



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

June 08, 2021

Clinical guidelines

Physician and Medical Staff Access to Covid-19 Immunization Records

A patient's COVID-19 immunization record can be reviewed by physicians and medical staff in a read-only format through eHealthViewer. To access eHealthViewer, log into PowerChart and look for the [eHealthViewer] button at the top of the page.

All immunization records within the Provincial Immunization Registry (PPHIS) can be view in eHealthViewer (CareConnect).

Immunization access includes:

- Immunization history
- Recommended immunizations (as per BC Immunization Schedule)
- Special considerations
- Deferrals
- Adverse Events Following Immunization
- Risk Factors (active only)

CMOIS should **NOT** be considered an accurate source for this information as these specific immunizations will no longer be imported into that system due to delays in receipt resulting in an incomplete data set.

For more information, please review the [clinical data available in CareConnect](#) and instructions on [how to request access](#).

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 June 7, **7,719** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **79**
- New cases: **9**
- Currently in hospital: **8**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **5**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **153**

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](#) – June 7, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – June 2, 2021

Second dose considerations for those who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD for first dose COVID-19 Immunization

On June 1, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) updated guidance on the interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines. NACI recommends that people who received AstraZeneca vaccine as a first dose may be offered either AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine as a second dose.

[BCCDC has created a Q&A](#) on this topic intended for health care professionals. BCCDC also has a [two-page document](#) outlining considerations when choosing which vaccine to get for second dose.

BCCDC Website Updates/Changes Daily Summary

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Information for Health Professionals** - A vaccine section has been added to the [COVID-19 Care website](#) for health care professionals. The [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit for Healthcare Providers](#) and the vaccination [Q&A for Healthcare Providers](#) have been moved to this section and redirects have been set up.
- **COVID-19 Variants** - Information about variants was updated on the [COVID-19 Variants](#) page including information about the B.1.617 variant.
- **Managing TTS/VIT** - Information for health care providers about guidance, screening, diagnosis and management of [Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome](#) (TTS) was added to the [COVID-19 Vaccinations](#) section for health professionals.
- **AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD Vaccine Second Dose** - Information was updated on the website about today's announcement that people who had received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD as a first dose can choose to get AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as a second dose.

Public information

- Information was added for receiving and booking a second dose on [Vaccine Registration and Eligibility](#) page.
- A new PDF - [2nd dose choice for people who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD](#) which outlines factors to consider when choosing second dose vaccine for people who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD for their first dose has been posted on [Vaccine Safety](#) and [Vaccine Registration and Eligibility](#) pages.
- A new question was added about vaccine choice for second dose on [COVID-19 Vaccine At a Glance](#) page.

Health professional information

- [Updates to Immunization Manual](#)
 - Update: [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 \(Pfizer-BioNTech\)](#)
 - Updated: [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-1273 \(Moderna\)](#)
 - Updated: [COVID-19 Vaccine ChAdOx1-S \[recombinant\] \(AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals\)](#)
 - Updated: [COVID-19 Vaccine Ad26.COV2.S \[recombinant\] \(Janssen\)](#)

A [Q&A on Second dose considerations for those who received AstraZeneca or COVISHIELD for first dose COVID-19 immunization](#) was added to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit for Healthcare Providers](#).

- **Vaccine errors** - A new guidance document on the [Management of Inadvertent Vaccine Errors](#) was added to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit for Healthcare Providers](#).
- **Indigenous Community Resources** - A new [video resource from FNHA](#) addressing why it is important to get both doses has been posted under a new section “Getting Your Second Dose”.
- **AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD Vaccine Second Dose** - Updated information on safety of Astrazeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine to include stats on risk factor for second dose on the [Vaccine Safety](#) page.
- **Getting a vaccine** - Information was added about what to expect when you go to a vaccine clinic and how to help children/young people who have a fear of needles on the [Getting a Vaccine](#) page.
- **Vaccination schedule and guidance** -The COVID-19 vaccines table on the [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit for Healthcare Providers](#) and the vaccination [Q&A for Healthcare Providers](#) have been updated to reflect recent changes in the guidelines.
- **Updated BCCDC infection prevention control guidance for community based physicians, NP, midwives and clinic settings** - The BCCDC has made some updates to the [infection prevention control guidance for community based physicians, NP, midwives and clinic settings](#). This guidance is intended for community-based physicians, nursing professionals, midwives and related staff in clinics and urgent and primary care centres. This guidance provides infection prevention and control advice on how community health-care providers can reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at their offices and keep their staff and patients safe during the pandemic.

