

# Public Service Announcement

## Nunavut health centres on emergency services during holiday closure period

**Start Date:** December 20, 2023

**End Date:** January 2, 2023

## Nunavut-wide

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The Department of Health is working with government and territorial partners to ensure Nunavummiut have access to necessary health services while addressing staff shortages.

Starting December 21, 2023, until early January, some Nunavut communities can expect their health centres to be on emergency services or temporarily closed.

Currently, the Department of Health is projecting closures in two communities:

Community	Start Date	End Date
Kinngait	December 21	December 24
Arctic Bay	December 28	January 2

The closures are a result of the difficulty in securing relief staff due to a national shortage of healthcare professionals. In response, the Department of Health has developed contingency plans for the continuity of urgent health services in affected communities, and is aggressively pursuing recruitment efforts.

In communities where routine health centre services will be unavailable or limited, the Department of Health will use a combination of virtual health 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, and callers are asked not to hang up if there are delays while the call is connecting.

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

Emergency services and closures are subject to change based on staff availability. Updates on closure status will be provided as they become available.

**Media Contact:**

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