

Chief Public Health Officer Update:

Good morning,

Last week, Nunavut received its first vaccine shipments. On December 30, 3000 doses of the Moderna vaccine were shipped to Iqaluit and another 3000 to Rankin Inlet. This is a major milestone along Nunavut's Path and one that we are excited about. Immunization is voluntary, but I do encourage as many eligible Nunavummiut as possible take the vaccine. It is currently the best protection Nunavummiut can have against COVID-19.

The Moderna vaccine requires two doses be administered between 28 and 30 days apart. The initial 6000 doses of the vaccine will allow us to begin immunization of 3,000 Nunavummiut. This will ensure that the necessary doses are available if the second shipment of vaccine expected later this month, is delayed.

Our roll-out strategy combines focused vaccinations and community-wide clinics. Focused vaccinations will have nurses go into Elders facilities to provide the immunizations, while community clinics will be held as either walk-in clinics or by appointment depending on the community. Front line staff working in Elders facilities will also receive the vaccine. Nurses from the health centre with assistance from a team of contract nurses will administer the vaccinations.

Immunizations will begin this week at the Elders' facility in Iqaluit, on January 6.

The week of January 11, appointment-based community-wide immunization clinics and focused vaccinations in Elders facilities will start in Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Arviat and Cambridge Bay. Gjoa Haven and Igloolik are scheduled for January 11 and 12. Arviat is scheduled for January 14 to 18 excluding Sunday. Cambridge Bay will be January 14 to 16 inclusively. Residents in those communities are asked to call their respective health centre to book an appointment.

Arviat's timing is because the nurses who conduct the clinics there may have to isolate for 14 days after they leave due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Community-wide clinics will for the most part be held at facilities such as school gymnasiums and community halls, with protocols to ensure physical distancing, proper use of masks and other PPE and enhanced cleaning protocols. Health staff have

For the latest COVID-19 information and GN Departments updates in all languages:

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>; <https://www.gov.nu.ca>



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engaged with community partners in Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Arviat and Cambridge Bay to ensure the protocols are implemented.

Additional clinics will be held based on the number of doses we will receive from future federal government shipments and on the number of remaining doses from previous clinics. Nunavut should receive enough vaccines between now and the end of March to vaccinate 75% of the adult population, approximately 19,000 people.

I know there have been concerns raised about the vaccine, but I assure everyone it is safe. mRNA vaccines, such as Moderna, have been under development for more than 20 years. The clinical trials for Moderna alone had 30,000 participants from a broad range of population types, including Elders and those with underlying health conditions. It cannot give you COVID-19 and the side-effects are what you would expect from any other vaccine. If you are unsure if you should take the vaccine, please reach out to the health centre for guidance.

The vaccine is 94% effective at preventing COVID-19 or preventing serious infection due to COVID-19.

Currently, the Moderna vaccine is not approved for anyone under the age of 18 but clinical trials are underway. We will keep Nunavummiut informed of any new vaccine developments in the coming weeks and months. For more information regarding vaccines and upcoming clinics, go to the Government of Nunavut website and visit the health department's COVID-19 vaccination page. For general vaccine information, Nunavummiut can also contact the COVID-19 hotline and select the option to speak to a nurse.

I would also like to speak to the progress the territory has made in the past weeks to stop the spread of COVID-19. As of December 30, the outbreak in Rankin Inlet is over and restrictions in that community have eased. While the outbreaks in both Whale Cove and Arviat are still active, we currently have no active cases. I encourage Nunavummiut to continue following the public health orders to help us keep the numbers trending in the right direction.

Finally, I want to recognize all the people in the Government of Nunavut who spent the time over the Holiday Closure working to ensure the safe delivery and storage of the vaccine, organizing clinics, managing the ongoing outbreaks and making sure everyone stayed informed. Thank you.

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As part of the Government of Nunavut's (GN) effort to protect Nunavummiut against the risk of COVID-19, GN Departments are implementing the following:

Department of Health Services

For all the latest information and resources about COVID-19 in Nunavut, go to:
<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For the latest information on current public health restrictions, go to:
<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/nunavuts-path>

Upcoming Community Vaccine Clinics

Elders' Facility clinics in communities will be focused clinics with health staff going on site to administer the vaccine. Health staff will reach out to the Elder's facilities directly for the vaccination times and dates.

