



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

February 9, 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 February 8, **3,812** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **411**
- New cases: **34**
- Currently in hospital: **14**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **11**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **87**

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.

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – February 8, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – February 3, 2021

Changes to PPE watch list and new PPE approval form now available

A number of items have been removed from PPE protected status including surgical gowns, Oxivir 6x7, and hand sanitizers. Central PPE will be winding down their management of select products.

- Normal order/replenishment processes are to resume immediately, including department initiated eRex orders.
- Please refer to this memo for a full list of changes: [New PPE Approval Form & Count Requirements Major Version Update; Start Using Feb 9](#)
- The [new PPE Request Approval form](#) can be found on OurNH.
- Should single department orders exceed inventory capacity to meet the immediate needs of all departments, stores will proactively reduce requests to maintain availability.

Thank you for your cooperation and trust as we have moved through product restrictions collaboratively with PHSA. We are seeing improvement and stability in a number of areas informing the current changes.

Webinar on Wed., Feb. 10: Emerging Issues on COVID-19 Vaccines

Register now for this free webinar: [Registration for "PHAC: COVID-19 Vaccines -- Allergies and LDV Syringe Discussion"](#)

- **Date:** Wed., February 10
- **Time:** 10:00 am to 12 noon Pacific (1:00 – 3:00 pm EST)
- **Topics:**
 - Allergies and Anaphylaxis following administration of COVID-19 vaccines (presentation with live Q & A)
 - Low Dead Volume Syringes (live Q & A panel)

Hosted by the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID), this moderated webinar is for health care providers who are administering COVID-19 vaccines.

For more details, visit the webinar webpage: [PHAC: COVID-19 Vaccines -- Allergies and LDV Syringe Discussion](#).

- Please note that due to time limitations, not all questions can be answered.
- The same presentation will be delivered in English and in French.
- **The webinars will be recorded and available on the NCCID website immediately after each event.**
- For any registration difficulties, please contact NCCID at nccid@umanitoba.ca

Previous Public Health Agency of Canada COVID-19 vaccine webinars for health care providers can be found at [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).

NEBMC provides immunoglobulin inventory update; reminds hospitals to prepare for possible IVIg supply disruptions

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC) is continuing to monitor and assess inventory levels of fresh blood components and all plasma protein related products, with a particular focus on Ig.

Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) is in good supply with no projected inventory challenges. However, there is continued concern about the future supply of IVIg, which will be ongoing for at least the next 12 months.

For detailed information, please review the customer letter from Canadian Blood Services: [Re: Immunoglobulin \(Ig\) Inventory Update and Reminder of Action for Hospitals](#).

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, Feb 4

- 232 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 24 primary care provider appointments (11 primary care from Prince George, Houston, Kitwanga, Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, Houston, Smithers, Edmonton, and 13 COVID-19 related)

Friday, Feb 5

- 184 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 32 primary care provider appointments (8 primary care from Fort St. John, Prince George, Terrace, Edmonton, Fort St. James, and 24 COVID-19 related)

Saturday, Feb 6

- 161 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 22 primary care provider appointments (10 primary care from Prince George, Terrace, Quesnel, Charlie Lake, Vanderhoof, and Gitanmaax, and 12 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

Harm Reduction: Safer Smoking Supplies

Inhalation has surpassed injection as the most common method of using illicit substances. It is very important that people who use drugs never share equipment, as this increases their risk for overdose and infections.

Safer smoking supplies are temporarily publicly funded until March 31, 2021. We encourage all sites that provide harm reduction supplies to order them using this form: [Harm Reduction Program: Supply Requisition Form](#).

Other organizational news

Introduction of X-ray irradiation for blood products

Canadian Blood Services has obtained Health Canada approval to begin using an X-ray irradiation device. As a result, either gamma or X-ray irradiation will be used to irradiate blood products.

The objective is to transition fully to X-ray irradiation as the gamma irradiators are phased out.

There are no changes to component codes or expiry dates, however the Rad-Sure indicator label for X-ray irradiation will look different.

For more information, see the full customer letter: [Introduction of X-ray Irradiation](#).

Reminder: Wellness Support Line for Indigenous staff members available

This information from NH Human Resources is further to the memo that was sent on November 30, from Cathy Ulrich, President & CEO, and Margo Greenwood, Vice President, Indigenous Health, outlining the key findings from the report [In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in BC Health Care](#). The same memo was re-sent to all staff on Monday, February 8, with the reminder below.

We continue to recognize that this report might trigger memories of past or current culturally unsafe experiences in Northern Health for the people we serve, as well as for Northern Health staff and physicians.

As a support for Northern Health staff and physicians, and particularly for those who identify as Indigenous, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the **Northern Health Indigenous Staff Wellness Support Line 250-645-7870 (local 507870)**.

Please feel free to access the support you need by contacting this line.

Save the Date! Northern BC Research and Quality Conference, December 7-9, 2021

Due to concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic, the Northern BC Research and Quality Conference has been rescheduled to December 7-9, 2021. This will ensure the conference stays true to its objectives of knowledge sharing, facilitating networking, and inspiring new ideas in a safe way for conference participants.

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

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

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](#).