

Considerations when planning for quarantine or isolation centres

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has been aware of communities' efforts to prepare and respond to COVID-19, including providing advice to residents on the importance of hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, physical (social) distancing, and self-isolating when ill with respiratory symptoms of a cold or flu. ISC is also aware that communities are planning for further needed response such as the setting up of quarantine or isolation centres.

In planning for and setting up such centres, ISC recommends that communities consider the following topics so that centres can be implemented appropriately according to good practices, such as those available from the World Health Organization (references below). By using these guidelines as much as possible, the health and well-being of those staying in the centres and those providing services can be protected and the spread of infection prevented.

The topics that should be considered include:

- Purpose of the centre – is it for quarantine (people who are not yet sick but were exposed to sick people) or isolation (for people who are sick)
- Is the space (school, arena, or other building or structure) safe with respect to exits, ventilation, water, and other sanitation issues
- Is the space between people (beds) adequate for the purpose
- Who will provide services and care
 - what training and equipment do they need to have
- Who will provide cleaning, and how often, to ensure adequate infection prevention and control, are the appropriate cleaning supplies available
- Are food handling and safety practices in place

These are a few of the topics that should be considered when planning for quarantine or isolation centres. Please see the following guidelines for detailed information regarding different types of centres:

Considerations for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). World Health Organization. March 2020.

- [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/considerations-for-quarantine-of-individuals-in-the-context-of-containment-for-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/considerations-for-quarantine-of-individuals-in-the-context-of-containment-for-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19))

Severe Acute Respiratory Infections Treatment Centre. World Health Organization. March 2020.

- <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/severe-acute-respiratory-infections-treatment-centre>