



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A twice-weekly update for medical staff*

**Thursday, December 17, 2020**

Medical Staff Digests are sent out every Tuesday and Thursday.

## Sections

COVID-19.....	1
Overdose prevention and response .....	3
Other organizational news.....	3

## COVID-19

---

### 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

As of December 16, **1,415** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **385**
- New cases: **47**
- Currently in hospital: **44**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **19**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **15**

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](#) – December 16, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – December 11, 2020

## Changes to Public Health COVID-19 case and contact management

The recent surge in lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region is putting pressure on Public Health case and contact management (contact tracing) resources.

There is currently a backlog of people who have tested positive for COVID-19, but have not yet been contacted by Public Health.

To address these challenges, Northern Health is:

- Deploying additional staff to case and contact management teams
- Refining and streamlining processes to ensure efficiency in case notification, monitoring, and discharge from self-isolation.

### Opportunities for primary care providers

- Continue to refer patients for testing according to BCCDC guidelines and inform patients of positive results.
- Monitor COVID-19 lab results (as per usual process) and complete clinical health monitoring and clinical management of attached COVID-19 positive patients.
  - Primary care providers will determine the frequency and process appropriate for the patient.
  - There is no expectation that any report of clinical health monitoring be provided to Public Health.
- Efforts will be made to connect patients with their primary care provider and to support communication between public health and primary care providers

For more information, read the [full memo](#) and [FAQ document](#).

### Northern Health Virtual Clinic: Data on patient visits

The Northern Health Virtual Clinic supports after-hours access to COVID-19 and primary care services for those who cannot easily access these services in their communities. The goal is to connect people to their local primary care home wherever possible. We will share Virtual Clinic data with you twice a week.

#### Monday, Dec 14

- 309 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 28 primary care provider appointments (2 primary care (PC) and 26 COVID-19 related)

#### Tuesday, Dec 15

- 329 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 22 primary care provider appointments (7 COVID-19 and PC, 15 COVID-19 related)

#### Wednesday, Dec 16

- 317 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 20 primary care provider appointments (1 PC, 3 COVID-19 and PC, 16 COVID-19 related)

## 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

---

### Rural, remote, and Indigenous overdose grants are available until Jan 22, 2021

In partnership with the Provincial Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC), the Community Action Initiative (CAI) is offering funding for rural, remote, and Indigenous overdose initiatives or projects.

Applications must be in alignment with the OERC's core package of comprehensive interventions, and applicants are encouraged to align with recommendations made during the October 2019 [Rural and Indigenous Overdose Action Exchange](#). Applicants can apply for up to \$50,000 in one-time-only funding.

Applications are due January 22, 2021.

To learn more and apply, visit <https://caibc.ca/rural-remote-indigenous-overdose-grants/>.

## Other organizational news

---

### News from across NH

#### Save the date: Canadian Conference on Physician Leadership going virtual for 2021

The Canadian Society of Physician Leadership is partnering with Joule to move the always popular Canadian Conference on Physician Leadership to a virtual platform. Please mark your calendars for April 26-29, 2021 to make sure you don't miss it!

<https://physicianleadershipconference.com/>

## **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](#).