

COVID-19 GN Update

February 15, 2022

Premier's update:

Ullakut,

And a special greeting to all the Elders watching.

As of this morning Nunavut has **310 positive cases of COVID-19**. We have **active cases in 21 communities** – the reported numbers are:

- One in Arctic Bay
- Four in Arviat,
- Five in Baker Lake,
- Three in Cambridge Bay,
- Zero in Chesterfield Inlet,
- Two in Clyde River
- Four in Coral Harbour,
- 25 in Igloolik
- 85 in Iqaluit,
- 10 in Gjoa Haven,
- Zero Kimmirut
- Four in Kinngait,
- 26 in Kugaaruk,
- One in Kugluktuk
- Eight in Nauyasat,
- 19 in Pangnirtung,
- 24 in Pond Inlet,
- Three in Qikiqtaaluk,
- 40 in Rankin Inlet,
- Four in Resolute Bay
- 18 in Sanirajak,

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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- Three in Sanikiluaq,
- 21 in Taloyoak, and
- Zero in Whale Cove.

There have been 2,230 total reported recoveries in this outbreak.

Since 2020, our strategy in dealing with the pandemic has been to keep our territory COVID-19 free.

For the past two years, we have shared case count numbers for each community in hopes of one day returning to zero cases.

Today, we need a new approach. We now know a great deal more about COVID-19 and the ways the virus mutates into different strains.

We are also learning important lessons on what works in managing the impacts of COVID-19 on our communities.

Furthermore, we are armed with important tools such as the COVID-19 vaccine.

To date, Dr. Patterson's sound advice has helped to keep our communities as protected as possible from the risks of the pandemic.

In the next few weeks and months – with Dr. Patterson's guidance – Nunavut will be following the lead of other jurisdictions across Canada and the world – and we will look to Dr. Patterson for guidance on a roadmap for how to “live with COVID-19.”

Rest assured that any plans put in place will be designed with the specific needs of our territory.

We know that solutions that may work for some urban centres such as Toronto and Vancouver may not always be appropriate for Iqaluit, Whale Cove or Cambridge Bay.

While our approach to COVID-19 may change – continuing to adhere to public health measures will continue to help keep our families and communities safe – including vulnerable individuals such as Elders and children too young to get vaccinated.

In the interim, please continue to do your part, wear a mask, get vaccinated and get your booster shot.

- Stay home when possible.
- Stick to your small bubble.

Qujannamiik.

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Chief Public Health Officer Update:

As of Sunday, there have been 23 Nunavummiut hospitalized since this current wave of COVID-19 infection started.

Last week, whole genome sequencing revealed that one person in Iqaluit had been infected with the BA.2 strain of COVID-19 infection. There is no evidence that this variant has started spreading. Although this strain spreads more easily than Omicron, it does not appear to be any more likely to cause serious infection than Omicron.

Measures in Arctic Bay, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour, Sanikiluaq, Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, Resolute and Pond Inlet, will be eased to allow for larger public gatherings and more visitors in homes. Restaurants and licensed businesses may open to reduced capacity and indoor team sports can resume. Changes as of Monday, February 28 will include the following key points:

- Outdoor gatherings increase to 50 people.
- Indoor gatherings increase to 10 people plus household members.
- Restaurants and licensed facilities may open at 25 people capacity or 25 per cent capacity, whichever is less. No singing or dancing will be permitted.
- Public indoor gatherings increase to 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less.
- Gym capacity is 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. Solo workouts only.
- Libraries, museums, and galleries capacity increases to 25 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. No group tours will be permitted.
- Arena capacity may increase to 50 people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less, as well as a maximum of 50 spectators. Team sports are allowed.
- Places of worship are limited to 50 people or 25 per cent capacity, but no singing is permitted.
- Long-term care facilities may allow two visitors per resident from their immediate family.

These measures align with what is already in place in Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fjord, Kimmirut, Kinngait, Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanirajak, and Whale Cove.

There are no changes to Public Health Measures in Igloolik, Taloyoak.

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Please remember that masks remain mandatory in almost all public spaces. Getting vaccinated and boosted as soon as you are eligible, as well as wearing a mask are your best methods of protection against severe infection.

Thank you.

