



Statement

Influenza Update

February 4, 2013
Iqaluit, NU

Dr. Maureen Baikie, Chief Medical Officer of Health, released the following statement:

“We now have 25 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A in Nunavut. The rate of influenza-like illness, which is an indicator of influenza activity, has been slightly elevated for the last few weeks and is holding steady.

Another respiratory virus, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is circulating in Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions. This virus can affect all ages but infants are most affected. It can cause a respiratory illness called bronchiolitis. The symptoms are: nasal stuffiness and runny nose, cough, difficult or rapid breathing, wheezing, fever, and no interest in food or play.

Illness due to RSV can be prevented by: covering your cough, washing your hands especially before and after touching babies, avoid kissing small children if you have cold symptoms, keeping healthy babies away from sick babies, not smoking in your house or around babies and small children, and staying home if you're not feeling well.

Remember, it's not too late to get a flu shot at your local health centre, or at Public Health in Iqaluit. The nose spray FluMist vaccine is available for children aged two to 17.”

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