Info-MADO Newsletter of the Nunavik Department of Public Health Reportable Diseases

Alert: Drug Seizure

By Stéphanie Michaud, Advisor, STBBI Department of Public Health, NRBHSS

<u>Context</u>

The Department of Public Health wishes to inform you of a drug seizure, apparently involving cocaine and pills, early this week at the Montréal airport. Tests are under way to determine the types of substances contained in the seized drugs. The shipment was apparently destined for Nunavik. Concurrently, professional medical sources were informed by clients that cocaine and crack were recently in circulation in Nunavik, particularly on the Hudson coast. Such an event reminds us that drugs potentially containing substances such as fentanyl can end up in circulation in our region.

Plan of Action

We remind you that the 2019-2022 Nunavik regional plan of action for the prevention of opioid overdoses, the result of efforts by the health centres and the Department of Public Health, is available in your respective organizations. Below are the measures currently set up in case of overdose:

- availability of 200 doses of naloxone in each of the 14 villages on the Hudson and Ungava coasts;
- brief training capsules on opioid overdoses, destined for health professionals and available to the personnel of both health centres;
- system for monitoring and alerts for opioid overdose by the Department of Public Health presently being implemented at both health centres.

Reporting to the Department of Public Health

As the situation of opioid overdoses constitutes a health threat, the Department of Public Health invites health professionals to report any suspected or confirmed situation of opioid overdose, using the form for reporting overdoses created for that purpose.

P.O. Box 900 Kuujjuaq, Québec JOM 1C0 Tel.: 819 964-2222 / 1 844 964-2244 Confidential Fax: 1 866 867-8026

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Situations to Be Reported

• the overdose is presumed to involve opioids,

or

• a large number of individuals overdosed over a short time period,

or

the symptoms of the overdose are particularly severe,

or

• the circumstances are unusual.

To report:

Send the form by confidential fax to **1 866 867-8026**

For information:

During office hours: Stéphanie Michaud, **418 666-7000, extension 10160** Outside office hours: Physician on duty for Public Health at **1 855 964-2244** (toll-free) or **1 819 299-2990** (alternative in case of problems with the toll-free number)