



Memorandum

Date: March 3, 2021

To: Stephen Mills
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

From: Stephen Samis
Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

Subject: Health and Social Services response to the Yukon Legislative Assembly Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation

I understand that the Executive Council Office is writing the Government of Yukon response to the questions sent to departments by the Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation. Health and Social Services has prepared the following information to contribute to the letter.

Thank you for the support and leadership of your department in this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "S. Samis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Samis
Deputy Minister

1. How was the Department of Health and Social Services hindered or helped by Yukon's Civil Emergency Measures Act when attempting to maintain the safety and wellness of Yukoners during an emergency?
 - Health and Social Services (HSS) has worked within the bounds of the current Civil Emergency Measures Act and successfully supported the health and wellbeing of Yukon residents.

2. Have ministerial orders relating to the Department of Health and Social Services been used under Yukon's Civil Emergency Measures Act, and if so, how?

Type of Order	Order	Purpose
Deputy Minister Direction	Extension of statutory timelines under s. 16 and 17 of <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> (CFSA)	To ensure youth who currently receive supports or services from Family and Children's Services continue to do so during the pandemic. Supports youth who would otherwise "age out" of care.
Ministerial	<i>Civil Emergency Measures Masks in Indoor Public Spaces (COVID-19) Order</i>	To require the wearing of masks in indoor public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
Ministerial	<i>Civil Emergency Measures Social Assistance Regulation Override (COVID-19) Order</i>	To exempt CERB from the calculation of social assistance eligibility and benefits (initially); expanded to exempt CERB, CESB and other COVID-related federal and territorial payments from the calculation of social assistance eligibility and benefits covering the period April 1 – September 30, 2020.
Ministerial	<i>Civil Emergency Measures Health Protection (COVID-19) Order</i>	1- To establish the self-isolation requirements for anyone entering the Yukon and requirements for anyone transiting through Yukon. 2- To limit gathering sizes to 10. 3- To limit restaurants to take-out; to limit dentistry to emergency services; to close bars and personal care services;

		<p>and to establish a process for them to reopen.</p> <p>4- To establish the powers of enforcement officers with respect to this order.</p>
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3. Are there any aspects of the current legislation that may have prevented the Department of Health and Social Services from reacting as it would have liked during an emergency?
 - HSS has been able to implement the actions we considered necessary for public health and safety within the state of emergency declared under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*.

4. From the Department of Health and Social Services' perspective, are there currently any gaps in the legislation?
 - Given the ongoing pandemic and the dedication of our resources to protecting and supporting the health of Yukoners, HSS has not analyzed the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* to determine if there are gaps.
 - We have worked within the bounds of the current Act and have successfully supported the health and wellbeing of Yukon residents.

5. Does the Department of Health and Social Services have any suggestions for improvements to Yukon's *Civil Emergency Measures Act*? Please provide details and examples.
 - Given the ongoing pandemic and the dedication of our resources to protecting and supporting the health of Yukoners, HSS has not analyzed the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* to determine if there are gaps.
 - Once we are no longer in the midst of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will undertake the policy work required to determine if there are potential improvements to the Act that we can recommend.