



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A weekly update for medical staff*

**August 17 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**

Visit the new [COVID-19 surveillance dashboard](#) from the BCCDC, to see graphs, maps, and data showing COVID-19 case rates, test positivity and vaccination coverage by local health area (LHA) and community health service area (CHSA).

As of August 16, **8,128** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **197**
- New cases: **15**
- Currently in hospital: **2**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **3**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **159**

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.

- [BC COVID-19 pandemic update](#) – August 16, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – August 11, 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.

#### **Monday, August 9**

- 146 nursing assessments
- 47 primary care provider appointments from Cawston, Charlie Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Houston, Hudson's Hope, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Smithers, Terrace, Chetwynd, Nanoose Bay, Falkland, Peace River (AB), Terrace, Thornhill, Victoria, and Prince Rupert

#### **Tuesday, August 10**

- 176 nursing assessments
- 47 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Red Deer, Terrace, Dawson Creek, Moberly Lake, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Hudson's Hope, Sandspit, Prince George, Fort St. John, Mackenzie, Houston, Charlie Lake, Topley, and Houston

#### **Wednesday, August 11**

- 162 nursing assessments
- 56 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kimberly, Hudson's Hope, Prince George, Chetwynd, Houston, Terrace, Toms Lake, McLeod Lake, Mackenzie, Thornhill, Telkwa, Quesnel, New Hazelton, and Bear Lake

#### **Thursday, August 12**

- 168 nursing assessments
- 51 primary care provider appointments from Ardrossan, Chetwynd, Charlie Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Prince George, Peace River District, Spring Lake, Taylor, Terrace, Aniyansh, Beaumont, Blackfalds, Maple Ridge, Quesnel, and Smithers

#### **Friday, August 13**

- 135 nursing assessments
- 37 primary care provider appointments from Prince George, Mackenzie, Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Terrace, Fort St. John, Thornhill, Moberly Lake, Hudson's Hope, Smithers, Tomslake, Westbank, Charlie Lake, Quesnel, Victoria, and Prince Rupert

#### **Saturday, August 14**

- 89 nursing assessments
- 34 primary care provider appointments from Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace, Smithers, Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Fort St. John, Masset, Bonaza, Moberly Lake, Progress, Likely, Fort. St. James, and Taylor

**Sunday, August 15**

- 84 nursing assessments
- 21 primary care provider appointments from Prince George, Dawson Creek, Charlie Lake, Terrace, and Chetwynd, Burns Lake, Coquitlam, Hudson Hope, Topley, Edmonton AB, St Albert AB, Masset

**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 Virtual Primary and Community Care Clinic: **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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**International Overdose Awareness Day is August 31, 2021**

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose. It is a time to pause and acknowledge those lives lost and those family and friends who are deeply impacted by both overdose events and overdose deaths in our communities.

Holding a local event is one way to show support and raise awareness in an effort to bring an end to further loss and the stigma associated with substance use.

Ideas for local community events are:

- Support from municipalities to declare the day International Overdose Awareness Day
- Hold a memorial service
- Plant a tree, offer candle lighting or banner signing
- Offer space for tributes
- Have a BBQ with speakers or an open mic
- Write a press release regarding IOAD and your community event plans
- Run an educational campaign
- Train community members on overdose recognition and response and distribute naloxone

If your community is hosting an international overdose event and would like to share your event with NH please feel free to email [HarmReduction@northernhealth.ca](mailto:HarmReduction@northernhealth.ca). Northern events will be featured on our NH social media channels.

For more information and resources, please visit the [International Overdose Awareness Day website](#).

## Other organizational news

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### **URGENT FP anesthesia locum coverage needed for Dawson Creek (August 27 – September 6)**

Northern Health is willing to consider incentives for those with appropriate availability, and reasonable expenses will be covered. Please contact Dr. Temple to discuss further financial details.

**Dates needed:** August 27 – September 6

**Contact name:** Dr. Becky Temple

**Phone:** 250-262-5508 (cell)

**Email:** [Becky.Temple@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Becky.Temple@northernhealth.ca)

### **Quality Improvement Virtual Action Learning Series (VALS): An opportunity to work collaboratively on a shared priority**

Do you have an idea to improve quality in the workplace? Bring your QI project idea and lead an interprofessional team through virtual QI training with the support of a PQI coach. Continuing medical education (CME) credits and physician reimbursement for your time is available. To register, email [physicianqi@northernhealth.ca](mailto:physicianqi@northernhealth.ca)

For more information, please see the PQI VALS post on the [CME website](#).

