

Public Health Advisory

Whooping cough outbreak declared in Igloolik

December 16, 2024

Qikiqtaaluk Region, Nunavut

The Department of Health advises Nunavummiut, especially parents of babies and young children, that the acting Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Ekua Agyemang, has declared an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in Igloodik. Anyone can get whooping cough, but the most severe cases are in children under the age of one.

Whooping cough is a disease of the throat and lungs that is spread very easily from person to person. If you or your child are mildly ill, stay home and avoid contact with others until your symptoms are gone. This will prevent the spread of illness.

Residents should be aware of symptoms as early diagnosis and treatment are important. Call your health centre if anyone in your household has any of these symptoms:

- A cough that lasts longer than a week.
- A cough followed by an unusual sound 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. Check and keep their vaccines up to date. You can help prevent the spread by:

- Frequent handwashing.
- Coughing into your sleeve or tissue.
- Not sharing food, drinks, utensils or toothbrushes.

Residents of Igloodik are strongly advised to avoid gatherings and to take caution during travel at this time.

Learn more about whooping cough by reading the [pertussis factsheet](#) available on the Department of Health webpage.

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