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Building *Nunavut* Together  
*Nunavut* liuqatigiingniq  
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

# Minister of Health's 2022 *Public Health Act Annual Report*





<b>Table 1: Communicable Disease Count for 2022</b>	
<b>Communicable Disease</b>	<b>Count*</b>
COVID-19	3203
Chlamydia	1437
Influenza A and B	679
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	500
Gonorrhea	497
Methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA)	265
Syphilis	58
Campylobacteriosis	19
Norovirus	17
C.difficile	16
Invasive Haemophilus influenzae infections	13
Invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae infections	10
Salmonellosis	8
Chicken Pox (Varicella)	7
Invasive Group A Streptococcal infections	7
Shigellosis	6
Giardiasis	<5**
Rotavirus	<5
Hepatitis C	<5
Typhoid	<5
Brucellosis	<5
Neonatal Group B Streptococcal infections	<5
Hepatitis B	<5
Trichinosis	<5
Yersiniosis	<5
Cryptosporidiosis	<5
Toxoplasmosis	<5
*These are preliminary counts. On an annual basis, Health validates its data related to communicable diseases. This process is not complete for 2022. However, major changes are not anticipated.	
**Health does not release case counts under 5 due to privacy reasons.	



### COVID-19

For 2022, there were 3203 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nunavut. Cases were reported in all 25 communities during the Omicron variant wave that began in December 2021. Case counts are impacted by testing recommendations and patterns.

### Tuberculosis (TB)

There were 52 diagnosed cases of TB in Nunavut in 2022. See Table 2 below for more information.

**Table 2: Diagnosed cases of TB in Nunavut by year**

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b># of Total Cases</b>	80	52	83	44	54	101	57	54	34	77	52

\*Health does not release community-level TB data outside of outbreaks, as it could inadvertently identify and stigmatize individuals and groups.

On November 25, 2021, Health declared a TB outbreak in Pangnirtung which remains ongoing. Health issued the public health advisory when contact tracing was no longer adequate to identify all cases involved.

There are public health staff in Pangnirtung dedicated to TB follow-up, including testing people with symptoms of TB, medication administration and TB screening for people who have had close contact with a person with active TB. The team consists of Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) workers, nurses, and paramedics.

Most TB infections in Nunavut involve the lungs (pulmonary). High TB rates in the territory are significantly worsened by socio-economic factors such as:

- Overcrowded housing;
- Population demographics (younger population), poor nutrition, and high rates of smoking;
- A colder climate that can lead to more time indoors, increasing the chances of spreading the infection to others.

### Syphilis

The syphilis outbreak in Nunavut is ongoing. For 2022, there were 58 new cases of syphilis infections reported. Health continues to follow the rates of syphilis closely and implements public health follow-up of all cases to keep the rates as low as possible.

While new infections of syphilis appear to have somewhat reduced from 2020-2022, this must be considered in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including travel and gathering restrictions, and possible changes to health care service delivery during COVID-19.

See Table 3 for more information.

Table 3: Syphilis cases by region from 2012 to 2022				
Year	Qikiqtani	Kitikmeot	Kivalliq	Total
2012	30	<5*	<5*	30+
2013	59	<5*	<5*	59+
2014	94	<5*	<5*	94+
2015	37	8	23	68
2016	23	10	88	121
2017	16	6	87	109
2018	34	0	76	110
2019	63	0	45	108
2020	26	<5*	20+	50+
2021	41	<5*	8+	53+
2022	48	<5*	9+	58+

\*Health does not release case counts under 5 due to privacy reasons and a + is included to account for these in the total.  
 Counts may be underestimated due to ongoing follow-up required for some case report forms.

### Reportable Zoonotic Diseases in Animals

Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. These include foodborne illnesses transmitted by handling or eating meat from an infected animal, and other diseases such as influenza and rabies that can be transmitted through contact.

#### Rabies

There were 16 confirmed cases of rabies in animals in 2022. Cases were identified in foxes and dogs in seven communities across the territory.

#### Trichinellosis

Trichinella parasites can be found in the meat of mammals, and the disease can be passed to people who eat this raw meat. Testing of meat samples (walrus, polar bear, whale) is carried out in Iqaluit by the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) under a partnership between NRI, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and Health.

In 2022, 56 samples were tested with three samples found positive for trichinella.

#### Avian influenza

The Government of Canada records cases of high pathogenicity avian influenza in wildlife, from animal carcasses sent from across the country, including Nunavut. One

confirmed and two suspect cases of avian influenza were detected in wild birds in Nunavut during 2022.

## FACILITY INSPECTIONS

Health is committed to the protection and promotion of public health through education, regular inspection of facilities, and investigation of environmental health hazards. During a community visit from an environmental health officer (EHO), all public facilities are inspected, complaints are investigated, and relevant education is provided.

In 2022, EHOs conducted 35 community visits and carried out a total of 594 facility inspections. Health aims to conduct environmental health inspections of facilities twice a year. However, as shown in the table below, some facilities were inspected only once in 2022. This is largely because of staffing challenges and/or delays that occur due to weather conditions.

See Table 4 for visits that took place in 2022.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Visits</b>	
<b>Qikiqtani</b>		
Arctic Bay	March	October
Clyde River	May	August
Grise Fiord	March	November
Igloolik	March	November
Iqaluit	Position is based in Iqaluit, and inspections are conducted regularly	
Kimmirut	April	
Kinngait	March	April
Pangnirtung	Position is based in Pangnirtung, and inspections are conducted regularly	
Pond Inlet	March	October
Qikiqtarjuaq	March	
Resolute Bay	March	November
Sanirajak	February	November
<b>Kivalliq</b>		
Arviat	February	August
Baker Lake	January	July      November
Chesterfield Inlet	February	June      October
Coral Harbour	July	
Nauyasat	February	October
Rankin Inlet	Position is based in Rankin Inlet, and inspections are conducted regularly	
Sanikiluaq	April	



Whale Cove	May	November
<b>Kitikmeot</b>		
Cambridge Bay	Position is based in Cambridge Bay, and inspections are conducted regularly	
Gjoa Haven	March	
Kugaaruk	March	
Kugluktuk	March	
Taloyoak	March	