



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

February 11, 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 10, **3,902** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **354**
- New cases: **53**
- Currently in hospital: **10**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **8**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **91**

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.

As well, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#), which visualizes COVID-19 in BC in comparison to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, at the HSDA level. It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – February 10, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – February 10, 2021

Province sets schedule for time between doses of COVID-19 vaccine

In BC, the time between first and second doses is currently extended because of limitations in the vaccine supply, [as announced by Dr. Henry in late January](#).

Second doses will be administered within the week of day 42. This is permissible according to the World Health Organization and the [Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#).

Provincial vaccine allocations are being prioritized so that everyone who received their first dose is a priority for receiving their second dose. Clinics will be planned to administer second doses within the week of day 42; this means that a dose could be received just before or just after the 42-day mark.

According to the [BC COVID-19 Immunization Plan](#), clinics will be available for the remaining Phase 1 and all Phase 2 groups by the end of March, and clinics for the general population will begin in April.

From the Registrar of the CPSBC: A message to clinicians about BC's COVID-19 immunization plan

The Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC) is encouraging clinicians to familiarize themselves with the numerous clinical resources developed and published on the BCCDC website for health-care providers about COVID-19, including a recently updated [questions and answers document about BC's immunization plan](#).

One section addresses [vaccine hesitancy](#) and guides clinicians to start conversations with patients from a place of compassion and understanding, to listen to patients' concerns, to be transparent about the latest vaccine information, and to reassure patients that Canada has a robust vaccine safety system.

For more details, read [the Registrar's message: BC's COVID-19 immunization plan](#) in the latest issue of [the CPSBC's electronic newsletter, the College Connector](#).

COVID-19 Immunization Q&A/Script – Information for the public

A new [Q&A/script](#) contains information to share with members of the public who have questions about COVID-19 immunizations and the rollout plan.

Note: The COVID-19 vaccine rollout is a rapidly evolving situation; this resource may become out of date. If in doubt about content, please check the [BC COVID-19 Immunization Plan](#) website for the latest information.

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.

Sunday, Feb 7

- 188 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 15 primary care provider appointments (4 primary care from Fort St. John, Houston, Terrace, and 11 COVID-19 related)

Monday, Feb 8

- 245 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 24 primary care provider appointments (8 primary care from Prince George, Fort St. John, Fort St. James, and Prince Rupert, and 16 COVID-19 related)

Tuesday, Feb 9

- 242 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 26 primary care provider appointments (10 primary care from Prince George, Terrace, and Fort St. John, and 16 COVID-19 related)

Wednesday, Feb 10

- 250 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 28 primary care provider appointments (16 primary care from Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Quesnel, Prince Rupert, Topley, Kitimat Village, Terrace, and Gitanyow, 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

Updated: Adult palliative care orders for hospital inpatients

The NH Regional Adult Palliative Care Orders for Hospital Inpatient and Adult Palliative Care Crisis Event Orders for Hospital Inpatients have both been updated and are available now.

Please discard any old order sets and replace with these updated forms.

For links to the new order sets and some highlighted changes, see this memo on the physician website: [Updated Palliative Care order Sets](#)

A recorded information session on the changes will also be available under the [Palliative Care tab](#) on OurNH and on northernhealth.ca.

New Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue #16: 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 the provincial guidelines for social gatherings, guidelines for bringing gifts and food into the facility with Valentine's Day and Family Day coming up, a survey for those living in Prince George, an update on COVID-19 vaccines, and some photos from recent immunization clinics!

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](#).