



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A twice-weekly update for medical staff*

**Thursday, September 24, 2020**

Medical Staff Digests are sent out every Tuesday and Thursday.

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## COVID-19

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### NH's COVID-19 resources

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

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

### COVID-19 case counts and statements

Confirmed NH cases since the beginning of the pandemic, according to the **September 23 provincial update**:

- **273** cases
  - **33** active
  - **7** new
- **2** deaths (**0** new)

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 23, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – September 17, 2020

## Revised NH Regional Transfer Algorithm with Guiding Principles

Revisions have been made to the [NH Regional Transfer Algorithm](#). These revisions include the latest BCCDC screening criteria, an updated number for the Regional Triage Intensivist, and a link to the NH COVID-19 Transfer Referral Pathways.

The updated version also clarifies the role of the NH RN Response Team which will facilitate moderate to high acuity transfers in coordination with BCEHS. This should reduce the need for RNs and/or physicians based in rural and remote communities to leave their community to escort patients to definitive care.

## 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

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### Anti-stigma resource: NH Learning Hub Course

Health care providers play a key role in creating supportive environments for people who use substances. Drug use stigma prevents people who use drugs from seeking help and creates barriers to accessing lifesaving health care services.

An education resources has been created: [Creating Supportive Environments for People Who Use Substances](#). To access the course visit the [Learning Hub](#).

## Other organizational news

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### News from Across NH

#### Influenza Prevention Program 2020/21 - Peer Immunizers Needed!

Peer Immunizers are RNs, RPNs, LPNs or Pharmacists who have volunteered to provide influenza immunization to peers and unit/site employees while working their regular scheduled shifts. This gives employees timely access to influenza immunization.

If you are interested in this role please email: [influenza@northernhealth.ca](mailto:influenza@northernhealth.ca)

## **The Pain Clinic at UHNBC now has three pain physicians – learn how they can help**

The Pain Clinic at UHNBC is a regional clinic that serves patients and supports primary care providers across the region. With an additional pain physician in the clinic, the scope of patients being seen has increased. These chronic pain specialists are now also available for consultation via RACE (1-855-605-RACE, option 12).

[Learn more about referring your patients.](#)

## **Register for Coaching Out of the Box (COOTB) – Virtual Delivery Cohort Starting October 13, 2020**

Learn to bring out the best in people through coach-like conversations which help them improve communication, enhance relationships, foster accountability, create engagement and build resilience.

Practice these skills and receive feedback through mentor-led practice sessions.

At the end of the course, participants will receive a COOTB certificate of completion. COOTB is also a required component of the Core LINX Leadership program.

This program is open to both unionized leaders and non-contract managers. Due to COVID-19, NH is offering a virtual delivery over a 9-week period. Each cohort will have 12 participants.

[Registration is Now Open](#)

**Participants must attend all sessions between October 13 and December 10 (Tuesdays and Thursdays for 9 weeks).** See the full session schedule on the [registration page](#).

If you are unable to commit to all sessions, you will not be accepted into the course. Space is limited and we currently have a long waitlist of NH staff eager to participate.

For questions and inquiries, email [education@northernhealth.ca](mailto:education@northernhealth.ca).

[Learn more about COOTB](#)

## **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](#).