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Munarhiliqiyikkut Inuuhiriknirmullu

Department of Health and Social Services

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

## News Release

### Public Health Confirms One Case of H1N1

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 29, 2009)** – At 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2009 Nunavut had its first case of H1N1 flu virus lab-confirmed.

The individual was out of territory receiving medical attention for a respiratory illness when they were diagnosed with the virus. The individual does have pre-existing medical conditions.

“We have been continuing our H1N1 flu virus surveillance throughout the territory using established public health practices and our extensive network, even though there were no confirmed cases until now,” said Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Isaac Sobol.

Given the small populations in Nunavut’s 25 communities, the name of the individual’s home community will not be released in order to protect the identity of the individual and their family.

Nunavut has a strong public health system with highly skilled and caring professionals. We are well-positioned to manage this or any public health issue that might arise.

As of May 27, 2009 there are 1,118 confirmed cases on H1N1 flu virus in Canada.

“We are prepared should any additional cases be confirmed in Nunavut,” said Sobol.

Reconfirming recent health advisories concerning the treatment of flu like symptoms (fever and cough, runny nose, sore throat, body aches, fatigue and lack of appetite): stay home, rest and drink plenty of fluids. Should your symptoms escalate, and only you can judge, phone your health centre.

The best way to prevent illness is through prevention. The Department of Health & Social Services encourages people to wash their hands thoroughly and often, cough into their sleeves, and stay away from public places if they are sick.

We continue to work very closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada, and our colleagues cross the country.

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