### **Antimicrobial Mobile Assistant: Spectrum mobile health app/website**

The NH Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is pleased to share that our health authority will be joining the Spectrum mobile Health team starting September 20, 2021. This means that NH prescribers, pharmacists and nurses will be able to easily and quickly access NH created guidelines and antimicrobial/pathogen information from their mobile devices and computers.

#### **What is it?**

- Spectrum Mobile Health (Spectrum) is a mobile app that can be customized to deliver local antimicrobial stewardship and infectious diseases resources within any hospital or health system.
- It is also accessible via desktop computers.

#### **Why should we use this tool?**

- Up to 50% of antimicrobial use in hospitals and community settings is unnecessary or inappropriate and contributes to the development of antimicrobial resistance, prolonged hospital stays, increased rates of *C. Diff* infections, increased healthcare costs and patient mortality.

- It has been shown that facility specific treatment guidelines and protocols facilitated by an antimicrobial stewardship program can lead to an increase in appropriate antimicrobial prescribing and therefore reduce antimicrobial usage, costs and adverse patient outcomes.

You can download the Spectrum app for free today from your app store or bookmark it [online](#). Starting September 20, you will be able to access Northern Health specific guidelines by searching for NH in the available locations list.

### SafeOR: What is the Saegis SafeOR program?

Saegis SafeOR is a Canadian surgical safety program focused on sustained improvement in culture and collaboration in the operating room.

Saegis is a subsidiary of the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA). Saegis offer high-impact communication and culture programs to help all healthcare professionals perform at their very best.

The SafeOR LEARN Modules at the University Hospital of Northern BC are to be offered in workshops to perioperative teams beginning in September with nine modules, developed by clinicians and in consultation with patient advocates. These modules are:

- **Safety:** The individual, team, and system
- **Culture:** It is everything
- **Collaboration:** Trusting your team
- **Professionalism:** Communicating under pressure
- **Performance:** High-stake decision making
- **Awareness:** Seeing the same picture
- **Wellness:** Investing in our teams and ourselves
- **Reliability:** High-performing surgical teams
- **Change:** Quality improvement in the OR

### Publishing “unsigned” clinical documents in PowerChart

The Transcription Quality Assurance team will begin publishing “unsigned” clinical documents in PowerChart, in accordance with the [Unsigned Provider Documents in PowerChart](#) policy.

Unsigned documents are created when a clinical note is self-authored by a provider in PowerChart, and the document was “saved” rather than “signed” (bottom right corner of program). Clinical documents in PowerChart that are in “saved” status are viewable only by the author and do not distribute. This may affect continuity of patient care as necessary clinical information is not available to practitioners.

While the Quality Assurance Team has made every effort to contact providers to assist them in publishing the unsigned documents, there are still hundreds remaining that require remediation. Documents that are published by the Quality Assurance Team will undergo a review prior to distribution, and critical errors will be addressed. Each published document

will have a disclaimer directing the reader to contact the author if there are any questions about the document.

If you have any questions about this process or would like to learn more about signing your documents, please contact the Quality Assurance team at [RTSPending@northernhealth.ca](mailto:RTSPending@northernhealth.ca) or 1-844-565-5950.

## **PSBC Maternity and newborn care framework survey: Invitation to complete survey by September 10, 2021**

As a member of our health care system, we invite you to give feedback about your experience of accessing information resources provided by Perinatal Services BC ([PSBC](#)). These PSBC information resources include guidelines, pathways, algorithms, forms, educational information, prenatal information, and more. Your feedback will help us to better understand who is using these PSBC information resources, how the PSBC information resources are currently being accessed, and how we can redesign and improve accessibility and usability of these resources.

To access the survey, click and share the link: [PSBC Maternity and Newborn Care Framework Survey](#).

### **Survey overview**

- This confidential [survey](#) is being conducted by PSBC and the Office of Virtual Health at the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA). Taking part in this confidential survey is completely voluntary. There are no right or wrong answers. You may skip any question. It will take about 5 minutes to complete the survey.
- The survey is open from **July 29 to September 10, 2021**. Please only complete the survey once during this period.
- For more details about the survey, review the survey overview on the link provided above.

### **Questions?**

- Contact Taslin Janmohamed-Velani, Project Manager, PSBC, [psbc@phsa.ca](mailto:psbc@phsa.ca)
- Dominik Stoll, Senior Leader, Virtual Health, PHSA, [officeofvirtualhealth@phsa.ca](mailto:officeofvirtualhealth@phsa.ca)

## **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!):

- [Viva Swanson – Nominated for Empathy & Collaboration](#)
- [Carly Phinney – Nominated for Innovation](#)
- [Amber Eakin – Nominated for Innovation & Respect](#)

## **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](#).