



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

April 6, 2021

Expression of Interest: Nurse Practitioner Participation in Northern Health Virtual Clinic

Northern Health would like to invite nurse practitioners to indicate their interest in participating in the delivery of primary care services through the Northern Health Virtual Clinic. For information, review the [expression of interest](#). The expression of interest is best viewed on a tablet, computer, or iPhone.

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 April 1, 6,043 cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic (numbers from April 5 are not available at this time).

- Cases currently active: **297**
- New cases: **39**
- Currently in hospital: **30**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **13**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **124**

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](#) – April 5, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – March 31, 2021

New Long-Term Care/Assisted Living Digest, Issue #20: 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](#) provides an update on the new visiting restrictions for long-term care and assisted living, effective April 1, 2021.

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.

Tuesday, March 30

- 261 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 23 primary care provider appointments (23 primary care from Chetwynd, Prince George, Terrace, Hudson's Hope, Alert Bay, Prince Rupert, Moberly Lake, Squamish, Moose Jaw, Montney, and Fort Nelson, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Wednesday, March 31

- 250 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 40 primary care provider appointments (38 primary care from Fort Nelson, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Terrace, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, Quesnel, Thornhill, Bracebridge, Masset, Tlell, and Smithers and 2 COVID-19 related)

Thursday, April 1

- 214 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 21 primary care provider appointments (20 primary care from Chetwynd, Fort St. John, Terrace, Prince George, and Prince Rupert, and 1 COVID-19 related)

Friday, April 2

- 160 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 9 primary care provider appointments (9 primary care from Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Terrace, Smithers, Quesnel, and Prince George and 0 COVID-19 related)

Saturday, April 3

- 148 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 10 primary care provider appointments (10 primary care from Prince Rupert, Prince George, Hixon, Burns Lake, Fort St. John, Smithers, and Dawson Creek and 0 COVID-19 related)

Sunday, April 4

- 139 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 10 primary care provider appointments (10 primary care from Prince George, Fort St. John, Smithers, Dawson Creek, and Terrace and 0 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

Northern Peer Support Grant Application Form – Spring 2021

Northern Health is pleased to announce the second cycle of Peer Support grants, in partnership with Positive Living North and Seasons House, and funded by the BC Ministry of Mental Health & Substance Use.

As we enter a second year in a state of unprecedented dual health emergencies, Northern peer organizations are uniquely positioned to support the needs of people who use substances and respond to changing circumstances in Northern communities. Peer organizations develop capacity in, and deliver services to, for, and by people who use drugs.

Peers and peer organizations play a vital role in connecting people to services, providing income and skill development opportunities, and enabling relationships that save lives. This grant seeks to deliver operational and service delivery funding to allow these organizations to continue this critical work.

The call for applications will take place from April 1 to April 30, 2021 and is open to independent peer organizations within Northern Health's geographic boundaries. The maximum grant amount is \$8,000. The application form for this grant is available [here](#).

For additional information regarding this granting stream, please contact Peer.Grants@northernhealth.ca

Other organizational news

Advance Care Planning Day coming soon

April 16, 2021 is Advance Care Planning Day. This day is nationally recognized as an opportunity for Canadians to think about their values, wishes and beliefs for their future health care. On Advance Care Planning Day, all Canadians are encouraged to speak with

loved ones between 6 and 8 pm about their values, wishes, and what is important to them in relation to their own future health care.

This is important, as while many Canadians recognize that advance care planning is valuable, it is estimated that only one in five actually have an advance care plan in place. Advance care planning is a process in which everyone should engage.

This April, encourage your patients, colleagues, family, and friends to engage in discussions and learn more about advance care planning.

To assist you in promoting advance care planning in your workplaces and communities, several tools/posters have been made available on Document Source.

These include:

- Speak Up Poster: Order [#21081](#)
- ACP Brochure: Order [#21082](#)
- 5 Steps Poster: Order: [#21083](#)
- Aboriginal ACP Fact sheet Order: [#FS-ACP-1004](#)
- An Essential Conversation for Everyone Posters: [#21234](#) (Pick and choose from a number of 8.5 x 11" posters or order the lot!)
- ACP/TSDM Pocketcard [#21234B](#)

In recognition of Advance Care Planning Day, the NH Palliative Care Consultation Team will also be hosting several different virtual events to support practitioners and the public in learning more about and begin advance care planning.

Date:	Time	Session	Who can register
April 16, 2021	1230-1300 or 1300-1330	ACP Basics for Health Care Professionals	Health Care Workers
April 16, 2021	1630-1730	Public ACP Zoom Session	Anyone!

To register please e-mail: palliative.care.consult.team@northernhealth.ca

Register by April 8, 2021 to reserve a spot.

Limited seats: Cultural humility workshop for health care practitioners – April 28, 2021

The Northern Medical Program's Health Arts Research Centre (HARC) at UNBC and Two Rivers Gallery are pleased to present "Our Medicines" in collaboration with the NEYU team, Francois and Ruby Prince.

Participants will explore concepts of racialization and ethnicity, the history of colonialism, and colonialism's ongoing impacts on Indigenous health and well-being. Participants will learn about the richness and resilience of Indigenous culture and how health care

professionals can create culturally humble spaces for Indigenous patients. Participants will have the opportunity to share understandings about "cultural safety," ask honest and frank questions, and engage in discussion with an additional panel of traditional knowledge holders.

This is an in-person AND online event, with a maximum of 15 participants in person and 15 online and, depending on Provincial Guidelines, **may be moved completely online**. Online participants will receive a package with all necessary materials and may sign up for delivery catering.

Where: Two Rivers Gallery

When: April 28, 2021

Time: 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, please email laura.mcnab-coombs@unbc.ca.

Dakelh language lessons available for health care practitioners in May 2021

The Health Arts Research Centre will be hosting Dakelh language lessons for health care practitioners and Dakelh language learners on May 3, 10, and 17, 2021.

You will learn how to introduce yourself in Dakelh, how to read and say various medical terms, the human anatomy, learn cultural history, and more!

This will be a virtual event; each class takes place from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm.

The class will be taught by Dr. Bill Poser with the assistance of Marion Erickson of the Dakelh Nation.

If you are interested in this event and would like to stay in contact with our team, please email: marion.erickson@unbc.ca.

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](#).