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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut iuuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

COVID-19 GN Update

March 19, 2021

Premier's update:

Good morning. For the fifth day in a row, there are no new cases of COVID-19. There are still two active cases of the virus in Arviat.

To date, Nunavut has administered almost 18,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine. 11,584 Nunavummiut have received the first dose, and 6413 Nunavummiut are now fully vaccinated against the virus.

I'm once again asking that if you haven't made an appointment to get your vaccine, please do so! I got my second shot a few weeks ago and I feel great and thankful.

Headed into the weekend, I want to say thank you to all Arviarmiut who've had to sacrifice so much and be strong for so long. I know it hasn't been easy.

Arviat got to zero cases before, and you can do it again! Keep up all the hard work and follow the public health measures. Stay healthy and stay well.

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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Chief Public Health Officer Update:

Good morning,

Last week was the official one-year mark since Nunavut and the world began dealing with this pandemic. In that time, a lot has happened and I want to mention a few highlights.

Through effective public health measures, including isolation out of territory, we were able to delay the entry of COVID-19 into the territory. Those first eight months, were invaluable to our planning efforts, which paid off in several areas including:

- Fast and efficient contact tracing and virus containment.
- Improved testing capacity and speed.
- Efficient rapid response and outbreak management.
- A vaccine campaign that by April will have given 75% per cent of Nunavummiut who are 18 and older, an opportunity to receive their shot.

We all knew that preventing COVID-19 from ever entering the territory was not possible but limiting the number of communities that have had to deal with cases is a success.

As of this week, Nunavut received its latest shipment of vaccine allocation in phase one of the federal government's roll out plan. Since December, 37,5000 doses of the vaccine, enough for 75% of the population have been delivered. As of this morning, 1,1584 Nunavummiut have received their first dose of the vaccine.

I must commend the hard work our teams have done rolling the vaccine out across the territory. By April, every community will have had at least their first dose clinics. For those communities that have completed their second dose clinics, there will be an ongoing opportunity for everyone to get vaccinated. Simply call the health centre.

Those who want the vaccine after the mass vaccine clinics are done will be put on a waitlist and called for an appointment. Due to the vaccine being packaged in 10-dose vials that are only good for 6 hours once punctured, appointments will be scheduled for 10 people at a time to avoid waste. Considering there is a global shortage of the vaccine, we have ethical responsibilities to ensure Nunavummiut are vaccinated as quickly as possible while minimising how much vaccine is wasted.

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With the vaccine rollout well underway, many have inquired about what the effect will be on public health measures and when we can begin to see restrictions eased.

The vaccine is very effective and reduces the risk of severe infection and complications from COVID-19. Once all adults in Nunavut have had the opportunity to receive the vaccination, we can once again assess the risk. As in the past, the easing of restrictions will be done gradually to ensure it does not cause a significant risk to health.

Choosing to get the vaccine means that individually, and in time, collectively, we will no longer live with the fear, the harms and restrictions brought by the COVID-19 virus.

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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>

For the latest information on vaccine clinics in Nunavut, go to:

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-vaccination>

COVID-19 case status: March 19

Total tests	Total Confirmed cases	Total active cases	Total recovered cases	Deaths	Total persons followed	Current persons followed	Total vaccine doses administered
9548	395	2	389	4	6997	382	17997

*Confirmed cases include those meeting the national case definitions. Persons followed includes individuals with specific symptoms and exposures as well as others who are self-monitoring or self-isolated. Not all of these individuals have symptoms or require testing.

*There may be a delay reporting attribution and statistics from cases acquired in Southern Canada. 12 cases that were detected out of territory have been attributed to Nunavut. This includes 3 deaths. Not all NU residents with COVID-19 detected out of territory will be attributed to Nunavut.

COVID-19 vaccination status: March 19

First doses administered	Second doses administered	Total vaccine doses administered
11584	6413	17997

*Total vaccine administered is updated as regularly as possible, but might be lower than actual count.

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COVID-19 community case stats: March 19

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	339	339	2	1	336	2
Whale Cove	23	23	0	0	23	0
Rankin	19	19	0	0	19	0
Sanikiluaq	2	2	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	383	383	2	1	380	2

*Cases acquired out of territory are not reflected in the community case breakdown.

Testing stats to date per community: March 19

Community	Tests positive	Tests negative
Arviat	339	2657
Whale Cove	23	352
Rankin	19	399
Sanikiluaq	2	202
TOTAL	383	3610

Isolation population:

Traveller Type	Guests in Isolation as of March 18
Medical	297
Public	210
EMTI	48
Construction	22
Total	577

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Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
Mar. 19, 2021	46
Mar. 20, 2021	0
Mar. 21, 2021	15
Mar. 22, 2021	72
Mar. 23, 2021	73
Total	226

Critical Worker Requests

As of March 18 there were 13636 requests, 6735 of which were critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	10039	73.6%
Denied	301	2.2%
Pending	369	2.7%
Common Travel Area Approved	2927	21.5%
Total	13636	100%

*Latest data is unavailable.

Department of Education Services

K-12 Schools

As of Monday, March 15, all Arviat Schools have implemented their Stage 3 action plan. All other Nunavut schools are at Stage 1.

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>.

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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