ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥ ᐃᓗᓯᓕᕆᓂᕐᒧᑦ ᑲᑎᒪᔨᑦ
RÉGIE RÉGIONALE DE LA SANTÉ ET DES SERVICES SOCIAUX DU NUNAVIK
NUNAVIK REGIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

SAVING LIVES MEANS INVESTING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Kuujjuaq, March 24, 2022 – World Tuberculosis Day is the time to recall that the fight against the disease is not over. Since 2015, the NRBHSS and all of Nunavik have invested much effort into the plan to eliminate tuberculosis. In particular, several testing campaigns were organized in various communities. However, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented fully carrying out the activities planned for 2021. The NRBHSS acknowledges the difficulties in maintaining essential services in the context of a pandemic but intends to minimize the impact on the efforts to eliminate tuberculosis.

In 2021, among the individuals tested during a population-level campaign, 3% were diagnosed with latent tuberculosis and less than 1% with active tuberculosis. These data indicate a drop in the number of diagnosed cases of tuberculosis compared to previous years. That drop is linked to the challenges created by the pandemic in terms of protection of the public and prevention of the risk of transmission of COVID-19, which limited the provision of tuberculosis-related services. Another factor behind the reduced services consisted of issues linked to human resources, with many having been reassigned to urgent tasks such as COVID-19 testing and vaccination. Moreover, the large number of individuals who had to be placed in quarantine or in isolation made it more difficult to arrange control visits to the CLSC.

In 2022, with the lifting of the health measures related to COVID-19, the NRBHSS is returning to major efforts at combatting tuberculosis and will continue to provide the usual tuberculosis-related services as well as testing in the communities most at risk.

The NRBHSS wishes to extend its sincere thanks to those who accepted the services offered in 2021 and who participated in community efforts toward elimination of tuberculosis in Nunavik.

Together, we can fight tuberculosis and keep our communities safe and healthy.

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.*

– 30 –

Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

For information: Tatiana Solodovnikova
Communication Officer, NRBHSS
media.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca