



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

May 25, 2021

Clinical guidelines

Eye protection in clinical areas

Eye protection (faceshields, goggles, or safety glasses) is an important part of protection against COVID-19 in clinical spaces. Eye protection should not be removed when working at the nursing station or during huddles. It is recommended to don your eye protection at the start of the shift and only remove them when they need to be disinfected or when leaving the unit to go on a break. Eye protection should never be put on the top of your head.

If a staff member is within two metres of a patient, client, visitor or another staff member that tests positive for COVID-19 and they were not wearing their eye protection, they will be considered a close contact. Close contacts are allowed to continue working but must self-isolate at all times for 14 days outside the workplace.

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 21, **7,555** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **153**
- New cases: **31**
- Currently in hospital: **9**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **4**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **149**

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 24, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – May 19, 2021

Mask use and physical distancing in break rooms and common areas

Transmission of COVID-19 among staff members is still an ongoing concern. Staff are reminded that medical masks are required in break rooms and common areas unless you are actively eating or drinking. Staff must maintain two metres distance in common areas and adhere to the posted occupancy limits.

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.

Monday, May 17

- 196 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 39 primary care provider appointments (29 primary care from Dawson Creek, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Mackenzie, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Moberly Lake, Medicine Hat, Quesnel, Kincolith, Spirit River, Smithers, and Vanderhoof, and 10 COVID-19 related)

Tuesday, May 18

- 196 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 24 primary care provider appointments (23 primary care from Prince George, Dawson Creek, Quesnel, Fort St. John, Terrace, Tumbler Ridge, Cecil Lake, and Thornhill, and 1 COVID-19 related)

Wednesday, May 19

- 151 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 26 primary care provider appointments (26 primary care from Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Terrace, Fort St. John, Prince George, Mackenzie, Dawson Creek, Houston, Fort Nelson, and Charlie Lake, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Thursday, May 20

- 149 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 26 primary care provider appointments (26 primary care from Prince George, Fort St. John, Telkwa, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Thornhill, Moberly Lake, Kitimat, and South Hazelton, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Friday, May 21

- 135 COVID-19 nursing assessments

- 22 primary care provider appointments (22 primary care from Dawson Creek, Prince George, Houston, Fort St. John, Bay Tree (AB), Pouce Coupe, Smithers, Kitimat, Baker Creek, and Terrace, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Saturday, May 22

- 55 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 15 primary care provider appointments (15 primary care from Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Gold River, Kitimat, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, and Quesnel, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Sunday, May 23

- 69 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 16 primary care provider appointments (15 primary care from Hudson's Hope, Smithers, Mackenzie, Prince George, Fort St. John, Terrace, Quesnel, Smithers, and 100 Mile House, 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**Supporting those who use substances alone: The difference between the BeSafe and Lifeguard app.**

There are many available options for apps that are designed to support those that are using substances alone. The following are the two that we would like to highlight.

[The BeSafe app](#): Designed to prevent overdose death for anyone using drugs alone, the BeSafe Community app does, however, require people to have access to a smartphone and an Internet connection. Use of the app is anonymous and private, unless and until an overdose occurs, at which point the caller's location will be shared so that help can be sent.

[The Lifeguard app](#): Helps you connect with emergency contact number in case of overdose. The app is equipped with a one-minute timer. If you are not able to turn off the timer after one minute, the app will contact emergency services. The app tells your current location to the emergency services through in-build calling functionality.

For further information please visit towardtheheart.com

Other organizational news

What's happening with the Mills Memorial replacement project in Terrace?

The Mills Memorial Hospital Replacement project is moving towards the final stages of procurement. Northern Health is in final negotiations with the potential builder for a new Mills Memorial Hospital and Seven Sisters facility. Meanwhile, the design is ongoing, and engagement has begun. Most recently, the site was cleared of trees to prevent any delays in construction should an agreement between the builder and Northern Health be signed soon.

Check out [the Mills Memorial project page on Let's Talk Northern Health](#) for the latest updates and more!

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](#).