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: February 15, 2022

Total tests	Total confirmed cases	Total active cases	Total recovered cases	Deaths	Total persons vaccinated with at least one dose in Nunavut	Total persons vaccinated with two doses in Nunavut	Total persons vaccinated with three doses in Nunavut
34,482	2,545	310	2,230	5	33,053	27,776	13,523

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COVID-19 community case statistics: February 22, 2022

Community	COVID-19 Status	Time period	Public case count yesterday (TOTAL)	Public case count today (TOTAL)	Change from yesterday (cases)	Cumulative Recovered	Change from yesterday (recoveries)	Total Active cases
Clyde River	Ongoing	February 18, 2022	1	2	1	0	0	2
Arctic Bay	Ongoing	February 12, 2022	2	2	0	1	0	1
Resolute Bay	Ongoing	February 8, 2022	15	15	0	11	5	4
Kugluktuk	Ongoing	January 23, 2022	19	19	0	18	0	1
Kimmirut	Ongoing	January 22, 2022	1	1	0	1	0	0
Nauyasat	Ongoing	January 15, 2022	24	26	2	18	2	8
Kugaaruk	Ongoing	January 14, 2022	49	49	0	23	17	26
Gjoa Haven	Ongoing	January 14, 2022	16	16	0	6	1	10
Talovaaq	Ongoing	January 11, 2022	97	97	0	76	11	21
Coral Harbour	Ongoing	January 9, 2022	60	60	0	56	9	4
Whale Cove	Ongoing	January 7, 2022	20	20	0	19	0	0
Sanikiluaq	Ongoing	January 4, 2022	56	56	0	53	11	3
Kinngait	Ongoing	January 2, 2022	88	88	0	84	8	4
Pond Inlet	Ongoing	January 1, 2022	43	46	3	22	3	24
Chesterfield Inlet	Ongoing	January 1, 2022	7	7	0	7	0	0
Cambridge Bay	Ongoing	December 30, 2021	126	126	0	123	12	3
Igloolik	Ongoing	December 29, 2021	184	184	0	159	23	25
Baker Lake	Ongoing	December 29, 2021	115	115	0	110	17	5
Arviat	Ongoing	December 29, 2021	136	136	0	132	15	4
Sanirajak	Ongoing	December 29, 2021	62	63	1	45	12	18
Qikiqtarjuaq	Ongoing	December 28, 2021	16	16	0	13	0	3
Rankin Inlet	Ongoing	December 23, 2021	192	194	2	154	32	40
Pangnirtung	Ongoing	December 23, 2021	60	60	0	41	5	19
Iqaluit	Ongoing	November 4, 2021	465	474	9	389	73	85
Total			1854	1872	18	1561	256	310

*Please note: These numbers change frequently. Every effort is made to keep this information up-to-date and complete, but it may not reflect all persons followed or tested.

** Starting 17 Jan 2022, confirmed cases include those meeting the revised Nunavut case definitions. This includes COVID-19 cases detected either by a confirmatory (PCR) or a presumptive (rapid) test.

