Public Health Advisory

COVID-19 variant XBB.1.5 detected in Nunavut

April 25, 2023
Nunavut-wide

The Department of Health is advising Nunavummiut that the COVID-19 variant XBB.1.5 has been detected in Nunavut. The XBB1.5 variant is highly transmissible and will likely overtake previous COVID-19 variants. It is likely to become the most dominant circulating strain of the virus.

COVID-19 remains a threat to our health and flu season is not over. The best way to protect yourself, your family and your community is to get vaccinated. All Nunavummiut over six months of age are encouraged to get both the flu and COVID-19 vaccine. It is important and safe to get both vaccinations because COVID-19 and the flu have similar symptoms and can increase the severity of each other.

You can do your part to help stop the spread of influenza, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses by staying up-to-date on your vaccinations and by following these steps:

- Stay home when you feel sick.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Throw used tissues in the trash right away.
- Keep distance from others when out and about.
- Don’t smoke indoors or around others, especially babies.

Masks continue to be mandatory in all health care facilities. Appointments for flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be made at community health centres or public health units.

###

Media Contact:

Danarae Sommerville
A/ Manager of Communications
Department of Health
867-975-5949
dsommerville1@gov.nu.ca

ᐋᓐᓂᐊᖃᕐᓇᙱᑦᑐᓕᕆᓂᕐᒧᑦ ᑐᓴᖅᑎᑦᓯᔾᔪᑏᑦ ᐊᑐᐃᓐᓇᐃᑦ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᑦ, ᖃᑦᓗᓈᑎᑐᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᓐᓇᖅᑐᓐ ᐅᐃᕖᑎᑐᓪᓗ ᐅᕙᓂ *www.gov.nu.ca.*
Public Health Advisories are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on *www.gov.nu.ca.*
Inungnun Aanniaqtailinikkut Unniudjutit hailihimajun Inuktitut, Qablunaatun, Inuinnaqtun Uiuitullu uvani *www.gov.nu.ca.*
Les avis de santé publique sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français au *www.gov.nu.ca.*