

News Release

For Immediate Release

COVID-19 case confirmed in Iqaluit

Iqaluit, Nunavut (December 23, 2021) – Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut’s Chief Public Health Officer, is announcing a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Iqaluit.

“This case was identified late yesterday in an individual who has not left Iqaluit for more than a month. This leads us to believe there may be community transmission in Iqaluit,” said Dr. Patterson. “As such, we are immediately tightening restrictions and limiting travel in and out of the City. Anyone who has travelled from Iqaluit to another community in Nunavut since December 15 should self-monitor and call the COVID hotline immediately if they develop any symptoms. We won’t know if this is the Omicron variant for at least seven to 10 days.”

Effective at 12 p.m. (noon) today in Iqaluit:

- All travel in and out of the community is restricted to essential purposes only. Iqaluit residents can travel back into the City, but anyone who is not triple vaccinated is advised to isolate for 14 days upon their return.
- Outdoor gatherings are restricted to 25 people.
- Indoor gatherings in dwellings are limited to five people, plus household members.
- Indoor public gatherings, including conference spaces and community halls are limited to 25 people or 25 per cent capacity.
- Libraries and galleries are limited to 25 people or 25 per cent capacity, and no group tours are allowed.
- Gyms, fitness centres, are limited to 25 people or 25 per cent capacity whichever is less, for solo workouts only. The swimming pool is closed immediately.
- Places of worship are limited to 50 people or 25 per cent capacity, with no singing allowed.
- The theatre is closed.
- Personal services such as hairdressers and nail salons are closed.
- Arenas are limited to 25 people or 25 per cent capacity with 25 spectators. There cannot be any team sports.

- Restaurants are restricted to take out only. Bars are closed.
- Group counselling sessions are limited to 10 people.
- Physical distancing must be maintained in stores and public spaces.
- Parks remain open but on-site buildings must close.
- Schools can open under these restrictions when classes resume after the holiday break, with a combination of remote and in-school learning.

Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms, including runny nose, cough or sore throat is advised to call the COVID hotline at 1-888-975-8601 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. EDT. Please do not go to the hospital or Iqaluit Public Health in person unless advised to or it's an emergency.

COVID-19 vaccines are available to all Nunavummiut aged 5 and older and boosters are available for anyone 12 years and older. Boosters are available to those who have had their second dose six months ago. Contact your health centre or local public health office to make an appointment. For all the latest information on COVID-19 in Nunavut, go to: <https://www.gov.nu.ca/>

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