



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A twice-weekly update for medical staff*

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

Medical Staff Digests are sent out every Tuesday and Thursday.

## Sections

COVID-19.....	1
Overdose prevention and response .....	4
Other organizational news.....	4

## 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 September 14, 2020**, there were **216** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region. A total of **32** cases in the North are considered active, and there has been **1** death associated with COVID-19 in the North. 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](#) – September 14, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – September 10, 2020

## Thank you to all NH staff and physician for your help with PPE during this difficult time

The Clinical Oversight Group and PPE Implementation Task Group would like to thank all Northern Health staff and physicians for continuing to conserve the PPE supply. We greatly appreciate your dedication to patient and staff safety, and your adaptability when product changes arise.

We'd also like to recognize the supply coordinators for all their hard work in managing orders and inventory at their sites, and doing the daily counts.

Thank you to the PPE champions for all that they do. A PPE Champion is a dedicated and knowledgeable person at each site to assist staff and physicians to use PPE correctly and facilitate optimal use of PPE. You can find the contact information for the PPE Champion at each site on [OurNH](#).

## Temporary Shortage of Exam Gloves

Exam gloves are temporarily limited province-wide. Supply Chain continues to source substitutes, but temporary measures are needed to ensure NH's supply of exam gloves does not run critically low. Efforts to conserve large nitrile gloves in August were successful but we know it has been challenging. We ask everyone's help with this expanded request.

**Immediate conservation efforts are requested** to ensure maximum flexibility within NH to deliver appropriate protection in all program areas for ourselves and for our colleagues:

- **Includes nitrile, vinyl, and extended cuff nitrile exam gloves in all sizes.**
- Please watch for updates in the coming days and weeks.

### Front line staff:

- To reduce glove use, try to plan multiple care tasks at each patient encounter to minimize glove changes. Always change gloves and perform hand hygiene between patient interactions.
- Consult and follow the Exam Glove [Selection Guide](#).
- Do not stockpile gloves on the unit.
- Collaborate at the department and facility level to support these temporary measures while working safely.

### PPE Champions/Central PPE Supply Coordinators/Managers:

- Extra boxes of gloves from units should be redistributed to other areas of the facility via Central Supply.
- Department-level requests to Central Supply should cover daily needs if department is on site, and up to weekly needs for off-site programs or more isolated locations.
- Additional order submissions may be required.
- The [PPE Request form](#) (OurNH link) is expected to be updated to add vinyl gloves; for now, please order vinyl gloves in the explanation portion.

## Northern Health experiencing low levels of COVID-19 reagents

Northern Health is experiencing low levels of COVID-19 reagents for the GenXpert machines due to delays in reagent delivery along with provincial shortages.

Effective immediately and until further notice, in-house testing will be limited to HOSP and LTC patient groups only.

All other patient groups will be tested at Life Labs. Additional information is available in the [memo](#).

## Helpful resources from BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

These links contain information about criteria to assess risk for health care workers exposed to COVID-19 patients while at work, as well as information about returning to work after exposure or illness.

- [Exposures and return to work for health care workers](#)
- [BC Health Care Worker Return to Work Decision Tree](#)

## Selective Re-opening of Adult Day Programs

In consultation with health authorities, the Ministry has determined that selective re-opening of adult day programs can occur.

Selective re-opening allows adult day programs that operate in standalone facilities, or in long-term care homes or assisted living facilities with no shared spaces or staff, to resume operations in accordance with the following:

- All sites must follow the requirements outlined in the [Ministry of Health: guideline for reopening Adult Day Programs](#) (OurNH link).
- All sites must have an approved [COVID-19 Operating Plan](#) (OurNH link) before resuming operations as described in the Ministry of Health Guideline.
- Where clients cannot or will not adhere to physical distancing requirements, sites should refer to [COVID-19 ethics analysis: intervening when patients or residents pose a risk of COVID-19 transmission to others](#) (OurNH link) to inform any decision regarding participation in adult day programs.

