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

NEWS RELEASE

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TUBERCULOSIS: AN ONGOING CONCERN

Kuujjuaq, March 24, 2020 – In 2015, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) launched a thorough testing campaign for the fight against tuberculosis (TB) in Nunavik. The campaign began in communities most affected by TB, continued throughout and remains active. In response to the call for action, “TB-Free Inuit Nunangat”, spearheaded by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), has to date seen seven testing campaigns conducted across Nunavik. The objective is to secure the elimination of TB in Nunavik by 2030.

Today being World TB Day, the NRBHSS highlights the urgency and importance of collective action against this disease. The NRBHSS reiterates that anyone with a cough lasting longer than two weeks and any unusual respiratory symptoms (coughing up blood, chest pain) or other major symptoms such as unexplained weakness or weight loss should get tested for TB. The communities are encouraged to participate when population testing is offered. The NRBHSS is working to heighten community awareness of TB by offering training to community workers.

Nunavik’s TB rate is 100 times higher than that of the rest of the Province. “Over the past year, efforts have predominantly been focused on protection against COVID-19. Testing and treatment to eliminate TB in Nunavik must now resume with the urgency and momentum it had previously. Working together with mutual support will lead to success.” states Minnie Grey, Executive Director of the NRBHSS.

The NRBHSS will launch campaigns in two communities in 2021, and reassures the public that the current health measures will remain in effect.

Nunavimmiut are encouraged to get informed about TB by visiting nrbhss.ca.

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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