

Public Service Announcement

Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week 2024

Start Date: December 3, 2024

End Date: December 6, 2024

Nunavut-wide

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Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week takes place from December 1-7, 2024. This week is an opportunity to raise awareness about HIV, a sexually transmitted and blood-borne infection that can weaken the immune system. With early detection and treatment, HIV can be managed, helping prevent the progression to AIDS and supporting overall well-being.

HIV and AIDS rates in Nunavut are low, but sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis are common and can cause serious health problems. If untreated, some STIs can lead to infertility, brain damage, heart issues, or even death.

If you are sexually active, it is important to get tested for STIs, including syphilis:

- If you notice symptoms like sores or unusual discharge.
- Before having sex with a new partner.
- Every three to six months if you have unprotected sex, have more than one sexual partner, or if your partner might have other sexual partners.

The Department of Health has resources to help Nunavummiut talk with their partners, health care providers, and children about sexuality, safe sex, sexual consent, and STI prevention and testing. Resources can be found on the [I Respect Myself website](#).

Free male and female condoms, as well as lubricants, are available at health centres and other community locations. To learn more about STIs, visit the [I Respect Myself website](#) or contact your local health centre.

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