

News Release

Two new cases of COVID-19 in Nunavut

Iqaluit, Nunavut (December 23, 2020) – Today, Nunavut is reporting two new cases of COVID-19 for a total of eight active cases in the territory. One new case in Arviat, for a total of seven active cases in the community. There is also one new case in Whale Cove. To date, 255 Nunavummiut have recovered from COVID-19.

“This new case in Whale Cove demonstrates how quickly this virus can reemerge in a community and how important it is for us to remain vigilant,” said Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut’s Chief Public Health Officer. “It’s up to each of us to limit the spread and keep our communities and one another healthy over the holidays.”

In Whale Cove, effective December 24 at 12 a.m., essential services only are to remain open, with grocery stores implementing reduced hours. Indoor gatherings are limited to five people in addition to household members and for emergency purposes only. All outdoor gatherings are limited to five people or less. Masks are mandatory in public spaces and travel in and out of Whale Cove is restricted.

Contact tracing in all impacted communities is ongoing and public health staff are monitoring everyone in isolation. As of December 22, Arviat testing has yielded 1071 negative tests. Monitoring in Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove continues.

Anyone who has reason to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 is advised to call the COVID-hotline at 1-888-975-8601 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST, or notify their community health centre right away, and immediately isolate at home for 14 days. Please do not go to the health centre in person.

For all the latest information, including the numbers of recovered and active cases per community, go to:

[https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus.](https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus)

For the latest information on current public health restrictions, go to:

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/nunavuts-path>.

From December 24, 2020 until January 4, 2021, new COVID-19 cases in Arviat and Whale Cove will be reported on the GN's website and on the Government of Nunavut's and Premier's social media channels. Press conferences will resume in early January 2021.

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Media Contacts

Cate Macleod
Press Secretary to Premier Savikataaq
867-975-5059
cmacleod@gov.nu.ca

Chris Puglia
A/Manager Communications
Department of Health
867-975-5949
cpuglia@gov.nu.ca

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