Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Nunavut

Public Service Announcement

Update on mask guidance at Sailijaaqvik Boarding Home (Iqaluit) and Qikiqtani General Hospital (QGH)

Start Date: July 28, 2025
Iqaluit, Nunavut **60 sec**

The mandatory masking at Qikiqtani General Hospital (QGH) and Sailijaaqvik Boarding Home has been lifted effective today July 28, 2025.

However, wearing a mask remains strongly recommended in these settings to protect vulnerable individuals, particularly those at high risk of complications from pertussis (whooping cough).

This guidance is in response to the ongoing respiratory illness outbreak currently affecting Iqaluit, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay, with confirmed cases of pertussis.

What You Need to Know About Pertussis

- Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory disease that affects the throat and lungs.
- Symptoms include severe coughing fits followed by a high-pitched "whoop" sound, runny nose, and fever.
- It can affect anyone, but infants under one year old are at the highest risk of severe illness.
- The disease is preventable through timely immunization.

While we recognize that some people are reluctant or unable to wear a mask, their use in healthcare and congregate settings can help protect our elders, children, and those with underlying health vulnerabilities. Let’s keep each other safe, please mask up when you can.

###

Media Contact:

Charmaine Deogracias
Manager, Communications
Department of Health
867-975-5712
cdeogracias@gov.nu.ca

ᑭᒃᑯᑐᐃᓐᓇᕐᓄᑦ ᑐᓴᕋᑦᓴᐃᑦ ᐊᑐᐃᓐᓇᐃᑦ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᑦ, ᖃᓪᓗᓈᑎᑐᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᓐᓇᖅᑐᓐ ᐅᐃᕕᑎᑐᓪᓗ ᐅᕙᓂ *www.gov.nu.ca.*
Public Service Announcements are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on *www.gov.nu.ca.*
Kavamatkunnin Tuhaqtitaujukhat hailihimajun Inuktitut, Qablunaatun, Inuinnaqtun Uiuitullu uvani *www.gov.nu.ca.*
Les messages d'intérêt public sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français au *www.gov.nu.ca.*