

Public Health Advisory

Pertussis identified in Igloolik, residents urged to stay home

Start Date: December 13, 2024

End Date: January 13, 2024

Igloolik, Nunavut

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The Department of Health advises Nunavummiut, especially parents of babies and young children, that there has been whooping cough (pertussis) identified in Igloodik.

As the holiday gatherings approach, it's important to prioritize your health and the safety of the community. We urge Igloolik residents to stay home and avoid public gatherings at this time. Health staff are actively identifying contacts and taking steps to manage any potential spread of the case.

Whooping cough is a disease of the throat and lungs that is spread very easily from person to person. If you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms, please wear a mask if you must go out in public. If you have a cough lasting more than three weeks, contact your local health centre for advice and support.

Symptoms of whooping cough include:

- a cough that lasts longer than a week.
- a cough followed by an unusual sound that sounds like “whoop”.
- trouble breathing.
- vomiting after coughing.
- coughing that is worse at night.
- a high fever (39°C and above) that lasts more than three days.

You can prevent whooping cough by getting vaccinated. People should check that their pertussis vaccine is up to date. Other precautions include:

- frequent handwashing.
- coughing into your sleeve or tissue.
- not sharing food, drinks, utensils or toothbrushes.