- **Updated Documentation on the Interchangeability of Vaccines** - Updates on the information for interchangeability: InfoSheet, the Process, and the Practice Update. Links are below:
 - [Interchangeability Process: COVID-19 vaccine](#)
 - [InfoSheet: COVID-19 vaccine interchangeability](#)
 - [Practice update for vaccine interchangeability](#)

Please note that Pfizer is the ONLY product approved for use in youth aged 12-17 years.

- **Perinatal & Obstetrics Guidance from BCCDC and Perinatal Services BC** - BCCDC and PSBC have provided updated and new resources related to COVID-19 response:
 - [Updated Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Protocol for Obstetrical Procedures During COVID-19](#)
 - Guidance Summary [Summary Surgical Procedures Obstetrical.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](#)
 - New FAQs and Key Messaging for pregnant patients during the pandemic: [Perinatal Services BC - FAQs and Key Messaging](#)
 - PSBC COVID-19 Health Alerts: Get the latest information about health alerts that affect expectant or pregnant women and their newborns. [Health Alerts \(perinatalservicesbc.ca\)](#)
 - [Reference List – PSBC/BCCDC COVID-19 Perinatal Resources \(PDF\)](#)

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 31

- 190 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 28 primary care provider appointments (28 primary care from Houston, Greenville (Terrace), Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Thornhill, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Castlegar, and Fort Nelson, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Tuesday, June 1

- 165 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 31 primary care provider appointments (28 primary care from Prince George, Hudson's Hope, Thornhill, Chetwynd, Terrace, Dawson Creek, Smithers, Prince Rupert, Fort St John, and Edmonton, and 3 COVID-19 related)

Wednesday, June 2

- 137 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 25 primary care provider appointments (25 primary care from Prince Rupert, Terrace, Vanderhoof, Quesnel, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Chetwynd, Prince George, Masset, and Guelph, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Thursday, June 3

- 110 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 28 primary care provider appointments (28 primary care from Hudson's Hope, Kitimat, Dawson Creek, Terrace, Prince George, Quesnel, Chetwynd, Moberly Lake, and 100 Mile House, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Friday, June 4

- 133 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 22 primary care provider appointments (22 primary care from Pouce Coupe, Smithers, Terrace, Chetwynd, Victoria, Arras, Prince Rupert, Fort St. John, Prince George, Kitwanga, Dawson Creek, Quesnel, and Winnipeg (MB), and 0 COVID-19 related)

Saturday, June 5

- 59 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 24 primary care provider appointments (24 primary care from Arras, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, St. Albert (AB), Chetwynd, Smithers, Kitimat, and Tumbler Ridge, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Sunday, June 6

- 43 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 17 primary care provider appointments (17 primary care from Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Terrace, Smithers, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Quesnel, and Kamloops, and 0 COVID-19 related)

Monday, June 7

- 126 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 35 primary care provider appointments (35 primary care from Prince George, Fort St. John, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Dawson Creek, Fort St. James, Chetwynd, Quesnel, Kamloops, Smithers, Rolla, Pouce Coupe, and Moberly Lake)

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

NORS - National Overdose Response Program

There are many available options for supporting those that are using substances alone.

One of the options to keep those who are using substances safe from overdose, while upholding substance users' right to dignity, respect and confidentiality, is the National Overdose Response Service (NORS) hotline 1-888-688-NORS (6677). No Wi-Fi or cell phone data is needed, just the ability to make a phone call.

NORS is a peer-run, peer-led overdose prevention open 24/7 hotline. With NORS, the person who answers your call will support you and get help if needed. They will request your address and other details to know how and where to send help to you if something goes wrong. Your information is kept strictly confidential. Check out the [NORS website](#) for more information.

Other organizational news

Launch of eTick program in British Columbia: information for healthcare providers

eTick is a Canada-wide participatory surveillance program whereby citizens who identify a tick on themselves, their pets or in the environment can take a picture of it and submit it to eTick for identification. If identified as an *Ixodes* species it can be submitted to for Lyme disease testing. For further information, please see this [fact sheet for Healthcare providers](#).

Summer exposures – animal bites and rabies post exposure prophylaxis

Warmer weather is upon us and with that a tendency for northerners to spend time in the beautiful wilderness options northern BC has to offer. This increases the risk for animal bites.

If a patient presents with a history of contact with a bat in BC, or a bite from another mammal, please contact the Northern Health CD HUB at 250-645-3794 to assess the need for vaccination (after hours and weekends 250-565-2000, press 7, ask for the Medical Health Officer (MHO) on call).

My patient was bitten or scratched by an animal – now what?

1. Irrigate and treat wound
2. Provide tetanus booster if needed
3. Call the CD Hub or MHO on call

The MHO Can:

- Assess the risk for rabies from the exposure
- Discuss the need for rabies post- exposure prophylaxis (RPEP)
- Note that **MHO approval is needed to release RPEP in BC**
- Advise on the use of Rabies Immunoglobulin
- Arrange proper follow up for the client

Rabies is essentially 100% fatal and 100% preventable. RPEP should always be given promptly when a significant risk of rabies exposure is identified.

