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News Release

For Immediate Release

Confirmed case of COVID-19 in Nunavut

Iqaluit, Nunavut (November 6, 2020) – Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer, has confirmed Nunavut's first case of COVID-19, in Sanikiluaq.

"We have initiated contact tracing in the community and our rapid response team is on standby to help manage the situation should it become necessary," said Patterson. "We ask residents of Sanikiluaq to remain at home at this time and limit contact with other residents including family members not residing in the same household. It is important that health measures are followed by everyone and that we all do our part to quickly contain a potential spread in the community".

The individual and their family are in isolation and doing well. All travel to and from Sanikiluaq is restricted, with the exception of cargo and emergency travel. Only emergency services are to remain open with grocery stores implementing reduced hours. Shoppers are required to wear a mask while in the store.

"Please remember that a confirmed case is not a reason to panic. We've prepared for this and are responding. All Nunavummiut should continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands, and stay home if you are feeling unwell," said Premier Joe Savikataaq. "I wish all the best for the patient and the people of Sanikiluaq."

This positive case does not affect the current Common Travel Area with the Northwest Territories and Churchill Manitoba.

Anyone who has reason to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 is advised to call the COVID-hotline at 1-888-975-8601 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., or notify their community health centre right away, and immediately isolate at home for 14 days. Please do not go to the health centre in person.

An update will be provided at a press conference at 2:30 p.m. today.

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