***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 vaccination status: February 22, 2022

Vaccine uptake Meditech numbers as of February 22, 2022

	Vaccines administered - 5 to 11 (inclusive)				Vaccines administered - 12 to 17 (inclusive)				Vaccines administered - 18 and over				Total vaccines administered 5+				Booster 12+	
	Done 1st dose	%	Done 2nd dose	%	Done 1st dose	%	Done 2nd dose	%	Done 1st dose	%	Done 2nd dose	%	Done 1st dose	%	Done 2nd dose	%		%
Nunavut	3,912	65%	1,754	29%	3,938	91%	3,404	79%	25,200	101%	22,615	91%	33,050	94%	27,773	79%	13,520	46%
Qikiqtaaluk Region	2,019	65%	872	28%	1,918	89%	1,671	78%	13,437	101%	11,982	90%	17,374	93%	14,525	78%	7,280	47%
Arctic Bay	125	73%	53	31%	110	102%	97	90%	514	97%	452	85%	749	92%	602	74%	321	50%
Clyde River	141	68%	0	0%	119	76%	105	67%	602	88%	561	82%	862	82%	666	63%	371	44%
Grise Fiord	9	75%	4	33%	11	46%	7	29%	95	99%	93	97%	115	87%	104	79%	76	63%
Igloodik	205	55%	52	14%	214	82%	159	61%	951	87%	810	74%	1,370	79%	1,021	59%	347	26%
Iqaluit	617	68%	389	43%	632	97%	568	87%	6,953	115%	6,269	104%	8,202	108%	7,226	95%	3,946	59%
Kimmirut	57	79%	32	44%	62	127%	57	116%	268	101%	250	94%	387	100%	339	88%	222	71%
Kinngait	119	47%	34	13%	137	77%	123	69%	722	78%	630	68%	978	72%	787	58%	305	28%
Pangnirtung	200	69%	52	18%	178	107%	147	89%	853	85%	731	73%	1,231	84%	930	64%	517	44%
Pond Inlet	227	64%	135	38%	206	99%	188	90%	879	85%	780	76%	1,312	82%	1,103	69%	438	35%
Qikiqtarjuaq	55	64%	17	20%	42	61%	31	45%	342	81%	297	71%	439	76%	345	60%	174	36%
Resolute Bay	23	85%	12	44%	15	52%	15	52%	225	165%	166	122%	263	137%	193	101%	88	53%
Sanikiluaq	106	57%	8	4%	94	72%	85	65%	505	88%	468	82%	705	79%	561	63%	232	33%
Sanirajak	135	79%	84	49%	98	81%	89	74%	528	97%	475	87%	761	91%	648	78%	243	36%
Kivalliq Region	1,235	69%	640	36%	1,228	93%	1,064	80%	6,612	94%	6,040	86%	9,075	90%	7,744	76%	3,433	41%
Arviat	370	75%	181	37%	359	95%	318	84%	1,638	97%	1,503	89%	2,367	92%	2,002	78%	809	39%
Baker Lake	256	79%	162	50%	212	89%	184	77%	1,296	88%	1,169	79%	1,764	87%	1,515	74%	671	39%
Chesterfield Inlet	63	100%	42	67%	36	67%	33	61%	256	89%	241	84%	355	88%	316	78%	188	55%
Coral Harbour	51	30%	18	11%	91	77%	78	66%	494	89%	441	80%	636	76%	537	64%	205	31%
Nauyasat	119	44%	24	9%	170	98%	148	85%	643	99%	588	91%	932	85%	760	69%	292	36%
Rankin Inlet	316	82%	185	48%	303	104%	250	86%	2,026	97%	1,865	89%	2,645	96%	2,300	83%	1,145	48%
Whale Cove	60	66%	28	31%	57	81%	53	76%	259	97%	233	88%	376	88%	314	74%	123	37%
Kitikmeot Region	645	61%	229	22%	707	85%	584	71%	4,158	92%	3,600	80%	5,510	86%	4,413	69%	2,079	39%
Cambridge Bay	125	57%	50	23%	168	88%	144	75%	1,343	99%	1,195	88%	1,636	93%	1,389	79%	784	51%
Gjoa Haven	138	64%	46	21%	134	78%	111	65%	796	95%	657	79%	1,068	87%	814	67%	279	28%
Kugaaruk	93	45%	29	14%	103	62%	78	47%	545	84%	452	70%	741	72%	559	55%	203	25%
Kugluktuk	164	75%	96	44%	161	98%	139	85%	893	89%	801	80%	1,218	88%	1,036	75%	483	41%
Taloyoak	125	63%	8	4%	141	104%	112	83%	581	87%	495	74%	847	84%	615	61%	330	41%
Multiple Communities*	13		13		85		85		993		993		1,091		1,091		728	

*Multiple communities represent individuals who received doses in two separate communities, or in communities that are not their place of residence.

Details/Limitations:

This information shows the number of doses given in a community as of **February 22, 2022**. 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.

Multiple communities represent individuals who received doses in two separate communities, or in communities that are not their place of residence.

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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 maybe it cannot 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.

Isolation population

Traveller Type	Guests in Isolation as of Feb-21
Medical	52
Public	2
EMTI	0
Construction	0
Total	54

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Traveller repatriation summary

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
Feb-21	10
Feb-22	7
Feb-23	0
Feb-24	2
Feb-25	5
Feb-26	8
Total	32

Department of Economic Development and Transportation Services

Adjusted services:

Motor Vehicles

Limited in-person services are available by appointment only. Please contact the Motor Vehicles Division ahead of time at MotorVehicles@gov.nu.ca to make an appointment. Clients without email access can contact the division by telephone at 867-975-7840.

