



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

January 19, 2021

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COVID-19

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 January 18, **2,911** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **531**
- New cases: **26**
- Currently in hospital: **40**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **16**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **52**

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](#) – January 18, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – January 15, 2021

COVID-19 immunization program: Q & As for health care professionals

The BCCDC has released a COVID-19 Immunization Program question and answer document for health care providers.

For details visit this [document](#).

COVID-19 outbreak at St Paul's Hospital and VGH: Diversion for cardiac patients continues until January 22

A COVID-19 outbreak in St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) cardiac wards continues to limit capacity to receive cardiac transfers at both SPH and Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). Cardiac patients requiring transfer should **continue to be diverted**, when possible, to avoid these two sites **until Friday, January 22**. The activated diversion plan has been made in partnership with Cardiac Services BC and the affected Health Authorities. The Patient Transfer Network (PTN) has been notified, including charge nurses across NH to help support diversion of cardiac patients from SPH and VGH in discussion with physicians. For details, see the [full memo](#).

New NH Regional Repatriation Algorithm for Novel Coronavirus released

Emergency, Trauma, and Transfer Services, in collaboration with Acute Care Council and Critical Care Services, has developed the [NH Regional Repatriation Algorithm for Novel Coronavirus](#) to facilitate the proactive and timely repatriation of COVID-19 patients to their home communities, or as close to them as possible.

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.

Thursday, Jan 14

- 228 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 21 primary care provider appointments (7 primary care from Prince George, Quesnel, and Dawson Creek, and 14 COVID-19 related)

Friday, Jan 15

- 220 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 22 primary care provider appointments (5 primary care from Prince George and Fort St. John, and 17 COVID-19 related)

Saturday, Jan 16

- 149 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 26 primary care provider appointments (14 primary care from Prince George, Kitimat, Terrace, Telkwa, Fort St. John, Keremeos, Charlie Lake, Fort St John, Houston, and Kincolith, and 12 COVID-19 related)

Sunday, Jan 17

- 145 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 8 primary care provider appointments (3 primary care from Prince George, Fort St. John, and Burns Lake, and 5 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

NH re-issuing Benzos drug alert

Northern Health is re-issuing a drug alert for contamination of street drugs with benzodiazepines (benzos). **There is risk of overdose and prolonged sedation that may not respond to naloxone.**

Please share this alert broadly with the goal to reach those who may be affected:

- [Benzos Drug Alert January 18](#)

Information sheet: Do I Keep Giving Naloxone?

The toxic drug supply is making opioid overdoses look different, especially when they don't respond to naloxone quickly. Focus on the person's breathing, not whether they are awake. See the info sheet for more details:

- [Do I Keep Giving Naloxone? \(Toward the Heart\)](#)

Other organizational news

The Health Information Management Data Collection Framework: How it works to improve patient outcomes and support the health care system

The Health Information Management (HIM) department has developed a framework to outline the scope of data they collect and to provide information on how they support other data collection activities. The framework was established to balance requests for data collection support with service delivery requirements to ensure a high standard of care delivery, as well as provide transparency on the request approval process.

Clinical and administrative data that is collected by HIM is a strategic asset. It helps improve patient outcomes, such as assessing the quality of care, public health monitoring, and knowledge generation through health research. It also helps support the overall efficiency and sustainability of the health care system such as quality improvement, accreditation, research, health service planning, resource utilization and funding, and administrative decision support such as forecasting and performance measurement.

What they collect:

- Inpatient and day surgery data that is reported to the BC Ministry of Health and the Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Inpatient obstetric and neonatal data for the BC Perinatal Data Registry

What they provide:

- Limited data entry support to meet reporting requirements for UHNBC Emergency room data and the community and provincial registries Panorama and Procura

What they support:

- Other data collection by informing requesters of data availability in data holdings, developing a cohort list, and by providing access to patient charts for the requestor or their auditor.

To learn more about how HIM balances service delivery with requests for data collection support, check out the [HIM Data Collection Framework](#).

For data collection support requests, contact healthinformation-services@northernhealth.ca or your local Health Information Management department.

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](#).