



including the Board, to adopt new approaches that may not be their preference, the Board is entitled, and obligated to modify our processes to fulfill our objectives.

In providing this guidance on next steps in a COVID-19 era, the Board preserves the right to further modify the proposed processes - as may be required to reflect changed circumstances such as:

- Updates to applicable guidance from public health authorities and changes to public health measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- Technological innovations and limits; and
- New information from parties.

The NIRB has modified the format of upcoming meetings using a hybrid approach to ensure that in-person community engagement can be preserved, while recognizing that there are significant travel restrictions that may prevent participants who are not resident within Nunavut from being able to travel into the Territory. The Board has concluded that combinations of in-person and video conference meetings, teleconference sessions, and the receipt of written and video submissions by the parties are the best alternatives to the in-person attendance of all participants. The Board has determined that in-person meetings in Nunavut and in-person attendance of parties represented by individuals for which travel into the territory is not currently practical at a single central location or “hub” outside of Nunavut that is linked to the venues in Nunavut can be conducted in compliance with the direction provided by public health authorities in the relevant jurisdictions.

## PUBLIC MEETING EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

### **Sign in procedures**

The NIRB will maintain a sign in desk for all participants entering a venue to sign in with their name and phone number. The NIRB staff member administering this desk will either have a protective glass separating them from the participants entering. Where this is not achievable, the NIRB staff member will be required to wear a face mask.

The NIRB staff member will keep an accurate count of participants inside the venue to ensure capacity limits as per Public Health Orders are not exceeded. Entry will be denied once the capacity target is reached.

Participants when signing in will be asked if they have a cough, fever or shortness of breath and have been outside of the territory in the last 14 days. If they do, they will be asked to refrain from the meeting. If the symptomatic person has an inquiry that they want addressed, they provide their concerns in writing to be presented by a proxy.

### **Social Distancing**

Social Distancing of 2 meters will be mandatory for all meeting Participants.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Current advice for Nunavut concludes that non-medical facemasks are not mandatory for daily wear, NIRB will follow suit. The NIRB will supply daily masks for individuals who choose to wear them at Public Meetings, but they will not be mandatory until Public Health Orders change. If, during the meeting, social distancing cannot be maintained (i.e.: small meeting spaces, non-

compliant members of the Public on the 2-meter social distancing order, etc.) masks will become a mandatory requirement for entering the Public Meeting space.

Disposable Gloves will also be kept on site for safety measures and staff who may be required to handle sound equipment.

Where the NIRB is required to fly community members to be active in a meeting, each participating community will be provided with masks for air travel for their community representatives.

### **Hand Washing and Sanitizing**

Prior to anyone entering the Public Meeting Space, all attendees must use hand sanitizer. The NIRB will hire a runner/dedicated staffer to dispense hand sanitizing solution to all persons coming into the meeting venue.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

NIRB will ensure high touch areas, such as microphones and other shared sound gear, is disinfected prior to the next participant using the equipment. This will also be done for tables and chairs when Intervenors or Community Reps move from the Public Side of the Meeting to the Round Table. At the end of each day Audio/Video technicians will ensure all equipment is ready for the next day's use, including cleaning and disinfection.

Venue staff will be asked to do large cleaning at the end of each meeting day.

### **Ensuring Proper Protocol Regarding Social Distancing is followed**

Each member of the Public who does not adhere to the social distancing requirement will receive one (1) warning. Further infractions will result in an individual being asked to leave the premises. Examples of noncompliance include: not physical distancing when seeing family members and friends from other communities, refusing the use hand sanitizer, trying to force entry when visibly sick.

Warnings will be included in a logbook of incidents for back-up purposes. NIRB Staff will make sure to use plain language and language of preference when communicating the warning and will ensure that the message is understood before logging the incident.

### **External Contractors**

NIRB Audio / Sound technicians and Court Reporters will be hired through an outside firm from outside of the Government of Nunavut's Common Travel Area. The NIRB will be seeking to classify these external contractors as essential service workers given there are no service providers capable of conducting the required work in Nunavut. This means they will be required to isolate in their hotel accommodation outside of work hours, will wear a mask and disposable gloves, and return to their hotel accommodations at the end of each day with no interaction with the Public after the meeting. Although negative COVID-19 tests are not required for essential services through the Government of Nunavut's public health orders, the NIRB will insist that all external contractors provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test before entering the territory.

