



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Medical Staff Digests are sent out every Tuesday and Thursday.

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COVID-19

NH's COVID-19 resources

For more COVID-19 information, see these OurNH pages:

- [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
- [Pandemic Recovery Toolkit](#)
- [Physician website](#)

Provincial case counts and statements

As of July 20, 2020, there were **69** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region. Although only four cases are considered active, it is important that we remain vigilant in our communities.

For the latest provincial numbers, please refer to the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

[Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – July 20, 2020

Updated: Therapeutic Guidance for Adult COVID-19 Patients

In light of the guidelines and recommendations created by the BC COVID Therapeutics Committee, the NH COVID-19 Therapeutics and Treatment Committee has revised the [NH COVID-19 Therapeutic Guidelines for Adults](#) to remove specific direction on the treatment of COVID-19. This will ensure the most up to date direction on therapeutics in COVID-19 in BC is readily available.

To access the most up to date information on COVID-19 treatment recommendations, please refer to the [Antimicrobial and Immunomodulatory Therapy Recommendations in Adult Patients with COVID-19](#) and the [SBAR on Therapies for COVID-19](#) on the BCCDC website.

The most recent update (June 29th) of these guidelines includes the following recommendation:

- Dexamethasone 6 mg PO/IV q24h for up to 10 days is recommended for severe/critically ill hospitalized patients requiring supplemental oxygen OR mechanical ventilation.
- If dexamethasone is not available, methylprednisolone 30 mg IV q24h or prednisone 40 mg PO q24h are the preferred alternatives.
- When dexamethasone supplies are limited, they should be reserved for critically ill patients receiving ICU-based care.

This update is also reflected in the [NH Clinical Guideline for Care of Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients with Respiratory Failure](#)

Newly developed pediatric testing guidelines

New guidelines have been developed for pediatric testing. These include a video resource developed by BC Children's Hospital (BCCH) for health-care providers to show children before a COVID-19 test to help them know what to expect and reduce anxiety. In addition, there has been an update to the Pediatric Clinical Guidance. Links to the new guidelines are below:

- Refer to the new [BCCDC Pediatric Testing Guidelines for BC for clarity on who and when to test.](#)
- Health-care providers provide the [video for children/families to watch](#) regarding nasopharyngeal swab collection prior to a COVID-19 test.
- Refer to updated provincial guidance available through: [BCCDC Clinical Care Pediatrics](#)

For additional information on these new guidelines, please view the [entire memo](#).

COVID-19 Community Guide

Northern Health has developed a [community guide](#) to help Northerners know what we're doing to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as provide information on how you can help so we can stay as safe as possible.

This guide is intended for Northerners and their families, municipalities, community groups, businesses, and other organizations. Please share this guide with friends and family, and stay connected with Northern Health for up-to-date and reliable information for your community.

New NH Check In service to be piloted at selected departments

Provincial health authorities have been investigating options to solve physical distancing in waiting rooms. NH Check In, whose tagline is “Let your name wait for you, while you do more important things,” is the solution selected by Northern Health.

NH Check In gives patients a map view of locations with estimated wait times, and the ability to virtually secure a spot in line, thus avoiding time spent in crowded waiting rooms. The tool is easy to use for both staff and patients, and can be used on computers or mobile devices.

NH Check In will initially be piloted at a small number of select NH departments, including lab and imaging, starting at the end of July – watch for announcements!

Check-ins will be managed through a web-based piece of software (i.e., there is no integration with existing system schedules such as MOIS or Cerner EMR), and training will be available for staff.

Questions? Email [Sahar Ebadzadsahraei](mailto:Sahar.Ebadzadsahraei@bc.ca), Project Coordinator.

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLink BC COVID-19 page](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 content in other languages](#)
- WorkSafe BC - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- 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 info**, 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 COVID-19 webpage](#).

Other organizational news

Expression of interest: Medical lead – rehabilitation services

Northern Health would like to invite eligible physicians to indicate their interest in the 0.2 FTE Medical Lead - Rehabilitation Services position by August 7, 2020.

The Medical Lead, Rehabilitation Services works collaboratively with the Executive Lead,

Rehabilitation Services to provide leadership and support to strategic and operational program planning, implementation, service integration, and evaluation for Rehabilitation Services in Northern B.C.

The Medical Lead, Rehabilitation Services Program works in collaboration with the Executive Lead, Rehabilitation Services Program and other physician leaders and professional staff to provide leadership and support for the alignment of rehabilitation programs and Northern Health services as well as the change management necessary to improve the quality of rehabilitation services in the North.

For more information and requirements, see the [full position posting](#).

Microsoft Teams goes live this Wednesday evening!

On Wednesday, July 22, Microsoft Teams will replace Skype for Business for meetings, calls, instant messaging, presence indicators, and more. This LearningHub recording of a [live webinar on July 16](#) gives you more information on this new platform – follow the link, then click **Register**, then **Start Course**.

Three more live webinars are scheduled – all cover the same content as the one linked to above. By attending a live webinar, you can ask questions and enjoy an interactive experience. Bring your questions! All times are PDT:

- [Thursday, July 23, 10:00-11:30](#)
- [Thursday, July 30, 10:00-11:30](#)
- [Thursday, August 6, 10:00-11:30](#)

Staff recognition (RAARs)

Random Acts of Acknowledgment and Recognition (RAARs)

We know that as medical staff at Northern Health, you often go above and beyond, and so do your colleagues. RAARs are a way for you recognize each other and say “thank you.”

- See the [latest RAARs](#)
- [RAAR someone today!](#)

Staff wellness

Resources for staff wellness are available in the right hand sidebar under the heading “Resources for stress and emotional support” on both the [COVID-19 page](#) and the [Pandemic Recovery Toolkit page](#) of OurNH.

Community Corner and Staff Deals

NH Community Corner: Buy, sell, and trade for NH staff members

Looking for a good used vehicle? Trying to sell your house? Community Corner is a private online swap-and-shop for NH staff members and medical staff. Categories include Housing to

Rent, Housing for Sale, Pets and Livestock, Furniture and Appliances, Wanted, and much more.

- [Visit Community Corner](#)
- [Post your classified ad now](#)

Staff Deals: Get a special rate!

Did you know? Because you work at Northern Health, you can get discounts at a number of businesses, including hotels, food and dining, computers, clothing, insurance, and more.

See the full list here: [Staff Deals](#).