



## First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Directive

### Mandatory 14 Day Self-Isolation for Nurses Prior to Assignment into Remote and Isolated First Nations Communities

**Effective:** 22/04/2020

**Revision :**

**Sheet :** 1 of 1

**Approval Date:** April 22, 2020

**Applies  
To:**

- Governing Body  
Leadership & Operations
- Programs & Services
- Client, Family & Community

**Approval Authority:** Chief Medical Officer of Public Health, Indigenous Services Canada

#### 1. PURPOSE:

The COVID-19 global pandemic is an evolving and unprecedented situation, and brings with it numerous challenges for the safe delivery of primary care services in remote and isolated First Nations communities. ISC is continuously working with the regions and partners to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations community members as well as nurses. In addition to the requirement to self-screen, a mandatory self-isolation of 14 days for nurses prior to travel into a remote and isolated First Nations community is designed to provide assurances to First Nations that ISC nurses are healthy and have reduced the possibility of recent exposure to COVID-19.

#### 2. DIRECTIVE STATEMENT:

Starting immediately, and until further notice, all part-time, casual and full-time nurses who are employed or contracted by FNIHB must complete a mandatory, 2-week, at-home self-isolation period prior to travelling into a remote and isolated First Nations community to work.

#### 3. PROCEDURES:

All nurses who will be travelling into remote and isolated First Nations communities must self-isolate in their home for 14 days prior to their departure date. In addition, the self-screening directives will continue to apply with screening before departure and while in the community (see References 1 & 2).

While self-isolating, nurses will be asked to apply public health measures when engaging with other members of their household. This includes, where applicable, requesting other members of the household, who may work outside of their home, to abide by strict public health measures including physical distancing and diligent hand washing.

#### 4. SCOPE:

All nurses who are employed or contracted by FNIHB and working in remote and isolated First Nations communities are required to follow this Directive until further notice. Adjustments to this Directive may be made in the future to expand to other service areas, and will be communicated should this arise.

#### 5. ACCOUNTABILITY:

Chief Medical Officer of Public Health, Indigenous Services Canada

## **6. REVISION:**

This Directive will be reviewed if recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada change substantively and/or they declare that the pandemic has ended.

## **7. REFERENCES:**

1. Updated Self-Screening for COVID-19 of All Healthcare Professionals Prior to Assignment into First Nations Communities, Revision 2, Approved April 15, 2020.
2. Updated Healthcare Professional Self-Screening of COVID-19 Symptoms and Exposure During Assignment in First Nations Communities, Revision 2, Approved April 20, 2020.