Nunavummiut can also visit gov.nu.ca/motorvehicles to access:

- Driver's Licence Renewals.
- General Identification Card Renewals.
- Vehicle Registration Renewals.
- Requests for Driver's Abstracts, Vehicle Searches, and Accident Reports.

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Department of Education Services

New developments in your programs/services:

K-12 Schools

Based on the advice of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO), on Monday, February 21, 2022, Gjoa Haven schools opened to 50% capacity.

- Schools will communicate directly to students and families regarding their status and cohort plans.
- If parents are not sure when their student is returning to class, they should contact their student's teacher.

Based on the advice of the CPHO, on Monday, February 21, 2022, Baker Lake, Igloolik, and Kinngait schools opened at 100% capacity.

- Baker Lake, Igloolik, and Kinngait schools will adhere to all health and safety precautions following department guidelines.
- Students and staff are reminded to wear masks at school and on the bus.
- The Department of Education, through the COVID Secretariat, has received 15,600 COVID-19 rapid access tests for school and child care facility staff and is preparing to distribute them in the coming weeks.

Early Learning and Child Care

Based on the advice of the CPHO, on Monday, February 21, 2022, Igloolik child care facilities may open to all children.

Ongoing services:

K-12 Schools

Based on the advice of the CPHO, on Monday, February 21, 2022, Baker Lake, Igloolik, and Kinngait schools will open to 100% capacity.

- Baker Lake, Igloolik, and Kinngait schools will adhere to all health and safety precautions following department guidelines.
- Students and staff are reminded to wear masks at school and on the bus.

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With the exception of Taloyoak, all other Nunavut schools are open to students at either 50% capacity or 100% capacity, depending on the COVID-19 situation in each community.

- Schools in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Sanikiluaq are open at 50% capacity.
- Schools in all other communities are open at 100% capacity.
- Schools will communicate directly to students and families regarding their status and cohort plans.
- If parents are not sure about their student's cohort, they should contact their student's teacher.

The Department of Education, through the COVID Secretariat, has received 15,600 COVID-19 rapid access tests for school and child care facility staff and is preparing to distribute them in the coming weeks.

FANS

The FANS office continues to process payments for students who have submitted their FANS Student Enrollment Form (SEF).

Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) students who have not yet done so should send their FANS SEF (with Part A completed) and their NAC enrollment verification letter to the FANS office. Students must allow up to 15 business days from the date they submitted their required enrollment document(s) to FANS to the date they should see the funds deposited into their bank account. If after 15 business days students have not received a deposit in their bank account, they can email fans@gov.nu.ca to let them know. Students should attach a copy of their bank statement from January 1 to the current date.

Questions about FANS benefits can be sent to fans@gov.nu.ca. Students with questions about their FANS-eligible travel can contact fanstravel@gov.nu.ca for information.

Students who experience flight changes during their travel should email fanstravel@gov.nu.ca during office hours or, if it is after hours, call the after-hours travel number at 1-867-857-6950.

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Adjusted services:

K-12 Schools

Based on the advice of the CPHO, on Monday, February 21, 2022, Gjoa Haven schools opened to 50% capacity.

- Schools will communicate directly to students and families regarding their status and cohort plans.
- If parents are not sure when their student is returning to class, they should contact their student's teacher.

FANS

During peak times for the FANS office, such as the start of a new semester, the service standard for responding to emails is 3-5 business days. Response times from the FANS office may be delayed due to active COVID-19 cases in Arviat.

Currently, FANS staff are working remotely, and the regular FANS phone line is not being monitored. If you would like to speak to a FANS representative, please send an email to set up an appointment at fans@gov.nu.ca. The best way to contact FANS is by email at fans@gov.nu.ca.

Closed/Cancelled/Suspended Services:

K-12 Schools

As advised by the CPHO, schools in Taloyoak are closed to students and staff.

Schools in Taloyoak are contacting students and parents regarding remote learning.

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

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