Iqaluit Elder's Home

- Location: Elders Home.
- Date (1st Dose): January 6.
- Date (2nd Dose): February 3.

Iglolik mass clinic

- Location: Iglolik High School.
- Date (1st Dose): January 11 and 12.
- Date (2nd Dose) February 8–9.
- Time: 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Clinic Type: by appointment.
- Call 867-934-2100.

Gjoa Haven mass clinic

- Location: Qiqirtaq High School.
- Date (1st Dose): January 11 and 12.
- Date (2nd Dose) February 8–9.
- Time: 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Clinic Type: by appointment.
- Call 867-360-7441.

Arviat mass clinic

- Location: Qitiqliq School.
- Date (1st Dose): January 14 to 18 (excluding Sunday).
- Date (2nd dose) February 11-15.
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- Clinic Type: by appointment.
- Call 867-850-3100.

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Cambridge Bay mass clinic

- Location: site to be determined
- Date (1st Dose): January 14 to 16 (inclusive).
- Date (2nd Dose): February 11-13.
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- Clinic Type: by appointment.
- Call 867-983-4500.

COVID-19 case status: Jan. 5

Total Confirmed cases	Total active cases	Total recovered cases	Deaths	Total persons followed	Current persons followed
266	0	265	1	5738	431

COVID-19 community case statistics: Jan. 5

Community	Confirmed COVID-19 cases yesterday	Confirmed COVID-19 cases today	Change in case count +/- from previous day	Deaths	Recovered cases	Total active cases
Arviat	222	222	0	1	221	0
Whale Cove	23	23	0	0	23	0
Rankin	19	19	0	0	19	0
Sani	2	2	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	266	266	0	1	265	0

Testing stats to date per community: Jan. 5

Community	Tests positive	Tests negative
Arviat	222	1450
Whale Cove	23	266
Rankin	19	390
Sani	2	202
TOTAL	266	2308

Isolation population:

Traveller Type	Guests in Isolation as of Jan 04
Medical	157
Public	281
EMTI	9
Construction	34
Total	481

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Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
Jan 05 2021	12
Jan 06 2021	39
Jan 07 2021	54
Jan 08 2021	10
Jan 09 2021	3
Total	118

Critical Worker Requests:

As of Jan.5 there were 10623 requests, 5075 of which were critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	7138	67.0%
Denied	294	2.8%
Pending	294	2.8%
Common Travel Area Approved	2896	30%
Total	10622	100%

Department of Education Services

K-12 Schools

As of Monday, January 4, 2021, schools in the communities listed below will move to the following stages:

- Whale Cove – Stage 4.
- Rankin Inlet – Stage 2.

Arviat schools continue to be at Stage 4. All other Nunavut schools are at Stage 2.

Updates on community stages can be found on the Department of Education website:

<https://gov.nu.ca/education/information/2020-21-opening-plan-nunavut-schools>.

Stage 4 – Whale Cove

- As of Monday, January 4, 2021, Inuglak School in Whale Cove will be implementing its Stage 4 action plan.
- Inuglak School in Whale Cove will remain closed until further notice from the Chief Public Health Officer.
- All instruction in Whale Cove will be conducted remotely.
- Teachers and school staff will be contacting their students and families on a regular basis.

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Stage 2 – Rankin Inlet

- As of Monday, January 4, 2021, **elementary** schools in Rankin Inlet will be open full-time, five days per week.
- As of Monday, January 4, 2021, **middle and high** schools in Rankin Inlet will have a blend of in-school and remote learning. Students will attend school 2-3 days per week. Specific schedules will be determined by each school's Stage 2 action plan.

Early Learning and Child Care

- The child care facilities in Whale Cove and in Arviat have been recommended to remain closed by the Chief Public Health Officer.
- According to the Chief Public Health Officer, child care facilities in all Nunavut communities, except Whale Cove and Arviat, can open under current health and safety guidelines and measures.

Nunavummiut's health is our shared responsibility! Remember: wash your hands and surfaces, practice social distancing, listen to the advice of health officials, and stay home if you're sick.

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