



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

Thursday, September 3, 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 September 2, 2020, there were **164** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region. A total of **41** cases in the North 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](#) – September 2, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – August 27, 2020

Guideline for COVID Outbreaks in Acute, LTC and Assisted Living facilities In NH

[The Guideline for COVID Outbreaks in Acute, LTC and Assisted Living facilities In NH](#) provides information on outbreak detection, readiness, definitions, management, and termination. It includes forms, signage, line lists, and posters.

An outbreak occurs when at least one resident/patient or health care worker has a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, AND:

- **Residents/patients:** timing and/or exposure history must show that the infection was acquired at the facility (rather than prior to admission).
- **Health care worker:** the Health Care Worker must have worked at the facility during their infectious phase.

Infection Prevention will be discussing outbreak protocols throughout the fall with LTC, Assisted living, and Acute Care facilities.

Long-Term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 7

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](#) of the update provides guidelines about bringing food and drinks to family members in facilities, clarification to the visiting guidelines, and a survey about the impact of visiting restrictions in long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

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

What you can do to support those at risk of an overdose during COVID-19 in your community

The current Provincial [Overdose Alert](#) as well as the [NH Overdose Alert](#) continue. Please be aware that the current drug supply is extremely toxic. Recent reports includes contamination of both opioids as well as stimulants. It is important to be aware that all drugs may be contaminated.

What you can do:

Northern Health (NH) has deemed harm reduction services as an essential service during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. It is important to ensure that necessary healthcare and harm reduction services targeting this vulnerable population are open within communities. Many overdose prevention sites continue to provide drug checking services.

Outreach services offering phone screening and supply distribution to clients to minimize contact and promote physical distancing.

Additional Resources to support clients during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [Supporting Harm Reduction Distribution in the Context of COVID-19](#) (OurNH link)
- [COVID-19 Resources for NH Staff and Community Partners Working with Populations who Experience Vulnerabilities](#)

FNHA launches new overdose prevention campaign and virtual health services to combat substance overdose

August 31 was International Overdose Awareness Day. To mark the occasion, the [First Nations Health Authority \(FNHA\)](#) has launched new supports and resources for Indigenous people affected by BC's dual public health crises – the overdose crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FNHA has started an overdose prevention public education campaign that includes important messages on the FNHA's website and social media platforms. In two weeks, the campaign will expand with transit shelter advertising in five cities throughout the province. The FNHA is also now offering the [First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service](#), which allows First Nations people in BC to virtually access substance use addiction medicine specialists/counsellors and psychiatrists.

- For more information, see [the full story on the FNHA website](#).

Other organizational news

News from Across NH

Give us your feedback on a new order set for adult inpatients with eating disorders

We are requesting feedback from physicians, dietitians, nursing staff, pharmacy, and other allied health service providers to review the new order set on [Adult Eating Disorders: Medical Stabilization Orders for Inpatient Admissions](#).

The order set will be available to all communities across Northern Health. It will help standardize care for adult inpatients with eating disorders who need medical stabilization. These standards are based on provincial guidelines for inpatient medical management of eating disorders, and were made in direct consultation with St. Paul's Inpatient Eating Disorder Program.

Online clinical practice standards are available through OurNH for further review. Please submit all feedback by 4 pm on September 18.

Feedback can be sent to Daney Disher, Clinical Nursing Lead, Daney.Disher@northernhealth.ca.

Jago Award Winner: Empathy

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

The winner under the "Empathy" category for 2020 is Darren Woolgar.

The full story along with the nominator quote is available on the [NH Stories site](#).

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](#).