

Chief Public Health Officer update

Good morning. On September 28, the Department of Health activated its Rapid Response Team to contain an outbreak of COVID-19 at TMAC Resources' Hope Bay mine.

TMAC Resources contacted my office on September 26 about an employee developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The individual and identified contacts were swabbed and the samples sent to Rankin Inlet for testing.

Seven of the samples yielded positive results, and all were sent to a southern lab for confirmatory testing. Two of those tests have since been confirmed.

As the test results indicated transmission of COVID-19 at the mine site, we initiated our rapid response plan to assist in containing the virus.

All non-critical travel to and from the mine was also halted.

The Rapid Response Team has been conducting additional contact tracing and taking samples.

As of last night, five more swabs were flown to Rankin Inlet for testing on the GeneXpert or BioFire devices, one has tested positive and will be sent for confirmatory testing. The results of one test are still pending. Another eight swabs will be delivered to Rankin Inlet tomorrow.

To accurately detect the virus, high risk contacts from the initial batch of tests have been re swabbed to ensure testing is being done at appropriate times during the incubation period.

All those who tested positive and high-risk, non-critical staff contacts have been isolated.

Critical staff contacts who are required to continue working for the safety of the other workers, are doing so until they can be replaced. Those staff are following strict measures to keep isolated from those around them, including wearing masks. Workers who develop symptoms will be required to isolate immediately.

As of Yesterday, the two individuals who were symptomatic have had their symptoms resolve.

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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The Rapid Response Team is currently continuing contact tracing and containment operations and are expected to be on site until the middle of next week.

While the transmission of COVID-19 at the mine is concerning, the risk to Nunavummiut from this outbreak remains low. Hope Bay does not currently have Nunavummiut working on site and there is no contact from the mine to any Nunavut communities.

Once the Rapid Response Team concludes its work, my office will review the incident and information gathered by the Rapid Response Team. From there, we will determine if there are enhanced measures needed to reduce the risk of another outbreak.

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

Isolation Volumes

Total (All Health Isolation Locations)	
Traveler Type	Guests in Isolation as of Oct 2
Medical	366
Public	398
Total	764

Traveller repatriation summary:

Departure Date	# of Travellers from health Isolation Sites
Oct. 1	64
Oct. 2	47
Oct. 3	0
Oct. 4	28
Oct. 5	127
Total	266

Critical Worker Requests

As of Oct. 1, there were 6615 requests, 3174 of which were critical worker requests.

Request Status	#	%
Approved (includes critical and non-critical)	4627	69.9%
Denied	264	4.0%
Pending	117	1.8%
Common Travel Area Approved	1607	24.3%
Total	6615	100%

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Department of Community and Government 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: 1591

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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