



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A twice-weekly update for medical staff*

**March 16, 2021**

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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 March 15, **5,230** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **344**
- New cases: **56**
- Currently in hospital: **20**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **10**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **111**

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, for a visual comparison of COVID-19 cases in BC by HSDA to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#). It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – March 15, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – March 10, 2021

## Total number of immunizations within Northern Health – Thank you to all staff

We are grateful for the incredible work underway to increase the number of people who are immunized as we move from Phase 1 and 2 of the COVID-19 immunization plan through to the final two phases.

As the implementation of the immunization plan gains momentum, it provides hope that we will be successful in bringing this pandemic to a close.

Total administered doses in the NH region to date is:

- 22,476 (this includes First Nations communities)
- First doses: 17,770
- Second doses 4,706

## COVID-19 variant identified in Northern resident

A traveller returning from an international destination who was quarantined in the lower Mainland tested positive for a confirmed variant of COVID-19 (specifically the UK variant). In accordance with the regulations, the traveller isolated in a quarantine hotel and was released after the isolation period was completed. No contacts were exposed.

## Signage for your vaccine clinic: Ordering directly

We are pleased to announce that you can now start ordering signs for your vaccine clinics (both exterior and interior). **Please connect with your local vaccine implementation lead if needed.**

To order, use the following 2 files (also available under “Posters and Signage” on the [Immunization Planning and Implementation](#) page on OurNH):

- [COVID-19 Immunization Clinic Signage Catalogue](#) – contains images and descriptions of all the signs.
- [Fillable order form](#) - Please use this form to place your order as the signs are not in the online order system yet. Send forms to [Document.Source@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Document.Source@northernhealth.ca).

## 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.

### Thursday, March 11

- 221 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 25 primary care provider appointments (16 primary care from Chetwynd, Terrace, Moberly Lake, Thornhill, Fort St John, Prince George, Quesnel, Smithers, Gitanmaax, Prince Rupert, and 9 COVID-19 related)

### Friday, March 12

- 199 COVID-19 nursing assessments

- 23 primary care provider appointments (15 primary care from Houston, Prince George, Chetwynd, Terrace, Smithers, Cecil Lake, Moberly Lake, Prince Rupert, Fort St. John, Port Clements and 8 COVID-19 related)

### **Saturday, March 13**

- 131 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 7 primary care provider appointments (6 primary care from Prince Rupert, Terrace, Smithers, and Fort St. John, and 1 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**

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### **LTC+ funding opportunity expanded – apply by March 17**

LTC+ Acting on Pandemic Learning Together was launched in the summer of 2020 to support long-term care and retirement homes to strengthen their pandemic preparedness and response. The program has expanded to substance use facilities and shelters caring for people experiencing homelessness.

Residential substance use facilities and shelters from across Canada can join the program and receive up to \$10,000 funding to contribute towards pandemic response. This funding can go where the need is the greatest, including vaccine roll-out, staff time, purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), harm reduction training and supplies and mental health training/support.

LTC Expanded also includes coaching and mentorship. There will be ways for organizations to share their learning, seek advice and support with and from other organizations.

Organizations need to apply by March 17, 2021 to participate in the first phase of this program and be eligible for up to \$10,000

For more information: <https://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/what-we-do/enhance-capacity-and-capability/ltc-acting-on-pandemic-learning-together/ltc-expanded>

## Other organizational news

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### **Update on Pulmonary Function and Spirometry Testing in the North**

The current wait list for PFT/spirometry testing at UHNBC is at least 6 months. To help address this, Dr. Sharla Olsen, Medical Lead for Pulmonary Function Testing, has provided seven ways in which you can assist in providing timely testing for patients.

For more information, see the [full memo](#).

### **March 31: PQI virtual happy hour - Trauma-informed care**

Join Dr. Judy Dercksen for a virtual PQI Happy Hour where she'll be presenting on Complex PTSD and Trauma-informed care with discussions around indigenous trauma and complex PTSD in Indigenous populations/communities.

**Event details:**

March 31, 2021

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

To RSVP, email: [physicianqi@northernhealth.ca](mailto:physicianqi@northernhealth.ca)

For more information, see the [full poster](#).