



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A twice-weekly update for medical staff*

**Tuesday, December 29, 2020**

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## COVID-19

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### NH's COVID-19 resources

- On the NH physician website:
  - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- On OurNH:
  - [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
  - [Pandemic Recovery Toolkit](#)

### COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of December 29, **1,890** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **515**
- New cases: **34**
- Currently in hospital: **46**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **16**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **26**

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. Situation 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 24, 2020
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – December 18, 2020

## When will I get the vaccine? The Ministry of Health's rollout plan for COVID-19 vaccinations

Are you wondering when COVID-19 vaccinations will be available for yourself, patients, family members, or others?

Like all BC health authorities, Northern Health is following the provincial guidelines below for rolling out the vaccine.

While the immunization program unfolds over the next few months, a key public health message continues to highlight the importance of handwashing, physical distancing, using face masks, and, for healthcare workers, the use of PPE.

For more information on the vaccine rollout, please see slides 27-31 in this PowerPoint presented by Dr. Bonnie Henry on December 23: [COVID-19: Year to Date Summary](#)

If you have questions, please reach out to [pandemicresponse@northernhealth.ca](mailto:pandemicresponse@northernhealth.ca).

### ***Provincial Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccinations***

#### *Principles:*

- Maximize administration of doses received in BC to our highest priority populations as quickly as possible.
- Second dose at or around day 35 (again, to maximize delivery of first dose).
- Health authorities will schedule second dose and deliver vaccination efforts according to plan below.
- Orders, allocations, and regional/site deliveries of vaccine will need to align with the plan below.
- Categories below will need to be collected in E-Form and tracked through reporting in order to measure progress toward prioritization of doses.
- Scheduling of priority groups may need to be modified throughout January to March 2021 as transmission is monitored and allocations/deliveries solidify.

#### *December 2020 to the end of January 2021:*

- All Pfizer and Moderna vaccine received in BC will be administered to priority populations as their first dose until the end of January 2021.
- The second dose for these individuals will be administered approximately 35 days later to maximize the number of priority population to receive their first dose.
- If anticipated deliveries hold true, this means approximately 150,000 of BC's priority groups for vaccination will be immunized with a first dose heading into February 2021, as follows:
  1. Residents and staff of long-term care facilities (approximately 70,000);
  2. Residents and staff of assisted living residences (approximately 13,000);
  3. Individuals in hospital or community assessed and awaiting a long-term care placement (approximately 2,000);

4. Essential visitors to residents of long-term care facilities and assisted living residences (approximately 8,000);
5. Health care workers providing hospital front line care where COVID-19 patients are treated in ICUs, medical/surgical units, emergency departments, and paramedics (approximately 30,000);
6. Remote First Nation Communities (approximately 25,000) and health care workers who provide outreach for those communities.

*February to the end of March 2021:*

- Approximately 400,000 first doses available.
- Continuation of second doses within approximately 35 days of first dose.
- First doses will be administered to as many of the following priority individuals as possible.
  1. Any residual population from the priorities identified for December - January months;
  2. Community-based seniors 80+ and 65+ Indigenous seniors and elders (approximately 260,000);
  3. Residents/clients in select congregate settings: people experiencing homelessness and/or using shelters; provincial correctional facilities; group homes (adults); mental health residential care (adults) (approximately 40,000);
  4. Long term home support recipients and staff who provide care to these individuals including community based professional service providers and home support workers (approximately 60,000);
  5. Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists and their office staff (approximately 20,000);
  6. First Nations communities (approximately 25,000).

*April 2021 and beyond:*

- BC should be in a position to have completed vaccination of a majority of its health care workers and highest priority populations and to begin vaccinating people as follows:
  - Balance of priority populations;
  - Balance of health care workers;
  - General population working backward by age/cohort (starting with people aged 75 - 79 years of age). As each age cohort is complete (or near complete), BC would continue vaccinating the general population in 5-year cohorts moving backwards from 70 - 75, 65 -69, and so on. This approach aligns with BC's risk of hospitalization and death based on our experience of the pandemic to date.

## Remote First Nations communities receive Moderna vaccine through FNHA: Collaborative process under way for others

A small group of remote Northern BC First Nations communities are receiving their Moderna vaccine shipments today from the FNHA.

Immunizations in those communities will be carried out tomorrow. A stratification process is under way for additional First Nations communities to receive the next round of Moderna; the FNHA and NH are working collaboratively on this.

## 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](#).

## Other organizational news

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### 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](#).