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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut iuqatigiingniq
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Public Service Announcement

Parents, be on the lookout for whooping cough

Start Date: April 27, 2016

End Date: May 6, 2016

Nunavut

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The Department of Health is advising Nunavummiut, especially parents of babies and young children, that there has been one case of whooping cough (pertussis) in the territory. Anyone can get whooping cough, but the most severe cases are in children under the age of one.

Whooping cough is a disease of the throat and lungs that is spread very easily from person to person.

Symptoms may include:

- low fever
- mild cough that develops into a rapid cough followed by a “whoop”
- vomiting after coughing
- coughing that is worse at night

Whooping cough is preventable through vaccination. People should check that their vaccines are up to date. Precautions include:

- frequent handwashing
- coughing into your sleeve or tissue
- not sharing food, drinks, utensils or toothbrushes

Early diagnosis and treatment is important. Go to your local health centre or Public Health if anyone in your household has a cough that lasts more than one week.

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