

Chief Public Health Officer Update:

Good morning. Last week we announced that Nunavut will be receiving the Moderna vaccine in the first quarter of 2021. The vaccine is currently in the process of receiving approval from Health Canada. The territory will receive enough doses to vaccinate 75% of its adult population.

As we prepare for its arrival, I want to take this opportunity to talk a bit about the vaccine's development, the timeline for its arrival in the territory and our preparations to ensure that once in territory, it is administered safely and timely, to all Nunavummiut.

People have asked me if the vaccine is safe. It is. I say that because of the rigorous work that has gone into its development. mRNA vaccines in general have been under development for more than twenty years. The clinical trials for Moderna alone had 30,000 participants from a broad range of population types.

Canada also has a very thorough vaccine approval process that will ensure the vaccine's safety.

Usually, we wait months in-between development steps for more funding or resources, which slows down the process. The type of global cooperation we have witnessed, the massive efforts deployed to bring in the financial, human and technological resources needed, allowed many steps of the vaccine production to happen at the same time, while ensuring its safety, every step of the way.

Our planning for the vaccine's distribution is underway and work has already been done to prepare for the vaccine's arrival. Supplies such as syringes, needles, alcohol swabs and other items required for administering the vaccine are already in territory.

Two, medical-grade freezers supplied by the Public Health Agency of Canada arrived over the weekend and will help increase our storage capacity in both Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet.

While we know that in the first three months of 2021 we will be receiving enough to vaccinate 75% of the adult population, we do not know how the deliveries will be scheduled. With that in mind we are developing plans based on a variety of scenarios. For example, if we receive a small number of doses at the beginning of January and we don't know how many doses will come in February or when, we will be taking a very focused approach, by first vaccinating those at highest risk of complications from COVID-19.

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>



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)

In a situation where we have limited supply at first, elders' centres, long-term care residents, and the staff working with them, will receive the vaccine first. On the other hand, if we receive enough vaccines in January, we might look at mass immunization clinics, with the aim of vaccinating as many adults as possible.

Regardless of the strategy, by the end of March we will have received enough vaccines for 75% of adults in Nunavut. The key for us, like Nunavut's Path, is to be flexible and plan for a variety of circumstances.

Throughout this process, it is important to remember that Nunavut's realities require a tailored approach and extensive experience with delivering and administering vaccines in a Northern context.

Our health staff has this experience and understands the challenges we face. This is not the first time we had to work quickly and safely in unique conditions. Every year, vaccination campaigns across the territory come with their number of logistical challenges. During the H1N1 pandemic, our teams were capable to plan and deploy timely vaccination campaigns across the territory. This vaccination campaign is no exception.

Finally, I would like to ask Nunavummiut to be patient and most importantly to use trusted sources of information when learning about the vaccine and any other new public health initiative. I understand that some of this information is new, but not so long ago so was COVID-19, and yet collectively, by using science-based facts and information from trusted sources, we have come a long way in understanding the virus and taking the necessary precautions to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Thank you.

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>



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)

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>

COVID-19 case status: Dec. 14

Total Confirmed cases	Total active cases	Total recovered cases	Total persons followed	Current persons followed
256	49	207	5377	642

COVID-19 community case stats: Dec. 14

Community	Confirmed COVID-19 cases yesterday	Confirmed COVID-19 cases today	Change in case count +/- from previous day	Recovered cases	Total active cases
Arviat	205	214	9	165	49
Whale Cove	21	21	0	21	0
Rankin	19	19	0	19	0
Sanikiluaq	2	2	0	2	0
TOTAL	247	256	9	207	49

Testing stats to date per community: Dec. 14

Community	Tests positive	Tests negative
Arviat	214	899
Whale Cove	21	144
Rankin	19	251
Sani	2	189
TOTAL	256	1483

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>



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)

Isolation population:205

Total (All Health Isolation Locations)	
Traveler Type	Guests in Isolation as of Dec. 13
Medical	184
Public	321
EMTI	8
Total	513

Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from Isolation Sites
Dec 12 2020	4
Dec 13 2020	0
Dec 14 2020	65
Dec 15 2020	18
Dec 16 2020	74
Total	161

Critical Worker Requests:

As of Dec.11 there were 10043 requests, 4719 of which were critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	6742	67.1%
Denied	285	2.8%
Pending	232	2.3%
Common Travel Area Approved	2784	27.7%
Total	10043	100%

Department of Community and Government services

Adjusted services:

Requests to enter the territory for construction related projects or to travel within the territory for construction related projects can be emailed to CPHOconstructionrequests@gov.nu.ca.

Construction workers who completed isolation to date: 2,248.

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>



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)

Department of Education Services

Adjusted services:

Diploma Exams

Diploma exams for Nunavut students will be made optional for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

To ensure the best possible choice is made for each student, the decision to opt-in should be made together with the student's parents/guardians. All schools were sent the January 2021 opt-in form on Friday, December 11, 2020.

Students that would like to write their January 2021 diploma exam will need to complete the opt-in form and give it to their principal as soon as possible. Students that choose to write their exam and are not satisfied with their exam mark are not able to apply for an exemption after the exam date.

Students that do not wish to write their diploma exam will be granted an automatic exemption, with their course mark being made worth 100% of their final mark.

Students wishing to pursue post-secondary education are encouraged to review the entry requirements for the program they are applying to, as not writing the exam may have an impact on acceptance status.

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.

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>



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)



[INUK](#) | [ENG](#) | [IKW](#) | [FRE](#)