To support the safe restart of programming in alignment with the Ministry of Health guidelines, the LTC/AL Task Group will be working with operational leadership and staff in all adult day programs. See the [memo](#) (OurNH link) for more information.

## 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**
- **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

---

### Anti-stigma resource: Compassionate Action Modules Part 2

The [Compassionate Action modules](#) are a series of interactive case study videos about stigma and discrimination experienced by people who use drugs (PWUD) and an accompanying reflection/discussion guide. The videos are based on real-life experiences of PWUD, and build on the [Compassionate Engagement](#) modules.

The modules are designed to engage PWUD and the people who provide services to them, such as health care and frontline service providers, first responders, and organizational managers.

To access the Compassionate Action Modules, visit [Toward the Heart](#).

## Other organizational news

---

### News from Across NH

#### Electronic medical records transferring away from Synapse

The Community Health Record (CHR) project team is completing the decommissioning of Synapse and the transition of electronic medical records for mental health and substance use to MOIS/CMOIS and PowerChart. The next step is to transfer clinical documentation from Synapse into CMOIS. **This will take place September 19 - 20, 2020.**

#### How will this impact physicians? What's going to happen to physician consultation notes once Synapse is gone?

For physicians who regularly access Synapse, historical mental health and substance use documentation will be found in CMOIS. Moving forward, acute admission documentation will be located in PowerChart, while community visit documentation will be located in CMOIS.

If you're not currently set up for CMOIS and need access to it, please have your clinic manager contact the NH ITS Service Desk at [servicedesk@northernhealth.ca](mailto:servicedesk@northernhealth.ca).

For more information on how to access Synapse information using CMOIS, see next week's September 22 medical staff digest.

For questions or more information, contact Brad Van Dolah, Clinical Informatics Specialist, at [Bradley.vandolah@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Bradley.vandolah@northernhealth.ca).

### **Congratulations to Viva Swanson, first winner of a free iPad for the HealthLife early adopters contest!**

Congratulations to Viva Swanson, NE Advisor, Leadership Development, winner of the first of three iPads for the [HealthLife early adopters contest!](#) There are still two iPads left to win. It's a great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping early.

(**Note:** The trial is for NH staff and medical staff only for now – no family members or friends yet).

The next draws will be:

- **Wednesday, September 23, 2020**
- **Wednesday, October 7, 2020**

To sign up for the trial, [send us an email](#) with the last 4 digits of your Personal Health Number in the body.

Everyone who has signed up for the HealthLife trial since the launch on August 21 will automatically be entered in the draw. All you have to do to enter the draw is to sign up for the trial. [See full contest details.](#)

Your feedback is important – tell us how we can improve! You have 2 feedback options and we encourage you to use both:

1. Email [patient.activation@northernhealth.ca](mailto:patient.activation@northernhealth.ca) with the great, good, bad, or ugly. We want it all!
2. Complete the short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/HealthLifeSurvey>

For more information, visit [HealthLife on OurNH.](#)

### **Celebrate World Patient Safety Day – September 17, 2020**

[World Patient Safety Day](#) focuses on increasing public awareness and engagement, building global understanding, and inspiring unification and action to promote patient safety. This year's theme is "Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety".

To take part in commemorating this important day, sign up for the following [Canadian Patient Safety Institute \(CPSI\) events](#) :

- [Watch the premiere of Building a Safer System](#)  
This is a documentary showcasing the 17-year impact of the Canadian Patient

Safety Institute, followed by an expert panel discussion on “Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety”.

Sept. 17, 9 am - 10:30 am PST

- [Take part in the Legacy Celebration](#)

Current and past CPSI CEOs will reflect on the successes, challenges, and future of patient safety in Canada, followed by interactive breakout sessions with online participants.

Sept. 17, 11 am - noon PST

At Northern Health, worker safety and patient safety are complementary goals. We are working hard to make systems of care safer for those who give and receive care!

## Staff wellness and more

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 Northern Health’s staff intranet, OurNH.

For more information on [staff deals](#), the [NH Community Corner](#), and [RAARs](#), visit [OurNH](#).