



Northern Ontario  
School of Medicine  
École de médecine  
du Nord de l'Ontario  
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## Travel Guidance During COVID-19

### Introduction

COVID-19 is still circulating at different levels around the province and in Canada, requiring Governments (Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Indigenous) to monitor and establish policies and/or legislation along with directives and parameters on citizens' daily activity.

The safest approach is to stay in the area of your home community or to stay in the region and avoid non-essential travel. Individuals who do travel (for personal or work/academic) outside of, or within Northern Ontario should be extra vigilant in monitoring for symptoms when they return home and should isolate and call the district health unit to arrange for testing if any symptoms develop or if they have knowledge of potential exposure during travel.

It is important to note that with COVID-19 protocols and directives from Government and Public Health changing rapidly, our approach to return people to campus will evolve and change as needed. NOSM's approach is not a "one-size-fits-all" which necessitates each area of the School to institute individual plans to support their operational and academic program requirements.

### Travel between Campuses

Until January 2021, work-related travel is NOT permitted. All events and meetings should be planned virtually in order to support NOSM's goal to reduce the number of people on campus to help slow the potential transmission of the virus and protect vulnerable populations from exposure. All members of the NOSM community are asked to help in this effort.

Through an exceptional circumstance, if an event on campus is deemed essential, that requires learners or employees to travel between campuses, **all travel must be approved by the Associate Dean.**

As an exception, NOSM's distributed education model will require our learners and residents travel to attend their required clinical placements. Prior to scheduling these community/clinical placements, all related travel would have been pre-approved by the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education (for medical students) or the Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education and Health Sciences (for medical residents and health sciences learners). As such, learners would not require Associate Dean approval each time they travelled to and from communities.

### Travel within Ontario

Travellers entering different parts of the province, whether for personal (e.g. vacation) or education/work purposes are required to monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. If you develop symptoms, even if mild, you are required to call the local public health unit to arrange for testing.

### Travel within Canada

Until January 2021, work-related travel is not permitted. If travel is deemed necessary, it will require prior approval from by the Associate Dean or Dean (if Associate Dean is requesting travel permission).

As of March 30, 2020, all passengers flying within Canada will be subject to a health check prior to boarding.

You will not be permitted to board if you:

- show any symptoms of COVID-19 or
- have been refused boarding in the past 14 days due to a medical reason related to COVID-19 or
- are subject to a provincial or local public health order

You may be subject to additional provincial or territorial public health measures at your final destination.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you will not be allowed to board any flight until:

- 14 days have passed or
- you present a medical certificate confirming that your symptoms are not related to COVID-19

If you have signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you will not be allowed to use public transportation to travel to the place where you will isolate.

### **Travel Outside of Canada**

The Government of Canada Official Global Travel Advisories is to avoid non-essential travel outside of Canada until further notice. The Canada-US border remains closed to all non-essential travel until August 21, 2020.

Until January 2021, travel outside of Canada is not permitted and will require compelling justification and the Dean's approval.

Travellers returning from all international destinations (including the USA) MUST (by law) self-isolate for a period of 14 days upon return, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms, under the *Quarantine Act*.

Travellers who have returned to Canada, who do not show symptoms of COVID-19, may use public transportation, including flights, to reach their final destination. Once there, they must go directly home or to the place where you will self-isolate. *Failure to comply with this order is an offense under the Quarantine Act and may result in fines and/or imprisonment.*

### **Reference**

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>