



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

May 18, 2021

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 May 17, 7,465 cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **140**
- New cases: **17**
- Currently in hospital: **7**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **2**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **146**

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](#) – May 17, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – May 12, 2021

My COVID-19 Immunization Record

Every client who receives an immunization in Northern Health is provided with a paper copy of their Immunization Record. It is a yellow paper that contains information about what vaccine they received, in which arm, consent, dose number, the date of immunization, immunizer's name, and signature. This is standard practice for immunization records. The after-care information is on the back of this paper for easy reference.

The immunization is documented in each individual's electronic health record. We encourage everyone to sign up for Health Gateway to access their immunization records by following this link: <https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca>.

If Canada proceeds with a standard federal proof of immunization, whether it is a digital or paper 'vaccine passport', it will be based on an individual's electronic record of immunization. At this time, there is no requirement to present proof of vaccination.

New COVID-19 updates made to the BCCDC website

Patient Handouts for Health Care Professionals

Please note that the [Patient Handouts](#) page has been updated with links to new/updated COVID-19 resources on the BCCDC website.

NEW Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 23: 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 an amendment to the new travel restrictions for BC, effective April 23, 2021, and information on the Health Career Access Program.

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, May 11

- 175 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 22 primary care provider appointments (22 primary care from Prince George, Terrace, Kelowna, Fort St. John, Charlie Lake, Houston, Quesnel, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Prince Rupert, Hudson's Hope, and Burns Lake, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Wednesday, May 12

- 152 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 34 primary care provider appointments (29 primary care from Prince George, Dawson Creek, Kitimat, Masset, Port Clements, Prince Rupert, Fraser Lake, Kitkatla, Lax Kw'alaams, Terrace, Hudson's Hope, Fort St. John, and Chetwynd, and 5 COVID-19 related)

Thursday, May 13

- 133 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 26 primary care provider appointments (24 primary care from Terrace, Prince George, Fort St. John, Kitimat, Baldonnel, Pouce Coupe, Parkland County (AB), and Mackenzie, and 2 COVID-19 related)

Friday, May 14

- 130 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 31 primary care provider appointments (27 primary care from Dawson Creek, Terrace, Prince George, Mackenzie, Fort St. John, Prespatou, and Montney, and 4 COVID-19 related)

Saturday, May 15

- 90 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 19 primary care provider appointments (17 primary care from Smithers, Mackenzie, Prince George, Terrace, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and Kitimat, and 2 COVID-19 related)

Sunday, May 16

- 91 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 20 primary care provider appointments (19 primary care from Dawson Creek, Prince George, Fort St. John, Terrace, Quesnel, Belleville (ON), Prince Rupert, Chetwynd, and Charlie Lake, 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**Safer smoking supplies will continue to be provided free of charge through the BCCDC harm reduction supply program**

For many people who use drugs in the Northern region, inhalation is the preferred method of drug use. To help prevent harms that occur when people share drug supplies such as pipes, the BCCDC has announced that they will continue publicly funding pipes and they have now added filters to the list of supplies they fund. Sterifilt filters are used to help prevent harm to a person crushing and injecting tablets and these will now be publicly funded for the first time.

Program Updates:

- Additional funding for Sterifilt filters has been received for two years until March 31, 2023
- Funding for safer smoking supplies (glass pipes) has been extended for three years until March 31, 2024

Ordering:

- Registered sites are encouraged to order these supplies on AS NEEDED basis only to avoid stockpiling and to ensure equal access to these supplies across BC
- Orders may be adjusted to ensure equitable distribution among sites
- The new order form can be found [here](#)

For more information about harm reduction, see the following:

- [Safer Tablet Injection Resource](#)
- Videos: [Guidance for Injecting Tablet Medication](#) and [Preparing Your Drugs](#)
- [Learn more about Sterifilt FAST and other harm reduction supplies](#)

Other organizational news

The Dr. Charles Jago Awards (Adapted for COVID) – Nominees

To recognize our staff, we are introducing an easier, more condensed process where you can acknowledge your colleagues for the work they are doing by nominating them for a “The Dr. Charles Jago Awards (Adapted for COVID)” recognition award. This recognition will allow for more staff to be highlighted, and a safe way for us to congratulate our staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the next few months, we will be highlighting staff and physicians who were nominated. Click the link to read the OurNH highlight on the nominees (more staff recognition to come!):

- [Bulkley Lodge Recreation/Site Visitation Team:](#)
[Barbara Dolhaine, Shannon Malbeuf, Ginger Helkenberg, Camilla Barkhouse, Lisa McOuatt, Anne Simpson, Jalie Carmody, Sarina DeLange, Leanna Kerr, Emily VanLeeuwen, Charlotte Butler – Nominated for Empathy, Respect, Collaboration, and Innovation](#)
- [Christopher Baumeister– Nominated for Empathy, Respect, Collaboration, and Innovation](#)

Suicide prevention reminder – Learn more about the Required Organizational Practice and available resources

Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) are evidence-informed practices addressing high-priority areas that are essential and that the organization must have in place to enhance patient safety and minimize risk.

Participation and achievement of national standards of care gives reassurance to the public, patients and families, caregivers and the entire organization that Northern Health is providing high-quality services.

Northern Health has clients who are at risk of suicide. Using these tools and resources will help identify clients who are at risk and develop treatment interventions and a safety plan to help prevent suicide.

Tools and Resources

- [Suicide Severity Rating Scale Screener](#)
- [Suicide Screening and Intervention](#)
- [Working with the Suicidal Patient - A Guide for Health Care Professionals](#)
- [Risk Assessment of Mental Health Observation Unit Clients](#)
- [Learning Hub module Suicide: Facing the Difficult Topic Together – Empowering Physicians and Nurses, Instilling Hope in Patients](#)
- For more information on all ROPS see the [ROP Handbook](#)

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](#).