



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A twice-weekly update for medical staff*

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020**

Medical Staff Digests are sent out every Tuesday and Thursday.

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## In Plain Sight

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### **M.E. Turpel-Lafond's Indigenous racism report released**

Today, the Hon. Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond (Aki-Kwe) released her final report, [\*In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in BC Health Care\*](#). Key findings from the investigation include:

- Widespread Indigenous-specific stereotyping, racism, and discrimination exist in the BC health-care system.
- Racism limits access to medical treatment and negatively affects the health and wellness of Indigenous peoples in BC.

Led by Dr. Margo Greenwood, VP, Indigenous Health, our Indigenous Health team is supporting leadership as we review and digest the report. We will be working closely with the Ministry of Health, as well as with the Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee and the Métis Nation of BC/Northern Health Leadership Committee as we address the recommendations in the report. For more information, see the following links:

- [\*In Plain Sight\* full report](#)
- [\*In Plain Sight\* summary report](#)
- [Ministry of Health statement](#)
- [Joint Health Authority statement](#)
- Indigenous Staff Wellness Support Line: **250-645-7870 (local 507870)**

## 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](#)

### COVID-19 case counts and statements

**845** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **270**
- New cases: **31**
- Currently in hospital: **29**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **12**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **6**

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 30, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – November 27, 2020

### Policy on Ministry of Health payment for physician planning time in response to COVID-19

On November 16, 2020, the Ministry of Health announced additional one-time funds to support the COVID-19 health sector plan for fall/winter 2020/2021. This funding is for active physician planning through Health Authorities (HAs), Medical Staff Associations (MSAs), or Divisions of Family Practice (DOFP).

Physicians will be compensated for active planning performed between October 19, 2020 and March 31, 2021 at the relevant committee sessional rate to a maximum of 20 hours in total, provided the following criteria are met:

- Meetings must be about service delivery planning, redesign, and implementation related to provision of patient care at a community, facility, regional and/or provincial level in response to COVID-19.
- The planning work is extraordinary, and goes beyond usual department, DOFP or MSA meetings
- Planning for patient care in the outpatient physician office settings is not eligible.
- Physician was actively participating in meetings and planning work initiated through DOFPs, MSAs and HAs. Payment will not be provided for passive attendance at meetings.

For more information, and how to submit claims for time, [see the full article](#).

## Three Northern Health public health nurses have been featured in the winter 2020 issue of *Update* for their work in COVID-19 prevention measures

The pandemic has put a spotlight on our front-line healthcare workers; however, there are many medical professionals who operate behind the scenes who have had a large impact on our COVID-19 response.

The winter 2020 issue of *Update*, the magazine of the [BC Nurses' Union](#), has highlighted three of our public health nurses to share their work and how it has changed since the pandemic started.

To read more from Lindsay Willoner and Nancy Dhaliwal from Terrace, and Jamie Hill from Prince George about being a public health nurse during an active pandemic, [see page 48 of the latest issue of \*Update\*](#).

## 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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### 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

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### News from across NH

#### **Prevent influenza, mask or immunize. Report your choice; it's your duty to care.**

Have you had your flu shot, or decided you won't get one this year? Don't forget to let us know.

Report your choice at [influenzareporting.org](https://influenzareporting.org) for staff, or [medicalstaffhealth.phsa.ca](https://medicalstaffhealth.phsa.ca) for physicians.

More questions or information, check out the flu page on OurNH or email us at [influenza@northernhealth.ca](mailto:influenza@northernhealth.ca).

#### **An exciting opportunity to participate in Hospital @ Home: Job postings now up for Prince George!**

Hospital @ Home (H@H) is a service where eligible patients may receive hospital-level acute care in their home. A physician, nurses, and other interprofessional team members travel to the patient's home to provide care or connect virtually to provide daily assessment, supplemented by monitoring through technology.

The H@H program will be starting with a prototype in Prince George, out of UHNBC. [Job postings are now available for internal applicants](#) for a Care Coordinator, Registered Nurses, and a Nursing Unit Clerk.

More information about H@H is provided in a [frequently asked questions document \(OurNH link\)](#).

For questions about the postings in Prince George, please contact Greg Marr at [Gregory.marr@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Gregory.marr@northernhealth.ca).

#### **MD undergraduate admissions: Interviewers needed**

The MD Undergraduate Admissions Office would like to invite you to apply to participate as an interviewer in our next round of multiple mini-interviews (MMI). This is open to applicants from across the Faculty of Medicine and community, not just those associated with the MD program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 MMI will be taking place in a completely virtual format. This transition is designed to ensure the safety of all our participants including both applicants and interviewers. Please take some time to review the following considerations in order to determine whether this is a format that you will be comfortable participating in.

The application will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and is due Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 11:59 PM PST.

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

### **Save the Date! BC Research and Quality Conference – October 27 - 29, 2021**

Due to concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic, the BC Research and Quality Conference has been rescheduled to October 27 - 29, 2021. This will ensure the conference stays true to its objectives focused on facilitating networking, knowledge sharing, and inspiring new ideas in a safe way for conference participants.

We will continue to highlight and celebrate northern research and quality projects and encourage you to join our regular monthly [Brown Bag Series](#) and [Health Research Seminar Series](#).

Please visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

### **Northern Health Connections: Upcoming holiday schedule and maintenance breaks**

The Northern Health Connections program will be on a modified schedule starting December 17, followed by a break for the holiday season.

With decreased demand and reduced ridership during this period, we will use this time for repairs and maintenance to the fleet of Northern Health Connections buses.

**Regular routes will resume service the week of January 7, 2021.**

For more information, see the [full December 2020 schedule](#).

### **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](#).