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NUNAVIK CONFIRMS SECOND CASE OF COVID-19

Kuujuuaq, April 1st, 2020 – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) has received confirmation of a second case of COVID-19 in Nunavik. The new case is an adult and since being tested, the patient is being monitored in isolation. “The vast majority of patients infected by COVID-19 are able to recover at home and their state does not require hospitalization or intensive care.” specifies Dr. Marie Rochette, Director of Public Health at the NRBHSS. The privacy of the patient will be respected and it is expected of everyone to follow suit. The Public Health team is currently investigating the list of potential close contacts and following-up with the appropriate protocol.

The NRBHSS has been proactively preparing for the arrival of COVID-19 in the region through various measures. The regional health and social services network decided to setup two external spaces dedicated to triage and testing in each of the 14 communities. Both spaces are separated to avoid contamination and specific resources are working at each site. There is no mix of personnel. The region saw an impressive mobilization of its staff and currently have all the medical resources required.

The NRBHSS acknowledges that this period is highly stressful and reassures the population that thorough measures are in place to safeguard an effective response to the situation. A psychosocial support team is in place to provide resources and services. If you need to discuss issues related to stress and anxiety, contact 1-833-301-0296 from Monday to Friday, between 9 AM to 5 PM or contact your local CLSC. “It is normal to feel stressed and anxious during this period. The network has developed means to help Nunavimmiut during this difficult time. We ask for everyone’s collaboration in complying with the municipal curfews. It is for everyone’s protection.” states Minnie Grey, NRBHSS Executive Director.

Everyone should be reminded to follow these basic and highly important hygienic measures:

- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Respect a distance of two meters between each another.
- Stay home as much as possible.
- Avoid visiting friends and family members in close spaces at all cost (home, cabin, etc.).

Important Reminder: Do not present yourself at your local CLSC (Nursing Station). If you believe you are infected with COVID-19, please contact the Info-Health line at 1-888-662-7482 from Monday to Friday: 10 AM to 10 PM, Saturday and Sunday: 10 AM to 5 PM. Outside of opening hours please contact your local CLSC (Nursing Station).

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Quebec 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

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