



Jan. 16, 2017

Update on Tuberculosis Cases in the Labrador-Grenfell Health Region

2017:

- Three cases of Tuberculosis have been confirmed in Hopedale.

2016:

- A cluster or outbreak predominated in Hopedale.
- Other cases were identified in Natuashish, Sheshatshiu, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Nain, Labrador City and St. Anthony.
- The total number of cases in the region was 22.

2015:

- Two separate clusters or outbreaks predominated in the region: Nain and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.
- The total number of cases in the region was 30.

Case Management

- The management of TB cases and contacts is coordinated through a team approach involving Labrador-Grenfell Health, the Department of Health and Community Services, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province, and partners.
- A process called contact tracing is used to identify people who have had close contact with individuals who are diagnosed with TB. Close contacts are individuals who have had regular, prolonged contact with a person who tests positive for TB.
- Contacts are closely followed over an extended period of time.
- Regular TB clinics are held at the Labrador Health Centre, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, involving a physician and the Communicable Disease Control Nurse.

- From time to time, Labrador-Grenfell Health is notified by other regions or provinces about individuals who have been identified as possible contacts of TB in other jurisdictions. These individuals are contacted and followed up.

Health risks associated with sharing cigarettes and smoking devices

- Labrador-Grenfell Health and Nunatsiavut Public Health strongly urge individuals to refrain from sharing of cigarettes, illicit drugs and smoking devices. The practice of sharing cigarettes or smoking devices such as pipes can place someone at risk for contracting a variety of communicable diseases, including TB.

What the public needs to know

- If you have been identified as a contact of someone who has TB, you will be contacted by a public health nurse. It is important for you to work with your health care providers if you are asked to be checked.
- If you are sick or feel unwell, and have any of the following symptoms: fever, night sweats, cough, weight loss, go directly to your local health care facility.

Labrador-Grenfell Health is committed to increasing public awareness about communicable diseases such as Tuberculosis through education, outreach with its partners and communities in the region, and regular updates.