



January 3rd, 2025

Recommendation from the Department of Public Health Tuberculosis screening of certain workers in Nunavik

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that can be contracted by inhaling airborne micro-droplets (aerosols) emitted by a person with contagious TB. This disease is more frequently observed in Nunavik than elsewhere in Québec.¹ The following recommendation concerns Nunavik workers whose jobs are known to increase their risk of exposure to people with contagious tuberculosis.

These jobs are:

- Health care workers or social services workers who are in contact with clients/patients
- Workers in the prison environment (e.g., police officers, patrol officers, prison guards/correctional officers);
- Persons who work with the homeless;
- Workers in educational establishments.

The Nunavik Department of Public Health therefore recommends that these groups of workers undergo tuberculosis screening. This procedure can consist of a TST (TB skin test or tuberculin skin test) or any other accepted screening test, and this at the moments indicated in Table 1 on the following page. This recommendation for medical monitoring of exposure applies as a complement to other preventive measures² and basic respiratory hygiene in the workplace.³

¹ [Let's End TB in Nunavik | Regional Board of Health and Social Services](#)

² [Workplaces | Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services](#)

³ **Basic respiratory hygiene:** Stay at home if experiencing flu-like symptoms; otherwise, always wear a mask certified to meet ASTM F2100 standards (level 1, 2, or 3), EN 14683 type IIR, or BNQ 1922-900 when in the presence of others. Ventilate the room, maintain physical distance, sneeze into your elbow, and wash your hands regularly. Finally, wearing a respirator, such as a disposable N95 mask, can further reduce the infectious particles emitted into the environment by a contagious person. Designed to fit the wearer's face more securely, it minimizes side leaks and reduces the risk to people encountered.



Table 1. Recommendation for TB screening of workers at risk in Nunavik

Indication du TCT	Recommendation
Prior to beginning work <i>(or during the first 2 months of employment)</i>	Pre-assignment TST Workers who have never had a TST in two steps: carry out the TST according to the PIQ criteria.
While employed	TST recommended every 2 years (maximum frequency of 1 TST per year)
Postemployment	TST to be done 8 weeks after the end of employment, if functions occupied for a cumulative period of 1 month or more

For any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services' Infection diseases team at the following email address:

tuberculose-santepublique.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.

Additionally, if you would like information on managing infectious risks in the workplace, either for tuberculosis or more generally, please contact the occupational health team at the following address. Finally, we recommend that requests from your staff regarding individual situations first be submitted to a prevention representative (worker serving on the Health and Safety Committee), a manager, or your health office:

healthatwork17@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.

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