



# Public Service Announcement

## Whooping cough immunization for grade 6-9 students

**Start Date:** November 10, 2016

**End Date:** December 16, 2016

**Nunavut**

**60 sec**

Since March 2016, Nunavut has experienced the largest whooping cough (pertussis) outbreak on record. Whooping cough is a disease of the throat and lungs that spreads from person to person and can be very serious or fatal. The outbreak has affected many communities in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions, and the Department of Health is committed to preventing further spread to other communities.

To help control Nunavut's whooping cough outbreak, the Department of Health has moved the scheduled pertussis (Tdap) immunization to Grade 6.

In order to ensure that all grade 6-9 students in the territory are caught up with this change, public health and health centres will focus on immunizing all grade 6-9 students over the next five weeks, before the holiday break.

Your community public health or health centre can provide more information on when and how the pertussis immunization will be delivered in your community.

Nunavummiut, we need your help to stop the pertussis outbreak and protect your community! If your health centre asks you to complete an immunization consent form or to come in for a vaccine, please do so as soon as you can.

For more information, please read the [whooping cough \(pertussis\) fact sheet](#) and the [Tdap vaccine fact sheet](#) on the Department of Health website.

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