

COVID-19 DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Medical Staff updates will be sent out Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

For the latest news and resources on COVID-19, visit the [Coronavirus page on OurNH](#) or on the [physician website](#). Printable PDFs of these updates are on the physician website.

Provincial case counts and statements

- **As of June 2, 2020**, there were **64** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **2,601** (4 new)
 - Active cases: **207**
 - Deaths: **165** (0 new)
 - In hospital: **31** (8 in ICU)
 - Recovered: **2,229**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – June 2, 2020

Report probable COVID-19 cases to Public Health if inconclusive test results, suspected false negative, or cannot be tested

Public Health wants to know about **probable cases of COVID-19 that will not be detected through routine laboratory reporting of positive cases**, as defined below.

If clinical suspicion is sufficiently high, Public Health will follow up with these cases in the same way as confirmed cases (i.e., contact tracing). If the [formal case definition](#) is met, they will be included in epidemiological reporting.

Physicians and nurse practitioners are asked to report to Public Health any **probable case of COVID-19**, when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

1. **Fever or cough**
2. **Clear COVID-19 exposure history** within the 14 days prior to symptom onset, for example:
 - Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or
 - Lived or worked in a facility with a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak, or

- Travelled outside Canada to an area with high levels of COVID-19 transmission;

3. **Laboratory testing is inconclusive:**

- Result is indeterminate, or
- Result is negative, but there is a strong clinical suspicion that it is a false negative, or
- Testing has not been done and is not expected to be done.

To report probable COVID-19 cases to Public Health, call the NH Communicable Disease Hub at **250-565-2990**.

Alternatively, Community MOIS users can send a task titled “Probable COVID-19 report”, containing the relevant clinical encounter, to **(RN) Lanenga, Karien**.

Intervening when patients/residents pose a risk of harm of COVID-19 transmission to others

[This document](#) provides information and direction to staff and managers when residents and patients wish to leave the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, who are capable but not adherent to personal distancing and infection control measures, and thus pose a risk of harm upon return to other residents, patients, and staff.

New biweekly updates to residents and families

The long-term care task group will be developing biweekly updates for residents of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities, and their families.

These updates will provide them with up-to-date information specific to long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

The first edition can be seen here: [Issue 1, June 1](#)

Cleaning of Exergen temporal thermometers

- The optional cover cap for the Exergen temporal thermometers is back-ordered.
- Thermometer is to be disinfected after each use.
- [Full cleaning instructions for Exergen temporal thermometers](#).

Dashboard provides detailed look at BC data

For data broken down by health authority, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#) (may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested).

Physicians in self-isolation

If you're a physician in self-isolation, email Susan Trenholm: Susan.Trenholm@northernhealth.ca

Resources for stress and emotional support

Support Lines

- **Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP)**
 - **1-844-751-2133** – 24/7 crisis counselling support and/or referral to community resources.
- **Physician Health Program** – supports available through Doctors of BC
 - Refer to information online at: [Doctors of BC: Physician Health Program](#)
- **BC Crisis Line**
 - Call **310-6789** for access to 24/7 crisis services.

Trusted links and resources

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control “new today” page](#)
- [HealthLink BC COVID-19 page](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 content in other languages](#)
- WorkSafe BC - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- [BC Physician Wellness in COVID-19](#) (BC COVID-19 Medical Student Response Team)
- Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: **1-844-645-7811**
- Northern Health Environmental Health Officer Line: **1-250-565-7322**
- For **non-medical information or to report concerns regarding non-compliance with public health orders**, call **1-888-COVID19 / 1-888-268-4319** 7 days, 7:30 am - 8 pm

For current information on restrictions on travel, gatherings and other issues, see the [Provincial Health Officer's webpage on current health topics](#).

24/7 Physician Call Centre

- Number: 250-645-7897
- Local: 507897
- Toll Free: 1-833-645-7897

Rural Outreach Support group (ROSe) for COVID-19

24/7 additional information, support, or guidance

- Toll Free: 1-888-918-0626