

Munarhiliqiyikkut Inuuhiriknirmullu

Department of Health and Social Services

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

Media Update Re: H1N1 Flu Virus

Situation Update – As of June 16th - 1:00 PM:

- The Department of Health and Social Services has now confirmed cases of H1N1 throughout Nunavut. Since our last update on June 13th, we have confirmed 25 more cases of the H1N1 virus bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 189. Some of those confirmed cases came from the Baffin Region. Of our total cases, approximately 55% are from the Kitikmeot Region, 43% are from the Kivalliq Region, and 2% are from the Baffin (Qikiqtaaluk) Region.
- There have been sixteen patients with confirmed cases of H1N1 treated in hospital. Eleven of those 16 have recovered and are no longer hospitalized.
- There are several other patients hospitalized with flu-like symptoms. The Department is still waiting for laboratory confirmation to see if the individuals have the H1N1 flu. All of these people have pre-existing medical conditions.
- Several communities in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq Regions have experienced significant outbreaks of the flu. As previously reported, the Department is supporting affected communities in a number of ways:
 - Health Centres are hiring extra nurses as required.
 - Additional doctors are being deployed as required.
 - Senior departmental officials have been, and will continue to be, in close contact with Health Centres and community leaders in the affected communities.
- Most Health Centres in the affected communities continue to report that the number of patients they are seeing with flu-like illness is decreasing. However, some Health Centres have reported a significant increase in flu-like like activity over the weekend. The vast majority of individuals suffering with flu symptoms are recovering, or have recovered, at home.
- People with flu-like symptoms which include fever and cough, runny nose, sore throat, body aches, tired, don't feel like eating, sick in the stomach, and in some cases, throwing-up or diarrhea are also advised to stay in their house.
- Consistent with the approach of the World Health Organization, the Government of Canada and other jurisdictions throughout Canada, there are no travel advisories or restrictions in Nunavut.

To stop the spread of the flu:

- Wash your hands often in warm, soapy water or by using hand sanitizer.
- Cough and sneeze in your arm.
- Stay in your house if you experience any of the symptoms of the flu. If you think you are getting worse, CALL your community health centre.

All types of the flu should be taken seriously. People need to take the same steps to stop the spread of the flu, no matter where they live, work or visit.

To learn more about the flu, call your local health centre or visit www.fightflu.ca

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- The Department expects the number of confirmed cases in Nunavut to increase as testing results from our enhanced surveillance program, which ended on June 15th, will continue to be processed into next week.
- The Department of Health and Social Services continues to work closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and colleagues across the country. This includes field epidemiologists from the Public Health Agency of Canada who were dispatched to one of the affected regions to assist with the investigation of the outbreak last week.

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