

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SIX (6) REPORTED CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS IN KUUJJUAQ

**Kuujuuaq, April 24, 2017** - The NRBHSS has reported six (6) cases of active tuberculosis in Kuujuuaq over the past four months. All of these cases are being treated and carefully monitored. This brings the total number of cases of active tuberculosis detected in Nunavik to sixteen (16) since the beginning of the year.

The Department of Public Health of the NRBHSS is calling on Kuujuumiut to remain vigilant. The Department of Public Health and the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre are actively screening those who may have been in close contact with a contagious person. They are confident that these efforts have contained the disease. Please remain vigilant.

Tuberculosis (TB) is not easily transmitted. A person who spends several hours with a person sick with TB in a closed space, such as a home or a poorly ventilated room, can become infected. There is no risk of contracting the disease at large social events, such as feasts, hockey tournaments, cinemas, etc.

TB is however a serious disease and represents a major health problem, especially for young children and persons whose physical resistance may be compromised by disease or lifestyle. TB can be spread by regularly breathing very small contaminated particles in the air. These particles are usually spread through frequent and continuous coughing by someone who is sick with tuberculosis of the lung.

Regular TB medications can successfully treat the disease, but it is important that it be diagnosed early. The Department of Public Health is recommending that anyone with one or more of the following symptoms seek medical attention as soon as possible:

- Unusual and persistent cough for two weeks or more;
- Fever;
- Feeling weak and tired;
- Loss of appetite and weight loss;
- Sweating at night;
- Pain in the chest when breathing;
- Coughing-up blood.

While the Department of Public Health continues to carefully monitor the situation, they urge all residents to do their part to prevent the spread of TB. The cooperation of everyone is needed to identify those who may have active, contagious tuberculosis. These individuals must be evaluated at Tulattavik Health Centre immediately to limit the risk of transmission. Together, we can stop the spread of TB.

*The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Québec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.*

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**Source:** Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services  
Department of Public Health

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