



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A weekly update for medical staff*

**August 31 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 30, **8,713** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **453**
- New cases: **9**
- Currently in hospital: **13**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **9**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **161**

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 30, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – August 25, 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 23**

- 214 nursing assessments
- 57 primary care provider appointments from Fort St. John, Chetwynd, Kitimat, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Vanderhoof, Dawson Creek, Edmonton, Gitanmaax, Quesnel, Telkwa, Charlie Lake, Fort St. James, and Laxkw'alaams

#### **Tuesday, August 24**

- 220 nursing assessments
- 42 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Terrace, Smithers, Terrace, Burns Lake, and Beaver Lodge

#### **Wednesday, August 25**

- 238 nursing assessments
- 49 primary care provider appointments from Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Houston, Prince George, Terrace, Fort Saskatchewan, Hudson's Hope, Kitimat, Thornhill, and Fort St. James

#### **Thursday, August 26**

- 263 nursing assessments
- 41 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Terrace, Thornhill, Camrose, Surrey, Kitimat, and Nazko

#### **Friday, August 27**

- 225 nursing assessments
- 56 primary care provider appointments from Beaumont, Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Hazelton, Moberly Lake, Montney, Prince George, Quesnel, Surrey, Terrace, Agassiz, Edmonton, Hudson's Hope, Kitimat, Moberly Lake, Smithers, Prince Rupert, Topley, Thornhill, and Gitwinkshlkw

#### **Saturday, August 28**

- 161 nursing assessments
- 32 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Moberly Lake, Montney, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Gitwinkshlkw, Hudson's Hope, Pink Mountain, Quesnel, Smithers, and Moricetown

#### **Sunday, August 29**

- 199 nursing assessments

- 24 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Mackenzie, Prince George, Terrace, Toms Lake, Chetwynd, Prince Rupert, and Moricetown

## 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 2021: Events in Northern communities

Please see the list of events happening in northern communities for International Overdose Awareness Day 2021.

#### Prince George

Date & Time: Tuesday, Aug 31 (5:30 pm - 8:30 pm)

Location: Mr. PG

Details: This family-friendly event will have, Take Home Naloxone (Narcan) training, craft stations for memorial ribbons and hearts, speakers and presenters, and will end with a candle light vigil as we remember and honor those who died unjust and preventable deaths.

#### Quesnel

Date & Time: Tuesday, Aug 31 (1:00pm)

Location: Walking Bridge

Details: 1:00pm – Opening Ceremonies, 2 pm – Open Mic, 3:30 pm – Closing Ceremonies, 4 pm – Memorial Walk Back to CSUN, 4:15 pm – Memorial Flower Drop, 4:30 pm – Free BBQ, Games and more! At CSUN #3 445 Anderson Drive (across from Aroma Foods)

#### Fort St John

Date & Time: Tuesday, Aug 31 (10 am – 2 pm)

Location: Festival Plaza in Centennial Park, 9523-100<sup>th</sup> Street

Details: Free Luncheon. Come meet the community support groups & service providers.

#### Dawson Creek

Date & Time: Tuesday, Aug 31 (2 pm)

Location: Nawican Friendship Centre, 1320 – 102 Avenue

Details: Join the Nawican Friendship Centre team in launching our Overdose Awareness Memorial Wall in loving memory of those we've lost, and a reminder to all of us to do what we can to stop the stigma and prevent future overdoses.

## Other organizational news

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### **UPDATE: IHA cardiac and patient transfer diversions – Diversion extended**

Due to the unprecedented wildfire activity in the Central Okanagan as well as the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases, Interior Health (IHA) is requesting that all patients, including those requiring cardiac services, continue to be diverted from Interior Health to the lower mainland tertiary care facilities August 30 – September 7 2021.

The BC Patient Transfer Network (PTN) has been notified to help support redirection of higher level of care patient transfers and cardiac patients from IHA in discussion with physicians. As per the regular post-COVID-19 transfer process, physicians are required to call PTN at 1-866-233-2337 for all patient transfers, including cardiac patients; when a patient transfer is required; PTN will coordinate a physician conference as needed with the suggested tertiary referral centres as well as the other provincial cardiac sites.

A reassessment and update to support access and service delivery for Northern Health with IHA will be reviewed Tuesday September 7 for patient transfers and cardiac referrals with follow up communication to be distributed.

### **World Sepsis Day events – Free webinars**

On behalf of the BC Sepsis Network you are invited to participate in World Sepsis Day on September 13. They are hosting two free events about the [post-sepsis patient pathway](#) and the latest evidence for [in-hospital sepsis care](#), where you'll hear from leading experts in sepsis quality improvement and have a chance to ask questions alongside other clinicians.

From transitions out of acute care to effective discharges, the evidence and wise practices for in-hospital sepsis care continue to evolve. A patient's health care journey does not end after they are treated for sepsis. Survivors deal with the effects of sepsis long after they are discharged from the hospital.

You can also [join the BC Sepsis Network](#) to find out about future learning events and resources – including one being launched soon about post-sepsis syndrome and another for emergency department sepsis reports.

### **NEW Long-term Care and Assisted Living Digest – Issue 27: Information for residents and families**

The long-term care task group is producing updates once a month for residents and families of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities. This issue of the digest will only be sent to those [facilities impacted](#) by the new Order.

[Issue 27](#) (OurNH link) of the long-term care and assisted living digest is now available. This issue provides an update on the new Public Health Order re: COVID-19 Vaccination Status

Information & Preventive Measures Order and clarifies that the new mask mandate does not apply to long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

### **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.

#### **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](#).