



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

Tuesday, September 8, 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 4, 2020, there were **174** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region. A total of **51** 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 4, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – September 3, 2020

Notice to report: Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children and Adolescents (MIS-C)

A rare condition associated with COVID-19, Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children and Adolescents (MIS-C), has been described.

To monitor for occurrences in BC, Dr. Bonnie Henry, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has issued a [Notice to report cases of MIS-C](#). This notice requires and enables physicians to provide personal information about suspect and confirmed cases to medical health officers, who will report this information to the PHO.

Patients to be reported are children and adolescents 0-19 years of age with fever ≥ 3 days and two of the following:

- Acute gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea)
- Rash or bilateral non-purulent conjunctivitis or muco-cutaneous inflammation signs (oral, hands or feet)
- Hypotension or shock
- Features of myocardial dysfunction, or pericarditis, or valvulitis, or coronary abnormalities (ECHO findings or elevated Troponin/BNP/NT-proBNP)
- Evidence of coagulopathy (abnormal PT, PTT, elevated d-dimer)
 - And elevated markers of inflammation such as ESR, C-reactive protein, or procalcitonin
 - And no other obvious microbial cause of inflammation, including bacterial sepsis, staphylococcal or streptococcal shock syndromes, or no alternative plausible obvious diagnosis

Such people should be tested for evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection (positive PCR test or serology) for confirmation. The BCCDC has [guidance for clinicians](#) available.

Report cases and suspect cases to the Central CD Hub at 250-565-2990 or CentralCDHUB@northernhealth.ca.

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

New modelling and projections for COVID-19 in BC

[New modelling and projection figures](#) are available from the BCCDC. These figures represent the latest epidemiological numbers and data trends and were used in the [September 3 COVID-19 joint statement](#).

[All BCCDC COVID-19 modelling and projections](#) are available on both the [BCCDC website](#) and on the [modelling and projections page](#) of the NH physician website.

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

Anti-stigma resource: Compassionate Engagement Modules Part 1

The [Compassionate Engagement Modules](#) are a series of interactive case studies about stigma and discrimination experienced by People Who Use Drugs (PWUD). These modules are designed to engage PWUD and the people who provide services to them (health care providers, frontline service providers, managers, and leadership).

The Compassionate Engagement Modules provide an opportunity for PWUD and providers to learn from each other's perspectives, develop solutions, and practice compassionate care, effective communication, and self-advocacy.

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

Other organizational news

News from Across NH

Share your thoughts on getting health care by video, phone or text: Survey ends tomorrow!

Virtual health care is health care you get by video, phone, or text. It's also called digital health care. The [Rural Coordination Centre of BC](#), one of Northern Health's partners, is asking everyone in Northern BC what a successful virtual health care experience would look like for them – take part and share your thoughts!

[Click to take the survey now](#) (it's 100% anonymous). The survey closes tomorrow at midnight – last chance to take part! Your ideas will help planners set priorities and create virtual care opportunities for people in the north.

Thank you in advance for taking part! The results will be shared...watch for details!

Third-year NMP students begin clerkship

The Northern Medical Program (NMP) Class of 2022 have started their clerkship (3rd year), as of August 31.

The interruption in clinical training that occurred this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the start of their clerkship from the start of June to the end of August, and they were withdrawn from all in-person learning in March.

It may be daunting for students to enter the current clinical environment after several months of time away from in-person classes and clinical teaching. Given this, we ask for your patience and understanding when teaching and supervising students during the coming months. To help you in your teaching roles I encourage you to review the resources prepared by UBC Faculty of Medicine, referred to below, which include guidance on safety, which patients they should and should not see, PPE, virtual learning, and a link to the healthcare worker risk exposure tool.

Information for Preceptors

- [Safety Information](#) – outline of what types of patients students can see, what types of procedures students can participate in, and PPE requirements for students (module to be released later this week)
- [Virtual Clinical Teaching](#) - information on providing virtual patient care, technology considerations and support, and additional virtual clinical teaching resources

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

- Devin Spooner, Clerkship Director (devin.spooner@unbc.ca) or
- Jennifer Young, Curriculum and Assessment Manager - Years 3 & 4 (jennifer.young@unbc.ca).

On behalf of the NMP, thank you for continuing to teach and support our students in these difficult times. The NMP is successful because of your commitment and contributions.

Dr. Paul Winwood

Associate Vice President, Northern Medical Program, UNBC; and Regional Associate Dean, Northern BC, UBC Faculty of Medicine

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](#).