeling sick



4

Follow the social and organized gathering guidelines and respect the limitations on group size



5

Limit travel to rural communities, and be respectful when you're there



6

Self-isolate if you've returned to Yukon and have been outside of BC, Nunavut or the NWT in the last 14 days, or if you've been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19