



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

Tuesday, November 10, 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](#)

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of November 9, **469** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **45**
- New cases: **3**
- Currently admitted to ICU: **2**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **3 (0 new)**

As always, it is important that we remain vigilant in our communities.

For the latest provincial numbers, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

Surveillance reports, including a breakdown of cases by HSDA, are [posted each Friday by the BCCDC](#).

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – November 9, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – November 6, 2020

Masking in NH Facilities – New Provincial Policy Update

The province has issued a new policy: [Mask Use in Health Care Facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

This policy makes medical mask use mandatory for all patients and visitors to health care facilities. Masks will be provided by the health authority. Although the policy takes effect immediately, we still have much work to do to sort out implementation and compliance measures across all of our sites.

We recognize this will require a shift for facilities currently applying other exposure control measures and corresponding [COVID-19 Facility Safety Plans](#). We are striving to ensure all stakeholders are fully supported to effectively implement and adhere to the policy.

To this end, a time-limited working group has been established with the goals of developing guidance materials to support local implementation and updating current personal protective equipment guidelines to align with this new policy.

Additional information is available on [the memo that was distributed November 6](#).

New COVID-19 restrictions for the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, non-essential travel to these regions discouraged

Dr. Bonnie Henry has issued new public health orders for the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health regions. The orders require everyone in those communities, with the exception of Bella Coola Valley and Central Coast residents, to limit social interactions, until November 23. That means:

Social gatherings:

- Socialize only with your immediate household. No parties or get togethers.
- No community-based social gatherings.
- No unnecessary travel. Stay in your local community.
- No receptions for funerals or weddings.

Group physical activities:

- Indoor group physical activities must stop until new safety plans can be approved by local Medical Health Officers.
- Indoor sports where physical distancing cannot be maintained must be modified.
- Travel for sports into or out of these regions must stop.

At this time, non-essential travel to the affected health regions from other parts of BC, including Northern Health, is also strongly discouraged by provincial health officials. For

more information, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/lower-mainland>

PPE allocation framework vs. recent BCCDC Guidelines: Where to find the most up-to-date information

The [PPE Allocation framework](#) was released in March to outline PPE prioritization during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Although the framework has not been updated, PPE updates have been outlined in BCCDC guidelines and protocols specific to areas of care (e.g., [Protocols for Surgical Procedures During COVID-19: Adult](#), [Safe Delivery of Immunization Services during COVID-19 Response](#)).

Please refer to the [BCCDC website](#) for the most up-to-date PPE recommendations. If there hasn't been a guideline created for your area, you can refer to the PPE allocation framework for direction.

For a broad overview of PPE information, please visit [PPE resources on OurNH](#). Northern Health [PPE champions](#) are also available as a resource and can answer questions on PPE usage.

A reminder about confidentiality

NH staff are reminded that the privacy of our patients is of utmost importance, at all times, and especially now during the COVID-19 situation. Please ensure that you are not posting any information about patients and COVID-19 cases on social media channels, or through personal networks. Patients trust us to keep their personal information confidential.

Review the [social media policy](#) and [Data Access and Confidentiality Agreement](#).

Remember that we are legislated to protect the privacy of patients under the [BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#).

How to talk to your family and friends about COVID-19

As health authority employees and medical staff, your personal networks may be looking to you for your information about COVID-19.

[This infographic](#) can help you understand what you can say. If asked about COVID-19 cases in the our region, it is best to let people know you are bound by confidentiality and point them to trusted sources for up-to-date information, such as the BC Centre for Disease Control, for [answers to common questions](#) and [current data](#).

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

The LifeguardApp supports people who use substances alone

Social distancing orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic have made it more difficult for people to have someone with them if they use drugs. The LifeguardApp supports people who are at the highest risk of overdose death: people who use substances alone.

The app connects people to emergency responders automatically if they are unresponsive. It can be downloaded for free on a smartphone or tablet through both the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#).

To learn more about the app, visit: <https://lifeguarddh.com/>

Other organizational news

News from Across NH

MOIS update changes that will affect providers

On the evening of November 20, all Northern Health instances of MOIS will be upgraded to MOIS 2.26. Two changes with this update will affect providers directly:

Encounter summary:

The encounter summary will be updated to match the rest of the summaries in the patient's chart: it includes new functionality, such as the ability to send tasks from the summary, and hyperlinks to where the records live in the Patient Chart. For more information on this change, see the [support document](#).

DSM-5 Codeset:

There will now be the option to select the DSM-5 code system anywhere MOIS allows for documentation of a condition. As DSM-5 has a licensing fee, you must agree to a licensing agreement before using the DSM-5 codeset, and these agreements will be audited to track appropriate use. This agreement will pop up in MOIS the first time you use DSM-5. To limit licensing fees, data entry for conditions attached to the DSM-5 should be completed by the user attached to the licensing agreement. For more information on these changes and how to use them, see the [support document](#).

All new PharmaNet users to enrol in PRIME as of December 1, 2020

As of December 1, 2020, all eligible healthcare practitioners needing new access to PharmaNet to deliver direct patient care must enrol in PRIME. This includes individual PharmaNet users in community pharmacies, health authorities and private community health practices. A new user may be someone requiring first-time PharmaNet access, or who may have had access in the past but not on November 30, 2020.

PRIME for practitioners is a simple online application that can be filled out in minutes, once you have [set up your mobile BC Services Card](#). Practitioners apply to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for approval to access PharmaNet. The Ministry is the sole authority that can grant approval to access PharmaNet.

Users provide contact information, college ID information (if applicable), and job titles (if accessing PharmaNet on behalf of others). They agree to terms of access and declare any past issues relating to confidential information. The terms of access signed in PRIME replace previous paper PharmaNet access agreements (ComPAP, MPAP) and confidentiality undertakings (HAP, EDAP, BPMH).

For full details, see this [PharmaCare newsletter from the Province of BC](#).

AccessHIM goes live November 17, paving the way for future EMR development

The Cerner system to enable NH-wide medical chart record management goes into effect Nov 17. This will aid the regional HIM team in medical chart retrieval, medical records requests for information, and deficiency management.

The functionality will allow for future development of electronic medical records management which will include more advanced use of Cerner Message Centre.

If you have questions about this change, please reach out to your local HIM Regional Manager: Sheena Bartell (NW), Laurie Ratcliffe (NE) or Nona Gatchalian (NI), or email AccessHIM@northernhealth.ca.

Education opportunity: BC Specialists and family doctors sponsored to participate virtually at the IHI National Forum

The Specialist Services and the Shared Care Committees are pleased to sponsor 100 specialists and 100 family physicians in BC via their Physician Leadership Scholarship fund to participate virtually at the IHI National Forum from December 6 to 9, 2020.

The aim of this year's conference is to make health care work equitably for all.

Please note that only the cost of registration is covered through this sponsorship, and not sessional time.

How to Apply: Interested physicians can email JCCtraining@doctorsofbc.ca by Friday, November 13, 2020 with the following information: Full Name, MSP Number, Family

Physician/Specialist, Specialty (if applicable), and Health Authority. Selection will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to new participants. You will hear back from us about your selection within one week of the deadline.

Wellness and more

Resources for wellness are available on the [Health and Wellness page](#) of the Physicians Website.

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