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Public Health Advisory

Whooping cough outbreak in Sanikiluaq

June 8, 2020
Sanikiluaq, Nunavut **60 sec**

The Department of Health is advising Nunavummiut, especially parents of babies and young children, that there is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in Sanikiluaq. 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. Call your health centre if anyone in your household has any of these symptoms:

- a cough that lasts longer than a week.
- 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

Learn more about whooping cough by reading the pertussis factsheet available on the Department of Health website.

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Media Contact:

Scott Hitchcox
Communications Specialist
Department of Health
867-975-5712
shitchcox@gov.nu.ca

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