

# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

## Presumptive case of COVID-19 in Arviat

**Arviat, Nunavut (September 17, 2021)** – Dr. Michael Patterson Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer, today announced a presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Arviat.

“The new case was identified on September 16 when a school-aged individual from the community tested positive on an IDNow rapid testing device. A second sample has been sent to the lab in Rankin for confirmatory testing, with results expected later today,” said Dr. Patterson. Schools in Arviat are closed today as we work to assess the risk. The COVID positive individual nor their family has history of recent travel, which indicates this is a second exposure. There is strong evidence that the lab will confirm this case a true positive. For that reason, we are increasing public health restrictions in the community.”

Travel in and out of Arviat is not recommended at this time. Anyone who left Arviat on or after September 6, and is not fully vaccinated, is asked to isolate for 14 days from when they left Arviat. If you develop symptoms, please call Nunavut's COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-975-8601.

Effective immediately masks are mandatory in Arviat in all indoor public places and outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained. As well:

- Outdoor gatherings are limited to 50 people.
- Indoor gatherings in dwellings decrease to 10 people, plus household members.
- Indoor public gatherings, including places of worship, gyms, fitness centres, libraries, galleries and swimming pools, are restricted to 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less.
- No public places may allow group tours, group workouts or singing.
- Gatherings in arenas are restricted to 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is less. No team sports.
- Restaurants and licensed establishments are restricted to 25% capacity.
- Group counselling sessions are limited to 10 people.

- Parks remain open but buildings are closed.
- Schools will move to their learning plan combining classroom and remote learning.
- Long-term care and elders' facilities may allow a max of two visitors per resident; masks mandatory for all visitors over age of four; only immediate family.

Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 is advised to call the COVID-hotline at 1-888-975-8601 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST to arrange testing or notify their community health centre right away. Please do not go to the health centre in person, and immediately isolate at home for 14 days.

Vaccine continues to be available across the territory. Call your health centre to make an appointment or walk into Iqaluit Public Health every weekday for Moderna (18+) and Wednesday for Pfizer (ages 12 to 17). Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community.

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