

**Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development**

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Date: July 8, 2020
To: All School and District Office Employees
From: George Daley, Deputy Minister
Copies: Craig Caldwell, ADM, EECD
Robert Penney, ADM, EECD
Subject: Bulletin #22: Summer Vacation and Travel Outside New Brunswick (COVID-19)

As you are aware, travel restrictions between the Atlantic provinces were lifted effective July 3, 2020. This means there will no longer be a requirement to self-isolate when arriving to or returning from a trip to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador. In addition, anyone who left New Brunswick for another Atlantic province *before July 3* will not be required to self-isolate for 14 days if they *return on or after July 3*, unless they are directed to do so by the border screening officials when they enter New Brunswick.

This is a significant step in the recovery process and will certainly open up more destinations for summer vacation trips. As we make vacation plans, I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the travel restrictions that do remain in place and their implications for the workplace.

The mandatory order for the state of emergency will still require every person who has *travelled to any province or territory other than NS, PEI or NL or to any international destination, including the USA, to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return, unless exempted by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.*

While other Canadian provinces or territories or other countries might open their borders more broadly to travelers, allowing you to visit without self-isolating while you are there, it is important to remember that, for the time being, *self-isolation will still be required when returning to New Brunswick from any destination other than NS, PEI or NL.*

This means that the directives communicated in Bulletin #7 will still apply for employees who must complete a 14-day self-isolation period following travel to *any destination outside of the Atlantic Provinces*. Employees will either:

- work from home if their manager approves a telework arrangement and they are equipped to work effectively and productively from home, or
- if telework is not possible/suitable, they will use *vacation leave, banked overtime, pro-rated leave or leave without pay* at their disposal during the 14-day period.

Since travel to any destination outside of the Atlantic provinces still requires self-isolation for 14 days upon returning to New Brunswick, this means employees could be unavailable to work for those additional two weeks if they cannot telework. This may not suit operational requirements. *Therefore, it is required that employees inform their manager if they intend to travel outside the Atlantic Provinces during their vacation. Employees must also obtain their manager's approval for the full amount of time off required if they are unable to telework* (i.e. the applicable combination of vacation, banked overtime, prorated or unpaid leave). As is the case with all requests for time off, managers will need to consider operational requirements when approving employees' vacation requests. These restrictions for travel to other provinces and territories may be subject to change over the course of the summer at which point we will revise this directive as required.

Should travel restrictions be reinstated for the Atlantic provinces due to a COVID-19 outbreak, you will be strongly encouraged to return to New Brunswick immediately. Any travel outside of New Brunswick at that point would again require a 14-day self-isolation period for which vacation leave, banked overtime, pro-rated leave or leave without pay would be required.

While we now have more ability to visit the other Atlantic provinces this summer, this is still a great opportunity to [explore New Brunswick](#) and enjoy all that it has to offer.

We will continue communicating significant developments as we monitor events. Stay informed by checking GNB's coronavirus [website](#) regularly for up to date information.

You can find additional COVID-19 related resources [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Daley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

George Daley
Deputy Minister