



***Who Are Most at Risk of Being Infected with Tuberculosis?***

Those most at risk are persons in close and prolonged contact with a contagious case; this means domestic and other intimate contact. The most vulnerable are children, elderly persons and those whose immune system has been compromised by other diseases or an unhealthy lifestyle.

***Once Infected, Will a Person Develop Active Tuberculosis?***

The majority of those infected by the microbe will not develop the disease. The risk of developing the disease is greater among:

- young children and adolescents;
- persons whose immune system has been compromised by:
  - a major disease such as diabetes, HIV infection or cancer, or a form of treatment that weakens the immune system;
  - an unhealthy lifestyle, characterized by alcoholism, substance abuse or poor nutrition.

***Is There a Treatment for Tuberculosis?***

Yes, and it is essential. By taking the medication as prescribed, infected persons will recover and will no longer be contagious. They will thus avoid serious complications as well as protect their loved ones. It is important to note that in Québec, treatment for tuberculosis is mandatory. The disease is treated with several medications (usually two to four different types) that must be taken regularly over a period of six to nine months. Thanks to the effectiveness of the medications used, the contagiousity of cases generally diminishes quickly.

*Nunavimmiut* may contact their CLSC for additional information.

*The 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 55<sup>th</sup> parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.*

- 30 -

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

**For information:** Eric Duchesneau  
Communications Officer, NRBHSS  
(819) 964-2222, extension 275

**This communiqué is also posted on our Web site at [www.rrsss17.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.rrsss17.gouv.qc.ca).**