



## Chief Public Health Officer Update:

Good morning,

Today I would like to talk a bit more about testing. Testing is not a magical solution and it is not effective by itself. Contact tracing, isolating, observing physical distancing, and following public health restrictions work together to contain and stop the spread of COVID-19.

When someone is exposed to COVID-19, the virus begins what is known as the incubation period, meaning it is growing in your body. In the first few days of this growing stage, the virus is very hard to detect. During these first days after exposure to the virus, the majority of tests will be false negatives.

Without knowing when every individual we test was exposed to the virus, we would have to do test everyone multiple times over multiple days. Doing this, will deplete precious resources and testing material, with very little success. False negatives are one of the reasons why mass testing is not the most productive strategy in our efforts to identify and track an outbreak.

On the day after exposure to COVID, testing is almost always negative. Although test reliability improves steadily as the days pass, testing does not replace isolation. Again, we would need to know the exact timeline of exposure of the people we test, to ensure that we are testing them as of day 7 or later.

Testing is not perfect and that is why combining testing with contact tracing and isolation is the most effective way to contain an outbreak and stop transmission of the virus.

Contact tracers are trained to be able to determine who the best candidates for testing are and when testing will be the most effective. I want to emphasize that although the term contact tracer might be new to many in the public, it isn't a new practice in the health system. We have used contact tracing methods for decades to help respond to infections ranging from tuberculosis to sexually transmitted diseases.

Our health teams are skilled and working very hard to help break transmission of the virus.

In closing, I want to take a moment and thank all essential workers who are ensuring services in our communities continue, particularly in communities affected by COVID-

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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19. I also want to re-assure you by saying that if you take the necessary precautions – wear a mask, observe physical distancing when possible, then you are doing what is needed to reduce the risk to yourself, your families and your communities.

Thank you.

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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

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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 Statistics: Nov. 25

Community	Confirmed COVID-19 cases yesterday	Confirmed COVID-19 cases today	Change in case count +/- from previous day
Arviat	107	115	8
Whale Cove	16	19	3
Rankin	19	19	0
Sanikiluaq	2	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	144	155	11

### Testing stats to date: Nov. 25

Community	Tests positive	Tests negative
Arviat	115	386
Whale Cove	19	58
Rankin	19	164
Sani	2	168
<b>TOTAL</b>	155	776

### COVID-19 case status: Nov. 25

Total Confirmed cases	Total active cases	Total recovered cases	Total persons followed	Current persons followed
155	153	2	4712	813

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### Isolation population:

Total (All Health Isolation Locations)	
Traveler Type	Guests in Isolation as of Nov. 24
Medical	359
Public	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>490</b>

### Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from health Isolation Sites
Nov 25 2020	69
Nov 26 2020	50
Nov 27 2020	25
Nov 28 2020	2
Nov 29 2020	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

### Critical Worker Requests:

As of November 24, there were 9333 requests, 4359 of which were critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	6219	66.6%
Denied	281	3.0%
Pending	232	2.5%
Common Travel Area Approved	2601	27.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9333</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Department of Education Services

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### New developments in programs/ services:

- Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) will be delivered to schools by next week to support ongoing health and safety. The delivery to Grise Fiord may be delayed due to airline logistics. This PPE includes:
  - Face shields (with instructions in all languages);
  - Disposable face masks; and
  - Gloves.

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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