



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

January 28, 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 27, **3,283** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **487**
- New cases: **32**
- Currently in hospital: **48**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **18**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **61**

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 27, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – January 22, 2021

Northern Health's most recent vaccine clinics

See stories and photos from Northern vaccine clinics in these recent Facebook posts:

- [Dawson Creek and area: Rotary Manor](#)
- [Fraser Lake Community Health Centre](#)
- [Smithers: Bulkley Lodge, and Bulkley Valley District Hospital](#)
- [Quesnel: Dunrovin Park Lodge](#)
- [McBride & District Hospital](#)

Even with the COVID-19 vaccines, we still need to follow all the [orders and guidelines for public health and safety](#). This will help keep us all safe.

For more information on vaccines:

- See Northern Health's new [vaccine information page](#)
- For immunization numbers, see "Vaccine supply and administered" on the [provincial dashboard](#) (works best in Chrome).
- See details on vaccine distribution: [BCCDC: BC's plan for vaccine distribution](#).
- Follow Northern Health on social media, where we share the most up-to-date information on vaccine clinics, outbreaks, new provincial orders, and more:
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - Spread the good news! Like and share this Facebook post, which provides general info on COVID-19 vaccines throughout the North: [COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Prince George](#)
- For local vaccine information for your community, check out the [Northern Health Facebook community groups](#).

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, Jan 25

- 271 nursing assessments
- 21 primary care provider appointments (8 primary care from Prince George, Prince Rupert, Fort St. John, and Terrace, and 13 COVID-19 related)

Tuesday, Jan 26

- 219 nursing assessments
- 25 primary care provider appointments (2 primary care from Terrace and Quesnel, and 23 COVID-19 related)

Wednesday, Jan 27

- 198 nursing assessments
- 14 primary care provider appointments (5 primary care from Prince George and Bear Lake, and 9 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

Learn how Episodic Overdose Prevention Services (e-OPS) can support overdose prevention in the north

To prevent overdose deaths, episodic overdose prevention services (e-OPS) are starting to be offered in the NH region. E-OPS allows providers to observe substance use anywhere and anytime.

E-OPS supports health and social service providers, including peer or experiential workers to observe substance use wherever overdoses may occur — not only at a fixed site with an address like a Supervised Consumption Site or Overdose Prevention Site.

- [Overdose Resources: eOPS](#)

To find procedures and more information, visit the [BCCDC](#) or contact the NH Harm Reduction team at nancy.dhaliwal@northernhealth.ca.

Other organizational news

Expressions of interest wanted: Medical Lead – Primary and Community Care

Northern Health would like to invite eligible physicians to indicate their interest in the following position: Medical Lead – Primary and Community Care, 0.40 FTE

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form with a current resume by **February 11, 2021**. For full details, see this [document](#).

Canada faces supply challenges related to immunoglobulin products

The security of supply of immunoglobulin (Ig) products (IVIg and SClg) has become a global concern. Canada faces both short- and long-term challenges related to Ig. In the short-term,

we anticipate shortages of select vial sizes and brands. In the long-term, we are concerned about having enough Ig inventory to meet demand.

Currently, there is sufficient inventory of Ig products to meet the needs of patients in Canada. However, there are early signs of possible supply disruptions, with a higher risk of disruption for IVIg than SCIg. As a result, Canadian Blood Services has been engaged in discussions with the manufacturers of Ig products to secure additional supply.

For more information, see the [customer letter](#) from Canadian Blood Services.

Hospital @ Home to launch home-based acute care services prototype in February 2021

The Hospital @ Home (H@H) Prince George prototype, based out of UHNBC, will be launching February 2021 with a small number of low acuity patients as we test out processes. We're working with physician representatives from the Prince George Division of Family Practice and the UHNBC Facility Engagement Working Group to design this service to benefit patients, families and providers, as well as being applicable to other Northern Health communities.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ian Schokking and Dr. Ash Ahmed are the physician co-leads for Hospital @ Home and have been working with H@H staff to develop care processes.

The prototype will focus on providing home-based acute care services for the following patient populations:

- Patients already receiving community-based palliative care services who temporarily require acute-level care;
- Patients who require enhanced IV therapy;
- A small test population of specific post-surgical patients in partnership with the Department of Gynecology.

Over time, the program will expand the patient population to include other stable acute medical patients.

A Hospital @ Home web page will be launching soon on the [Northern Health Physicians website](#).

For questions, contact [Greg Marr](#).

Supporting families with perinatal depression and anxiety

BC has proclaimed January 2021 as [Perinatal Depression and Anxiety Awareness Month](#). Providers have a unique opportunity to increase awareness of these serious illnesses and to address the stigma that can be a barrier for seeking effective support and care.

Perinatal depression and anxiety occur both during pregnancy and up to one year after the baby's birth. If your clients are experiencing perinatal depression or anxiety, remind them that support is available. [Pacific Post Partum Support Society](#) offers peer-to-peer support by phone and text. Consider sharing this valuable resource with your perinatal clients.

To support your practice, consider the following courses:

- [Not Just The Blues: Perinatal Depression and Anxiety](#) (UBC CPD, 90 minutes)
- [Journey to Perinatal Well being: eTools and Resources to Identify and Support Women with Perinatal Depression and Anxiety](#) (Learning Hub, 4 hours)

For more resources:

- [BC Reproductive Mental Health Program](#) – BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre
- OurNH [Healthy Start](#) page for staff (review **Resources** section, category: **Perinatal Mental Health and Substance Use**)

New Long-Term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue #15: Information for residents and families

The long-term care task group is continuing to produce updates twice a month for residents and families of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

[This issue](#) of the update provides information on COVID-19 vaccinations and the updates to the long-term care and seniors' assisted living visitor policy.

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](#).