



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASES OF ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS IN NUNAVIK

Kuujjuaq, June 19, 2013 – The Department of Public Health of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is providing an update for the population relative to tuberculosis within the region.

Since the beginning of 2013, 21 cases of tuberculosis have been reported in Nunavik. While this number is lower than the number reported at the same time last year, it still reflects that tuberculosis remains present in the communities of Nunavik.

As mentioned in its last [News Release](#), the Public Health Department of the NRBHSS and the Ungava Tulattavik and Inuulitsivik Health Centres have pursued their efforts to ensure rapid diagnosis and appropriate treatment for cases of active tuberculosis as well as follow-up for persons who have come into contact with those cases.

As of June 17, 2013, the largest number of cases (15) was reported from Salluit. Following the report of the first contagious case from that community, the Public Health Department of the NRBHSS and the clinical services of the Inuulitsivik Health Centre, have put in place the necessary interventions to identify existing cases of active tuberculosis and latent tuberculosis in Salluit.

Two other communities have also reported active cases of tuberculosis: Kuujjuaq (2) and Umiujaq (4). In these communities, interventions are in place to identify the persons who could have been infected.

All people with active tuberculosis are being treated and more than 60 people currently receive a preventive treatment for latent tuberculosis. New cases are expected to be found as a result of the current clinical investigations taking place and will be immediately taken care of by the clinical services on site. The collaboration of the population and the current efforts are contributing to bring the situation under control.

The current rise in cases of active tuberculosis follows the trend observed over the past few years of a rise in the number of cases of active tuberculosis in both Nunavut and Nunavik.

“Even though all active cases of tuberculosis are well managed, it is important to remain vigilant. Tuberculosis can only be effectively controlled with the collaboration of the affected communities,” pointed out Dr. Françoise Bouchard, Acting Director of Public Health for Nunavik.

We must keep in mind the factors conducive to transmission, such as overcrowded housing. Frequenting gathering houses (for gambling or sharing inhaled drugs), where several persons spend long hours in overcrowded and poorly ventilated conditions, constitutes a serious risk of infection when a person with contagious pulmonary tuberculosis who has not yet been diagnosed is present. Infected persons often delay consulting at the CLSC although they show symptoms of the disease.

“Anyone who has an *unusual cough that persists for more than three weeks* or who knows someone with such a cough *must consult at the CLSC and closely follow the recommended measures for evaluation and treatment,*” insists Dr. Françoise Bouchard, Acting Director of Public Health for Nunavik.

Click [here](#) to consult the information file on tuberculosis.

The current situation does not justify that communities cancel social and sporting events that are so important for the overall being of the population, according to the NRBHSS Department of Public Health.

All *Nunavimmiut* are encouraged to contact their CLSC for additional information.

*The NRBHSS is a public agency created in 1978 under the **James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement**. It is responsible for nearly the entire territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.*

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Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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