

COVID-19 GN Update

May 17, 2021

Premier's update:

Today we are reporting no new cases and three recoveries of COVID-19. There are 65 active cases in the territory, 64 in Iqaluit and one in Kinngait. There have been 164 recoveries to date in this outbreak.

So far, 16,713 Nunavummiut have received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine, and 13,304 Nunavummiut are now fully vaccinated.

While I'm happy to have seen our active case counts decrease this weekend, it's really, really important that we not lose focus or use this as any kind of excuse to ease the hard work we're doing.

We know how easily this virus spreads and how quickly it can turn into an outbreak. There are almost no justifications to break current measures, so stay strong and keep wearing your mask when outside your home. Stay home as much as possible. Don't bring your family to the store, if you don't have to. Keep strict social distance with people outside your household bubble. If you haven't already, get vaccinated.

Thank you again to everyone doing their part to fight COVID-19 in Nunavut. I appreciate your hard work and sacrifices. Let's keep staying apart, so when we can gather again, everyone is there and healthy. Stay home and stay safe.

For the latest COVID-19 information and GN Departments updates in all languages:

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>; <https://www.gov.nu.ca>



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Chief Public Health Officer Update:

Good morning,

On Saturday we announced a new positive case in Kinngait. This new case was found through surveillance testing and was a result of household transmission. All cases in the community have been limited to the same home and all household members are isolating. We did not increase restrictions in the community because the risk of the virus spreading in the community is low at this time.

I also wish to correct a previous announcement on hospital admissions due to COVID-19. There have been 3 individuals admitted to hospitals in Ottawa, 2 remain in hospital and 1 has been released.

This weekend in Iqaluit, we saw recoveries outpace new positive cases. While this is encouraging, it's important to remember that there will be fluctuations in the number of new cases identified. I would like to reiterate that the virus continues to spread in Iqaluit. If we want to contain this, it is essential that we continue to follow the current measures. That is the only way to ensure we stop transmission, flatten the curve and end the outbreak.

I want to also reassure people that medical travel to Iqaluit and back to other communities is low risk. The boarding home and the hospital are taking the appropriate precautions to keep the risk low. As an additional precaution, medical travellers are also required to isolate when they return home to other communities. Delaying necessary medical travel can cause harm.

Finally, we have submitted a request for enough doses of the Pfizer vaccine to vaccinate all teenagers in Nunavut and expect confirmation this week. Once we receive confirmation of the number of doses, we will be in a position to plan and implement roll-out for a portion of our under 18 population.

Thank you.

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As part of the Government of Nunavut's (GN) effort to protect Nunavummiut against the risk of COVID-19, GN Departments are implementing the following:

Department of Health Services

For all the latest information and resources about COVID-19 in Nunavut, go to:
<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>

For information on upcoming vaccine clinics go to:
<https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-vaccination>

COVID-19 case status: May 17

Total tests	Total Confirmed cases	Total active cases	Total recovered cases	Deaths	Total persons followed	Current persons followed
14,493	624	65	555	4	8656	437

*Confirmed cases include those meeting the national case definitions. Persons followed includes individuals with specific symptoms and exposures as well as others who are self-monitoring or self-isolated. Not all of these individuals have symptoms or require testing.

*There may be a delay reporting attribution and statistics from cases acquired in Southern Canada. 12 cases that were detected out of territory have been attributed to Nunavut. This includes 3 deaths. Not all NU residents with COVID-19 detected out of territory will be attributed to Nunavut.

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COVID-19 community case stats: May 17

Community	COVID-19 status	Time period	Confirmed COVID-19 cases yesterday	Confirmed COVID-19 cases today	Change in case count +/- from previous day	Deaths	Recovered cases	Total active cases
Iqaluit	Ongoing	Since 14/04/2021	220	220	0	0	156	64
Kinngait	Ongoing	Since 19/04/2021	7	7	0	0	6	1
Rankin Inlet	Isolated	Since 24/04/2021	2	2	0	0	2	0
Arviat	Over	11/2020 – 04/2021	339	339	0	1	338	0
Whale Cove	Over	11/2020 – 02/2021	23	23	0	0	23	0
Rankin Inlet	Over	11/2020 – 12/2020	19	19	0	0	19	0
Sanikiluaq	Over	11/2020 – 12/2020	2	2	0	0	2	0
TOTAL			612	612	0	1	546	65

Testing stats to date per community: May 17

Community	Tests positive	Tests negative
Iqaluit	220	2924
Kinngait	7	160
Rankin Inlet	2	91
Arviat	339	2883
Whale Cove	23	352
Rankin Inlet	19	339
Sanikiluaq	2	202
TOTAL	612	6,951

Isolation population:

Traveller Type	Guests in Isolation as of May 14
Medical	412
Public	205
EMTI	37
Construction	41
Total	695

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Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
15-May	7
16-May	44
17-May	54
18-May	93
19-May	89
Total	287

Critical Worker Requests:

As of May 17, there were 16,446 requests, 8,146 of which were critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	12,682	77.1%
Denied	311	1.9%
Pending	526	3.2%
Common Travel Area Approved	2,927	17.8%
Total	16,446	100%

Department of Education Services

Ongoing services:

K-12 Schools

The following stages **continue** to be in effect:

- Stage 4 – Schools in Iqaluit
- Stage 3 – Schools in the Qikiqtani region, except Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit
- Stage 2 – Schools in Rankin Inlet
- Stage 1 – Schools in Sanikiluaq, the Kitikmeot region, and Kivalliq region, except for Rankin Inlet

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Schools will implement the appropriate action plan for their current stage.

Early Learning and Child Care

All Nunavut childcare facilities can remain open, with the exception of Iqaluit.

Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS)

Students booking their FANS-eligible travel must follow the public health measures and recommendations of the CPHO. If students have questions about their travel, they can contact the FANS office for information at fanstravel@gov.nu.ca.

Closed /Cancelled/Suspended services:

K-12 Schools

Iqaluit schools are closed for in-school instruction until further notice.

- In Stage 4, all instruction will be conducted remotely. All schools are closed to students, staff, and the public. School staff will regularly communicate with all students.

Early Learning and Child Care

Iqaluit child care facilities are closed until further notice.

Department of Community and Government services

All isolation requests for construction worker are to be booked through CPHOConstructionRequests@gov.nu.ca. Isolations occur in Ottawa and Quebec City construction hubs, as well as in Winnipeg and Edmonton.

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Construction Workers Completed Isolation and Travelled to Nunavut	
2021 Total to Date	986
January	164
February	220
March	204
April	269
May 1- 16	129
May – Dec 2020 Total	2,183

Nunavummiut's health is our shared responsibility! Remember: wash your hands and surfaces, practice social distancing, listen to the advice of health officials, and stay home if you're sick.

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