



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

Thursday, August 13, 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](#)

Provincial case counts and statements

As of August 12, 2020, there were **104** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region. Fourteen cases are considered active. As always, 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 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](#) – August 12, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – August 6, 2020

Long-Term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue #6 now available

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

[This issue](#) provides guidelines for bringing pets into a facility, a reminder about visitation guidelines, and information on how Northern Health is resuming in-facility respite and inter-facility transfer.

Updates to COVID-19 Sample Collection Guideline

The [COVID-19 Sample Collection Guideline – Version 2.1](#) has been updated. The update includes acceptable swab types for testing COVID-19.

Update: Four Clinical Response Guidelines and a Site Preparation Checklist for outpatient settings

The following COVID-19 guidance resources have been updated:

- [Clinical Response Guidelines for COVID-19 for outpatient settings](#)
- [Clinical Response Guidelines for COVID-19 for community based service](#)
- [Clinical Response Guidelines for COVID-19 for in-home visits and in-home care provision](#)
- [Clinical Response Guidelines for COVID-19 for NH outpatient collection sites](#)
- [Site Preparation Checklist for COVID-19 for outpatient settings](#)

Updates include:

- Changes to screening symptoms and COVID priority codes from BCCDC
- Links to patient handouts from BCCDC
- Updated guidance on PPE usage
- Cleaning and disinfecting roles and responsibilities

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](#).

Overdose prevention and response

New Lifeguard app launched to help prevent overdoses

The [Lifeguard App](#) is the latest tool in B.C.'s toolbox to support people who face the risk of overdose, and who use drugs alone. It will connect them to emergency services, so that in the event of an overdose, it will initiate a response to a potentially fatal situation. The app is an innovative approach that acknowledges the reality that more than half of all overdose deaths occur while people use alone.

This app is now available in the Northern Health regions and can be downloaded at both the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Please advise clients who use substances to consider using this app.

Other organizational news

News from Across NH

Jago Award Winners: Innovation

The [Dr. Charles Jago Awards](#), named after our former board chair, acknowledge and celebrate the NH staff, physicians, and teams who have made outstanding

The winners under the "Innovation" category for 2020 are the members of the mySchedule Team:

- Lee-Ann Callihoo-Bowness
- Devan Joneson
- Leon Verhelst
- Martin Stentrop
- Tracie Smith
- Parwinder Billing
- Carla Cozza-Greco (retired)

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.

Revision of NH Inter-Facility Cardiac Catheterization Transfer Algorithm

The Northern Health Cardiac Inter-Facility Transfer Algorithm has been revised in partnership with BC Emergency Health Services and the NH Patient Transfer and Flow Office.

These amendments provide clarity to the cardiac triage coordinator role and help streamline the transfer process for Northern Health frontline staff and physicians, the NH Cardiac Triage Coordinator (CTC), and BC Patient Transfer Services (PTS).

See the [revised algorithm](#).

Questions?

Contact Mattie Clark, Cardiac Triage Coordinator, NH Patient Transfer and Flow Office

- Mattie.Clark@northernhealth.ca
- 250-565-5515

Staff recognition (RAARs)

Random Acts of Acknowledgment and Recognition (RAARs)

We know that as a Northern Health staff member, you often go above and beyond, and so do your co-workers. 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](#).