

NUNAVIK PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Breach in the reprocessing of medical devices

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Context:

Following a complaint received by the Collège des médecins du Québec (CMQ) and a report made to provincial public health authorities regarding breaches in the reprocessing of medical devices used by Dr. Adi Yoskovitch, an otolaryngologist and head and neck surgeon, a public health investigation was conducted.

As part of this investigation, the risk of bloodborne transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and HIV was assessed as low to very low, but above the recall threshold of 1 per million, by the Medical Device Reprocessing Expertise Centre of the INSPQ.

As a precautionary measure, the National Director of Public Health recommends offering HBV, HCV, and HIV testing to any person who has undergone an ENT endoscopic exam or a surgery performed by Dr. Adi Yoskovitch since 2002. This physician has practiced in several settings in the Laval and Montreal regions, primarily in private clinics, which overall reduces the risk for Nunavimmiut, who are mostly referred within the public network. Among the procedures performed in public facilities, only individuals who underwent an endoscopy (not a surgery) by Dr. Yoskovitch are affected.

A public announcement was released on July 29, 2025, to inform the population of the situation and to announce that testing will be offered across the province to those concerned. A communication tailored to Nunavik will be published on the NRBHSS website in the coming days.

In Nunavik, access to testing related to this situation will be provided as follows:

- **For the Hudson:** Users may go directly to the health centre in their community.
- **For the Ungava:** Users must call the phone line set up by the Inuulitsivik Health Centre (CSTU) to make an appointment. A voicemail service will be available at 1-844-964-9990.

Recommended procedure:

1. Determine if the user is affected by the public health directive for testing.

Ask whether the user underwent an endoscopy or surgery performed by Dr. Adi Yoskovitch since 2002

- If the user did not have an endoscopy or surgery by this physician during the specified period, they are not concerned by the testing offer. When in doubt, proceed as if the procedure did take place.

2. Determine whether the user has been tested for HBV, HCV, and HIV after the intervention.

If testing for HBV, HCV, and HIV was done more than six months after the intervention:

- Inform the user that no additional testing is required in this context.
- When in doubt, proceed with testing.

3. Determine the date of the relevant endoscopy or surgery.

If the intervention took place less than six months ago:

- Refer the user for a medical consultation in addition to conducting the blood tests.

4. Conduct the blood tests.

Test for HBV (regardless of vaccination status), HCV, and HIV.

The following tests are recommended:

- HBsAg
- Anti-HBc
- Anti-HCV
- HIV antibody (Anti-HIV)

5. Provide counselling to the user.

While awaiting results, no specific recommendations need to be given to the tested users. Routine prevention measures are considered sufficient based on the risk assessment.

6. Ensure follow-up of results.

Inform the user of their results once available. In the case of an abnormal result, the user must be managed and referred according to your health centre's usual procedures.

Please report to the Public Health Department at stbbi.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca any Nunivik resident who indicates having undergone a procedure with Dr Yoskovitch since 2002 and who may be affected by the directive.

It is important to note that this testing is specific to this situation and does not replace comprehensive STI screening, which may include other infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

Useful Link :

Preventive screening for patients of Doctor Adi Yoskovitch | Gouvernement du Québec