

# COVID-19 GN Update

May 21, 2021

### Premier's update:

Today we are reporting one new case and 11 recoveries of COVID-19. There are 45 active cases in the territory, 44 in Iqaluit and one in Kinngait. There have been 197 recoveries to date in this outbreak.

So far, 16,918 Nunavummiut have received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine, and 13,906 Nunavummiut are now fully vaccinated. This is fantastic news, but we need to keep those numbers climbing. Get vaccinated if you want to protect yourself and those you love.

Our government is committed to helping people be able to complete their mandatory isolation and eliminate the spread of COVID-19. I'm pleased to announce that we have introduced a free territory-wide Isolation Hamper Support Program, to provide two weeks of food and essential items to anyone on mandatory isolation.

The hampers provide fruits, vegetables, dairy, non-perishable goods, and bread. Country food is also provided when available. Modified isolation hampers are available to accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions, as well as discretionary add-on items.

This program started on May 14 in Iqaluit and as of yesterday, 116 hampers have been delivered. The Hamper Support Program is offered to people in isolation when the Department of Health staff do their daily health check-ins. Anyone who consents will be called to place an order.

This program is available seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST and is provided in all official languages.

Nunavummiut, I am excited to see the recovery counts the last few days, but I need to remind everyone that this is not the end of COVID in Iqaluit or our territory.

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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We have a lot of work to do. That means that even though it's the weekend, there can be no parties or gatherings. It means we stay apart to slow the spread of the virus. It means we take precautions and continue to follow the rules.

Atii, Nunavut. Mask up when outside your home. Stay home as much as possible. Wash your hands often. Keep strict physical distance with people outside your household bubble. Get vaccinated.

I'm proud of you all and thank you for your continued efforts and patience. Stay kind and positive to one another. Do the right thing for yourself, your family and everyone around you. Stay home and stay safe.

### **Minister of Health Update:**

Good morning everyone. I know some of our messages are starting to sound tired and repetitive, but here I go again.

It's the weekend, it's sunny, and we're almost a month and a half into this lockdown in Iqaluit. We're tired and we want to go back to being able to do everything we could before.

What we're doing is working – our numbers today are proof of that. But we need to keep going. COVID-19 is still here, and it can spread easily, we all know this.

Please stay focused and safe this weekend, so we can keep those new and active numbers low.

We saw Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Sanikiluaq and Arviat pull through with hard work and following the public health measures. Now it's Iqaluit's turn.

Please everyone, stay on the right track and don't take chances. Like Premier said – follow all measures and make safe, responsible choices this weekend.

Thank you for what you're doing, and for your sacrifices and hard work. Let's all keep it up.

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## **Chief Public Health Officer Update:**

Good morning.

It has been more than a month since the outbreak in Iqaluit began. The current situation shows that the public health measures in the city, travel restrictions to leave the city, and isolation for those who leave Iqaluit have been effective in preventing the spread of the virus to other communities.

For those reasons, it is safe to ease restrictions in the Baffin Region, except for Iqaluit and Kinngait. Effective Monday, public health measures in the remaining Baffin Communities will be the same as they are in Rankin Inlet. Please see the website for details.

Beginning Tuesday, schools except for those in Iqaluit, will be allowed to open. Qikiqtani schools, except in Sanikiluaq, will implement Stage 2 of the Department of Education's action plan. Sanikiluaq will go to Stage 1. Schools in Rankin will continue to be Stage 2. All remaining Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities are at Stage 1. All Qikiqtani schools moving to Stage 2 will be given the flexibility needed to organize this transition.

I want to reinforce the importance of surveillance testing in controlling an outbreak. We use surveillance testing in areas where the risk of exposure to COVID-19 is high. Due to the incubation time of the virus and when people become infectious, surveillance testing may mean that some people are tested more than once. This focused and repeat testing allows us to identify infection early and prevent further spread of the virus. It is one of our best tools in containing an outbreak, which is why we thank all of those who have participated in this program.

For those who wonder if you are screened for COVID-19 infection through the surveillance program, you will not be expected to isolate unless the test is positive. For those who are contacted at home, please participate, as the more people participate, the more effective this surveillance program will be.

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:

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## Department of Health Services

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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 21

Total tests	Total Confirmed cases	Total active cases	Total recovered cases	Deaths	Total persons followed	Current persons followed
14,981	637	45	588	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.

### COVID-19 community case stats: May 21

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	232	233	0	0	189	44
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
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>624</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>45</b>

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## COVID-19 vaccination status: May 17

