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News Release

For Immediate Release

Two COVID-19 confirmed cases in Rankin Inlet

Iqaluit, Nunavut (April 24, 2021) – Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer, has today confirmed two positive cases of COVID-19 in Rankin Inlet. Both cases are directly linked to the Iqaluit outbreak. The individuals landed last night in Rankin Inlet on Canadian North Flight 239. Nunavut now has a total of 41 active cases of COVID-19; 35 in Iqaluit, four in Kinngait and two in Rankin Inlet. There are five new cases and three recoveries in Iqaluit, and no changes to the case count in Kinngait.

"Both individuals are in supported isolation and doing well. The individuals were identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 positive case only after the flight had departed Iqaluit. Fortunately, shortly after arrival in Rankin Inlet, they were located by public health staff, tested and put in isolation," said Dr. Patterson. "The virus was transmitted in Iqaluit, but identified in Rankin Inlet. Therefore, there is very low risk to residents of Rankin Inlet at this time, but everyone there needs to continue to follow all the public health measures."

As stated in the Government of Nunavut's Notice of Potential Exposure earlier this morning, under the current public health orders, all individuals travelling from Iqaluit must isolate for 14 days upon arrival in their community. Anyone who boarded Flight 239 in Rankin Inlet or Yellowknife is not considered to be at risk.

"Nunavummiut, now more than ever, I encourage everyone to strictly follow the public health measures in place. These are vital to us limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our territory," said Premier Joe Savikataaq. "Please do not take chances, please be responsible and please do your part to keep our communities safe. As always – mask up, wash your hands, keep strong physical distance, stay home as much as possible, and get vaccinated. Stay safe."

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.

An update will be provided at a press conference on Monday, April 26, at 11 a.m. EST.

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Media Contact:

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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