

UNDER UMBARGO UNTIL MAY 16, 2025 – 7:00PM

MAY 16, 2025

JOINT STATEMENT - UPDATE ON SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR PUVIRNITUQ

Dear Puvirnitumiut,

We reach out to you as our community continues to face a challenging situation due to the ongoing disruptions in water supply and the recent severe weather conditions.

To ensure that safe and quality health care continues despite these conditions, several services are being reorganized. The Inuulitsivik Health Centre (IHC) remains open, and key services have been reinforced to better support the community. At this moment, the following services are operational:

- **Emergency services and urgent medical appointments**
- **Mental health services** (open and reinforced)
- **Persons with Loss of Autonomy (PLA) services** (open and reinforced), including regular home visits
- **Public health services**, including tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs)
- **Maternity services**

However, some regular and specialized services will be temporarily postponed to prioritize urgent needs and ensure the safety of patients and staff.

As part of the contingency plan, some hospitalized patients and Sailivik clients will be relocated based on medical priorities. These individuals will be accompanied by nurses from Puvirnituk and safely transported to partner hospitals, including the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), and the CISSS de Lanaudière. They will receive compassionate care every step of the way.

Our medical and community services teams will inform families directly with the most accurate details about the patient's transfer and timing, ensuring support throughout the process. If you have any questions or concerns about the transfer of a loved one, please contact the on-call social services at 819-988-2957, extension 4677. Some transfers are scheduled to take place this weekend, and we are here to support you throughout the process.

For non-urgent health-related questions, you can also contact Info-Santé by dialling 8-1-1.



We know this is a difficult adjustment. While we do not yet know how long these measures will be in place, our priority remains clear: to bring everyone back home as soon as it is safe and feasible, once water services are stabilized.

Throughout this period, family and community services remain active, and bottled water distribution is being ensured on a regular basis throughout the weekend, beginning Friday afternoon, May 16, thanks to the tireless efforts of our community services teams. Vulnerable individuals and elders are being prioritized for delivery, with teams from Prevention, Promotion, and Social Services also supporting general distribution efforts.

To help improve access to water, loaders — including one from the Inuulitsivik Health Centre — are working to clear snow and open routes between the pump house and residences, in hopes of facilitating safer and more reliable travel.

We want to express our deep gratitude to the extraordinary staff across all services who are stepping up in incredible ways—delivering water, checking on vulnerable community members, assisting with logistics, and remaining committed to community well-being. Your resilience and dedication inspire us all.

We are working closely with regional partners and local authorities to restore full operations as soon as possible. We are committed to keeping you informed, supporting one another, and navigating this crisis—together. In the coming days, Puvirnituqmiut are invited to follow the NRBHSS and Inuulitsivik Health Centre Facebook pages for updates and practical information as the situation evolves.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your patience, strength, and trust.

The Management Team

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