

Media Releases

Nunavut resident on medical travel tests positive for COVID-19

(May 18, 2020)

News Release

Nunavut resident on medical travel tests positive for COVID-19

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 18, 2020) – Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut’s Chief Public Health Officer, has confirmed a Nunavut resident on medical travel out-of-territory has tested positive for COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

“The individual is receiving care in the South and is doing well.” said Dr. Patterson. “We are confident this poses minimal risk of bringing the virus to Nunavut, as any travelers who might have come into contact with the patient have to isolate for 14 days prior to their return to Nunavut.”

The patient has been in southern Canada for approximately six weeks for treatment of an issue unrelated to COVID-19. Due to confidentiality concerns, and that it is out-of-territory, the Government of Nunavut (GN) will not disclose any information about the patient's home community.

"I wish this individual a speedy recovery and know they are receiving excellent care in the South. I want to assure Nunavummiut that this does not pose any additional risk within our territory but encourage everyone to stay vigilant in their efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Nunavut," said Minister of Health George Hickes.

The Department of Health will monitor both the patient and their escort's conditions, and ensure their families stay informed and receive any necessary supports. An update will be provided during the GN's media update on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 3 p.m.

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Media Contact:

Chris Puglia
Acting Manager, Communications

Department of

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