

Public Health Advisory

REMINDER: Whooping cough outbreak in Kivalliq Region

July 25, 2024

Kivalliq Region, Nunavut

The Department of Health is reminding Nunavummiut, that the outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) declared on March 7, 2024, in the Kivalliq region is still ongoing.

Anyone can get whooping cough, but the most severe cases are in children under the age of one. Communities in the Kivalliq region are encouraged to remain alert to the symptoms of pertussis, as early diagnosis and treatment are important.

Call your health centre if anyone in your household has any of these symptoms:

- A persistent cough.
- 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. People should check that their vaccines are up to date. Precautions include:

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

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

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