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Public Service Announcement

Kugaaruk cardiac screening program for children aged 5-18

Start Date: September 11, 2025
End Date: September 19, 2025
Kugaaruk **90 secs**

The Department of Health encourages families in Kugaaruk to have their children participate in a cardiac screening program taking place at Arviligruaq Ilinniarvik School from September 15 to 19, 2025.

A specialized team from Edmonton's Stollery Children's Hospital will be on site to screen for dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), a serious but treatable condition where the heart becomes enlarged and weakened.

This initiative follows the identification of a higher-than expected number of DCM cases among Kugaaruk children. Since many cases are diagnosed late, early screening can significantly improve long-term health outcomes.

The screening is safe and non-invasive. It includes the following:

- Height and weight measurement.
- Quick heart ultrasound.
- Immediate review by cardiologists.
- Families will receive the results, and a copy will be kept at the local health centre.

If a heart condition is found:

- Follow-ups will be arranged at Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton.
- Family members may also be screened, as DCM can be genetic.

Participation in the screening is optional. To take part, families must complete a consent form. The form is available at the GN website and will be sent home from school and will also be available for pick up at the health centre. If you choose not to have your child screened, please notify the school directly.

This initiative is a partnership between the Department of Health, Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Program at Stollery Children's Hospital and community leaders in Kugaaruk.

Let's protect the hearts of our children – together. For more information, please contact: stollery.heartfunction@ahs.ca or Nadine Breland at nbreland@gov.nu.ca or 867-769-6441.

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