For further information please see BCCDC guidance for:

- [Rabies](#)
- [BC Rabies guidance for Veterinarians](#)
- [Tetanus prophylaxis](#)

The all-new Strategic Analytics Scorecard is now available! Get your performance measurement analytics on all clinical and support service areas in one central platform

The Strategic Analytic Scorecard (SAS) was developed in close collaboration with several organizational leaders, and aims to act as a central platform for strategic performance measurement of all clinical and support service areas.

The new product features dedicated views specific to different audiences:

- **Service Networks View:** Includes indicator search bar functionality, interactive maps to filter geography, and an easy to see list of indicators containing indicator information, trends and values.
- **Geographic View:** Displays indicator values, for a selected time period, on an interactive map.
- **Facility View:** Contains facility specific information such as the number and types of beds, service levels, case volumes, and much more.
- **Community View:** Not all indicators are facility based. We have added a view to showcase our community indicators.
- **Data Extraction View:** Allows for data extraction

The SAS has replaced the periodically updated Service Network Scorecard (SNS) and will be available to a wider audience across Northern Health.

How to Access the SAS:

- Go to the [Reporting Portal](#) (under the Managers section on the left side). If you are not an active Tableau user you will need to complete the prompted registration process to access the scorecard.
- If you have a tableau server license, you can view the product [here](#) directly through your web browser (recommended).

Interested in learning more about how to use the SAS and the value of performance measurements? [Register for one of the following sessions on the Learning Hub](#) starting July 19th.

Questions or Feedback: email StrategicAnalytics@northernhealth.ca.

Celebrate International “What Matters to You?” Day June 9 – Whether you are a caregiver or patient, share your story on what matters to you in your care.

When was the last time you asked a patient, “What matters to you?” Has a patient or caregiver ever shared with you what really matters to them in their care?

Asking a simple question and genuinely listening to the answer is the premise of “What Matters to You?” Day, an international movement that encourages meaningful

conversations between patients and their health care providers. Its goal is to establish a relationship, build trust and understand the patient as a person in the context of their life, rather than reducing them to their health condition.

Since its start, in 2014, “What Matters to You?” has been opening up the discussion to make room for patients’ hopes, dreams, goals and desires, and has helped improve the patient experience in health care organizations in more than 30 countries.

On June 9, let’s get together to celebrate International “What Matters to You?” Day and all the meaningful conversations it helped start!

Whether you’re a health care provider or patient we want to hear from you! [Share your story](#) and have it featured in the What Matters to You newsletter and their website.

[Check out some great resources](#) to inspire and help you to ask “what matters to you?”

[Sign up for their newsletter](#) to see stories and key messages shared about What Matters to You.

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

To recognize our staff, we are introducing an easier, more condensed process where you can nominate 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 & physicians who were nominated. Click the link to read the OurNH highlight on the nominees (more staff recognition to come!):

- [Mary Herauf – Nominated for Empathy, Respect, Collaboration, and Innovation](#)
- [MaryAnn Dean – Nominated for Respect and Collaboration](#)

Feelings First: Provincial campaign to raise awareness of social emotional development in the early years

Northern Health is excited to be part of the BC Healthy Child Development Alliance [Feelings First](#) campaign. On May 17, 2021, this 13-week social media campaign launched to spread awareness and spark conversation around Social and Emotional Development (SED) in the early years.

The goal of this campaign is to develop and distribute engaging messages that will build awareness about SED and of its importance to early child development.

This campaign is for:

- **Parents and caregivers** – to support British Columbians who care for children aged 0-5 years in learning about and implementing SED into their daily lives
- **Early years providers** – to supply learning tools and a standardized framework for further education on the topic of SED in the early years to share among their families and colleagues
- **Public at large** – to encourage everyone to consider the role of SED in the early years, in an effort to draw greater attention to this topic in our society

Want to get involved? Follow the campaign and share with your friends, family, and network:

- [Feelings First website](#)
- [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @feelingsfirst.ca
- Facebook: [Feelings First](#)
- Have questions? Email info@feelingsfirst.ca

New Communications Advisor, Medical Affairs

Starting next week (Tuesday, June 15), Medical Staff Digest emails will no longer come from Mark Hendricks as he has taken on the role of Communications Lead, Capital Projects (congratulations Mark!). We have welcomed Kim Matheson to the Communications team recently as Communications Advisor, Medical Affairs. With this change you will see the Medical Staff Digest sent to you from Kimberly.Matheson@northernhealth.ca very soon!

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](#).