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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Public Service Announcement

Nunavut plans for continuity of healthcare services over the summer

Start Date: June 1, 2022
End date: September 30, 2022
Nunavut-wide **75 sec**

Several Nunavut communities can expect their health centres to be temporarily closed, or see a reduction in services, over the summer. The Department of Health is working with Government and Territorial partners to ensure Nunavummiut have access to necessary health services while addressing staff shortages.

The closures are a result of difficulty in securing summer relief staff due to a national shortage of healthcare professionals. Nunavut competes for staff with all jurisdictions in Canada. In response, the Department of Health has developed contingency plans that will allow continuity of urgent health services in affected communities, while also aggressively pursuing recruitment efforts throughout the summer.

In communities where routine health centre services will be unavailable or limited, the Department of Health will use a combination of virtual health, fly-in clinics and paramedic services to support clients. Calls will continue to go to the health centres and be directed to virtual support services. Calls may be automatically forwarded to other communities. There may be a delay during this time, but callers are recommended not to hang up. During temporary closures, paramedics are on site to provide emergency, or life-threatening care. Support staff will be available by phone to assist with services such as filling prescriptions and medical travel. If you need a prescription filled, you are advised to get them before the scheduled closure in order to avoid delays in receiving your medication.

Service reductions or closures are subject to change based on staff availability. Communities will be notified of expected health centre closures two weeks prior to close through local radio and social media. One week prior to expected closure, community members will be reminded through Public Service Announcements and social media.

COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be available by appointment.

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