



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

Thursday, July 30, 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 29, 2020, there were **86** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region. Eighteen cases are considered active. In light of this uptick in cases, 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. Surveillance reports for COVID-19, which includes a breakdown of cases by Health Service Delivery Area, are [posted every Thursday on the BCCDC website](#).

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – July 29, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – July 23, 2020

UPDATE: COVID-19 community outbreak on Haida Gwaii

Ongoing contact tracing and testing for COVID-19 on Haida Gwaii has identified six additional lab-confirmed cases related to a community outbreak declared on July 24. Northern Health public health staff are currently following up on a total of 20 cases; 13 are considered active, while seven individuals have recovered, at this time.

The additional cases do not represent a significant expansion of the outbreak, nor do they suggest wider spread of COVID-19 in Haida Gwaii communities. While contact tracing work continues, it is believed the new cases are also epidemiologically linked to the original outbreak cases.

Anyone experiencing potential COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate, and contact their primary care provider or the NH COVID-19 Online Clinic & Info Line, at 1-844-645-7811.

We urge all Northern BC residents to work together to prevent further spread:

- If you're sick, stay home and get tested.
- Maintain physical distancing.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Have safe gatherings: Remember - fewer faces, bigger spaces.
- Be kind to one another.

Visitation for ALC patients in acute care

On June 30, 2020, the Ministry of Health announced [updates](#) to the essential visitor policy in long-term care and seniors assisted living facilities. The change in policy is specific to long-term care and seniors assisted living.

At this time, visitation for patients designated as alternate level of care (ALC) in acute care is still limited to [essential visits only](#) (OurNH link). Northern Health remains in on-going discussions with the Ministry of Health and will communicate any changes to visitation policies as appropriate.

Long-term care/assisted living digest – issue 5

The long-term care task group will be developing updates bi-weekly for residents and families of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities

[This issue](#) of the update provides them with guidelines for bringing games into facilities when visiting and information about residents and masks and residents with sensory deprivation.

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

UHNBC Pacemaker program limited coverage (July 31 – August 23)

The UHNBC pacemaker program will have limited coverage starting **July 31 until August 23, 2020**. There will be pacemaker implant coverage available at UHNBC on August 12, 2020. **The memo provides direction for Northern Health pacemaker referrals during this time period.**

For Emergent Inpatient Pacemaker Referrals (unstable, high risk or need a temporary pacemaker)

- **Patients admitted between (July 31 and August 9) or (August 12 and August 23)** shall be transferred to a tertiary facility outside Northern Health for permanent pacemaker placement. Some unstable patients requiring temporary pacemaker may need to be transferred to ICU in Northern Health before they can be transferred safely to other facilities.
- **Patients admitted on August 10 or August 11** can be transferred to UHNBC for Permanent pacemaker placement. Please contact the on-call intensivist or Internal Medicine through the Patient Transfer Network to arrange transfers to UHNBC.

For Urgent (stable) Inpatient and outpatient Pacemaker Referrals

- **Patients admitted between July 31 and Aug 7 or Aug 12 to Aug 18** shall be transferred to a tertiary facility outside Northern Health especially if the wait would exceed 5 days.
- **Patients admitted between August 8 and August 11** can be transferred to UHNBC for permanent pacemaker implant. Please direct referrals to the NH Cardiac Triage Coordinator.
- **All outpatient pacemaker referrals during this time period** shall continue to be directed to the NH Cardiac Triage Coordinator.
- Please send pacemaker referral to the NH Cardiac Triage Coordinator (**Fax: 250-645-6315**) using the [Cardiac Implantable Device Request Form](#) available on the Physician website: <https://bit.ly/3fe9vpS>

For more information, see the [full memo](#).

Expression of interest: Physician Quality Improvement Mentors (2 needed)

Northern Health would like to invite eligible physicians to indicate their interest in the 0.1 - 0.2 FTE, Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) Mentor positions. **Two contract positions**

are available: one in the NW and one for the Rural NI. The physician will work in a dyad model with the coach in their local area, reporting to the PQI Physician Chair. Applications for this expression of interest must be delivered in writing with a resume to [Dr. Shyr Chui](#) (PQI Chair) or [Marna DeSousa](#) (PQI Manager) by **August 31, 2020**.

Summary of the role and responsibilities:

- Promotes QI with other physicians by:
 - Presenting at hospital meetings
 - Showcasing PQI locally in various venues
 - Speaks the QI language at their regular meetings and introduces other physicians to the language and concepts (at their department meetings, day-to-day work, etc.)
- Promotes the work of PQI in our region and in other venues, such as provincial meetings or regional conferences
- Participates as part of the NH PQI team by:
 - Attending NH PQI team meeting monthly, or every second month, for one hour
 - Coordinates with local coach in their HSDA to understand, inform and act as a consultant/advisor or coach for physician QI projects in their HSDA (i.e., the physician will work with the coach to identify how the physician and coach will be involved for each project)
- Co-leads the planning and implementation of QI education in their area:
 - Provides facilitation/teaching and participates in QI training sessions.
 - Provides one-on-one mentoring to physicians and PQI staff members.

Qualifications and experience:

- Medical degree and current registration with the [CPSBC](#).
- Practicing physician within NH; active privileges at any NH site.
- Have experience and history in QI planning implementation, management and evaluation, as well as formal QI training.

Jago Award Winners: Collaboration

The [Dr. Charles Jago Awards](#), named after our former board chair, acknowledge and celebrate NH staff, physicians, and teams who have made outstanding contributions to the organizational goals, reflecting our values in the process.

The winners under the “Collaboration” category for 2020 are the Northwest Operating Room managers:

- Shelley Bondy – Prince Rupert Regional Hospital
- Diane Hess – Mills Memorial Hospital
- Edwin Empinado – Kitimat General Hospital
- Kia Beertema – Wrinch Memorial Hospital
- Elena Raykov – Bulkley Valley District Hospital

The full story along with the nominator quote is available on the [NH Stories site](#). We will be sharing the rest of the winners in the following weeks.

Microsoft Teams is now live, final live training webinar next week

Microsoft Teams has now replaced Skype for Business for meetings, calls, instant messaging, presence indicators, and more. See more on the [OurNH page on Microsoft Teams!](#)

Helpful documents

- [FAQs](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide](#)

Training sessions (live and recorded)

- LearningHub recording of a [live webinar on July 16](#): Follow the link, then click **Register**, then **Start Course**.
- The final live webinar is happening next week. It will cover the same content as the one above; however, you can ask questions and enjoy an interactive experience:
 - [Thursday, August 6, 10:00-11:30 PDT](#)

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](#).