### **Public Health and Health Centre**

The NIRB will advise local health centers or public health units that a public meeting is scheduled in advanced so that they are aware of a large public gathering taking place. The NIRB will invite members of Public Health Office or the local Health Centre to provide opening remarks at the start of meetings in each Nunavut hub location. They will be invited to speak about social distancing and how to interact in a public space with other members of the public to ensure the safety of everyone. The NIRB will provide all COVID-19 action plans and measures for Public Safety to Public Health and local Health Centers.

### **Security**

NIRB has decided against hiring an outside security firm, as this has negative implications in a neutral meeting space. The NIRB will endeavor to hire additional local people to help with venue sign-in, cleaning and disinfecting, and identifying individuals not from the same households who are not respecting the social distance rule. Individuals who do not adhere to the policies and procedures in place will be asked to leave the meeting venue and not come back. This includes community representatives.

Individuals who are visibly sick (in this case, with symptoms associated with Covid-19) will be asked to leave. The NIRB will create COVID-19 specific protocols and procedures for asking an individual to leave and associated documentation for transparency and fairness.

### **Signage**

The NIRB will post current Publications and Signage from the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada at all venues. This will include signs on social distancing, handwashing, the Government of Nunavut COVID-19 hotline and other associated signage in English and Inuktitut. All safety measures will be posted in the venues in clearly visible locations.

### **Communications**

All safety measures will be clearly communicated to Meeting Participants in advance through letters, emails and social media. All advice from the Chief Public Health Officer will be strictly followed and this shall be communicated to all meeting attendees.

### **Vulnerable Populations**

The NIRB will outline the risk of attending large public gatherings to vulnerable groups in advanced. The definition of “Vulnerable populations” as outlined by the Government of Nunavut is:

- an older adult (aged 65 and older)
- underlying medical conditions (e.g. heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer)
- compromised immune system from a medical condition or treatment (e.g. chemotherapy)

NIRB will not bar community representatives with any of the above conditions from participating. This warning is to inform individuals of the risks of attendance.

### **Floor Plans**

NIRB will implement floor plans including one direction walkways and social distancing seating arrangements.

## **Catering**

Coffee and Tea services will not be offered during public meetings, as this leads to a bottleneck effect of many individuals grouped around a small area, with coffee and tea urns becoming highly touched surfaces. Bagged snacks will be offered to Community Reps with choice of individually packaged water bottles or individually packaged juice.

## **Policies and Procedures**

Under the direction of the Executive Director or the Board, meetings may be paused under the following circumstances:

- an active COVID-19 case has been confirmed in the territory
- the Chief Public Health Officer issues instructions to close all public meetings
- The City or Municipality has issued direction to close all Public Meetings

In the event that the meeting is paused, all attendees will be informed they must return to their hotel room at once and await further announcements via Facebook, the local Community Radio Station or a phone call in the case of community representatives.

A separate policy will be created for NIRB staff on a suspected COVID-19 meeting attendee. This will include putting on a mask and disposable gloves prior to talking to the individual, documenting the incident and advising other floor staff of the incident.

If a Board Member becomes ill and needs to leave a Public Meeting, as long as there is quorum the meeting will not need to be paused.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

In closing, the following is a summary of the important upcoming tentative public meeting dates for various assessments and impacted communities:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Meeting purpose</b>
August 20, 2020	Cambridge Bay	Annual monitoring update for Doris North, Hope Bay Phase 2 and Back River
August 24 – 25, 2020	Pond Inlet	Annual monitoring update and Marine Workshop for Mary River
August 24 – 25, 2020	Rankin Inlet	Annual monitoring update for Meliadine

August 27 – 28, 2020	Baker Lake	Annual monitoring update for Meadowbank and Whale Tail
September 28 – October 2, 2020	Pond Inlet With participants via audio/video links with Iqaluit, Ottawa and Winnipeg	Community Round Table and Pre-Hearing Conference for Mary River’s Phase 2 Project Proposal
November 23 – 26, 2020	Rankin Inlet	Technical Meeting, Community Round Table and Pre-Hearing Conference for Meliadine’s Saline Effluent Discharge Project Proposal

The NIRB thanks all parties for their continued active participation in the NIRB’s processes. Should you have questions or require any additional clarification regarding the upcoming COVID-19 measures at the various public meetings, please contact the NIRB’s Director, Finance and Administration: Mark Ings at (867) 983-4602 or via email at [mings@nirb.ca](mailto:mings@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,

Karen Costello  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board