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Public Health Advisory

Confirmed cases of whooping cough in Pond Inlet

May 16, 2016
Nunavut **60 sec**

The Department of Health is advising Nunavummiut, especially parents of babies and young children, that there are confirmed cases of whooping cough (pertussis) in Pond Inlet. 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. If you or your child are mildly ill, stay home and avoid contact with others until your symptoms are gone. This will prevent the spread of illness.

Early diagnosis and treatment are important. Go to your local health centre or see your health care provider if anyone in your household has any of these symptoms:

- a cough followed by an unusual sound that sounds like “whoop”
- trouble breathing
- vomiting after coughing
- coughing that is worse at night
- a high fever (39°C and above) that lasts more than three days

You can prevent whooping cough by getting vaccinated. 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

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