Nunavut Total Population Estimates by Community, as of July 1 2020		
	Total	18 and over
<b>Nunavut</b>	<b>39,353</b>	<b>24,878</b>
<b><u>Qikiqtaaluk Region</u></b>	<b>20,822</b>	<b>13,359</b>
Arctic Bay	946	530
Clyde River	1,192	688
Grise Fiord	140	96
Igloolik	1,978	1,094
Iqaluit	8,284	6,049
Kimmirut	427	265
Kinngait	1,547	923
Pangnirtung	1,631	1,008
Pond Inlet	1,794	1,031
Qikiqtarjuaq	651	421
Resolute Bay	218	136
Sanikiluaq	1,014	573
Sanirajak	1,000	545
<b><u>Kivalliq Region</u></b>	<b>11,388</b>	<b>7,011</b>
Arviat	2,918	1,696
Baker Lake	2,265	1,471
Chesterfield Inlet	453	287
Coral Harbour	973	554
Nauyasat	1,270	648
Rankin Inlet	3,026	2,089
Whale Cove	483	266
<b><u>Kitikmeot Region</u></b>	<b>7,143</b>	<b>4,508</b>
Cambridge Bay	1,902	1,352
Gjoa Haven	1,398	836
Kugaaruk	1,180	650
Kugluktuk	1,517	1,000
Taloyoak	1,146	670

## Vaccine uptake Meditech numbers as of May 17, 2021

Done 1 dose	%	Done 2 dose	%
<b>16,720</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>13,305</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>9,595</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>7,065</b>	<b>53%</b>
347	65%	293	55%
482	70%	415	60%
68	71%	41	43%
523	48%	384	35%
5,189	86%	3,602	60%
178	67%	161	61%
518	56%	349	38%
612	61%	471	47%
605	59%	476	46%
236	56%	182	43%
174	128%	113	83%
328	57%	295	51%
335	61%	283	52%
<b>4,460</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>3,859</b>	<b>55%</b>
1,247	74%	1,060	63%
834	57%	713	48%
177	62%	159	55%
269	49%	221	40%
325	50%	291	45%
1,438	69%	1,279	61%
170	64%	136	51%
<b>2,665</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>2,381</b>	<b>53%</b>
992	73%	894	66%
410	49%	369	44%
273	42%	256	39%
572	57%	491	49%
418	62%	371	55%

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This information shows the number of doses given in a community as of May 17, 2021.

The percentage of vaccine administered is vaccine administered divided by the Nunavut population estimate for 18 and older.

Territorial totals for doses are an accurate summary. The community level data is under review to ensure appropriate attribution. Community totals will be adjusted as needed. This may lead to minor fluctuations in the percentages by community.

Doses are typically attributed to the community in which they are administered.

Total doses given will include residents and non-residents, including rotational workers.

An individual may have received dose 1 and/or dose 2 outside of their community of residence.

This does not account for people who may have been vaccinated partially or fully out of territory.

A high percentage in one community does not equal herd immunity. There is no established or defined percentage of what herd immunity is for COVID-19. Whatever herd immunity may be it cannot be achieved with current vaccine approvals (e.g. no vaccine available for children under twelve).

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Special tabulations. Prepared by: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, January 27, 2021.

Dose numbers are from the Department of Health's Meditech system.

Eligible adults in community are defined as the number of individuals 18 and older as per the 2020 population estimates.

The community population estimates are "non-official" since they are not based on components of population growth (births, deaths and migration). They should be used with caution.

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### Testing stats to date per community: May 20

Community	Tests positive	Tests negative
Iqaluit	232	3201
Kinngait	7	164
Rankin Inlet	2	94
Arviat	339	2883
Whale Cove	23	352
Rankin Inlet	19	339
Sanikiluaq	2	202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>7,235</b>

### Isolation population:

Traveller Type	Guests in Isolation as of May 20
Medical	370
Public	173
EMTI	42
Construction	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>619</b>

### Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
21-May	82
22-May	12
23-May	23
24-May	68
25-May	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>

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## Critical Worker Requests:

As of May 21, there were 16,680 requests, 8,253 of which were critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	12,919	77.5%
Denied	311	1.9%
Pending	523	3.1%
Common Travel Area Approved	2,927	17.5%
Total	16,680	100%

## Department of Education Services

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### New developments in your programs/ services:

#### K-12 Schools

According to the Chief Public Health Officer, the following stage changes will apply to Nunavut schools:

- On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, all Qikiqtani schools, except those in Sanikiluaq, Kinngait and Iqaluit, will be moving to Stage 2.

All Qikiqtani schools, except those in Sanikiluaq, Kinngait, and Iqaluit, will implement their Stage 2 action plan.

In light of this announcement, all Qikiqtani schools moving to Stage 2 will be given the flexibility needed to organize this transition.

### Ongoing services:

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## 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, Kinngait, and Iqaluit (Qikiqtani region schools, except Sanikiluaq, Kinngait, and Iqaluit, will change to Stage 2 on Tuesday, May 25, 2021).
- Stage 2 – Schools in Rankin Inlet.
- Stage 1 – Schools in Sanikiluaq, the Kitikmeot region, and Kivalliq region, except for Rankin Inlet.

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](mailto:fanstravel@gov.nu.ca).

## **Adjusted services:**

### K-12 Schools

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All Qikiqtani schools, except those in Sanikiluaq, Kinngait, and Iqaluit, will implement their Stage 2 action plan.

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In light of this announcement, all Qikiqtani schools moving to Stage 2 will be given the flexibility needed to organize this transition.

- In Stage 2, elementary students will attend school full-time, five days per week. Middle and high school students will have a blend of in-school and remote learning. Students will attend school two to three days per week. Specific schedules will be determined by each school's Stage 2 action plan.

### **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 childcare facilities are closed until further notice.

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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