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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut i i u q a t i g i i n g n i q
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

News Release

For Immediate Release

Temporary Nunavut-wide school and daycare closures as precaution to COVID-19

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 16, 2020) – Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut’s Chief Public Health Officer, today recommended the temporary closure of all schools and daycares in Nunavut to limit any potential spread of COVID-19. These closures are effective starting Tuesday, March 17 for a three-week period.

“It is with an over-abundance of caution that I have made this recommendation,” said Dr. Patterson. “While there are still no confirmed cases in Nunavut, this approach aligns with preventive measures in several jurisdictions across the country and ensures the potential spread of COVID-19 is mitigated.”

During this period, affected Government of Nunavut employees will be accommodated and are encouraged to work flex hours or work from home.

The best way to be prepared for COVID-19 is to be aware, and wash your hands, often, for at least 20 seconds; cough and sneeze into your elbow; stay home if you feel sick; and call your health centre if you have symptoms. Families should avoid group gatherings and remain at home as much as possible.

“We are taking no chances with the health of Nunavummiut, and need to ensure that we take every possible precaution,” said Premier Joe Savikataaq. “Stay home and limit visiting, especially with Elders. Now is the time for our communities to show resiliency and help one another. If you are well, call to check on each other and share what you have, like we have always done. During this uncertain time, our kindness and consideration of others matters more than ever.”

For more information on COVID-19, go to: gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus or <https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus>

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