



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A weekly update for medical staff*

**October 12, 2021**

## **Correction**

Please note that Samantha Siegrist and Amanda Durrant - winners of the 2021 Clinical Simulation Week Open House CPR Challenge - are second year nursing students at UNBC, not CNC as listed in last week's digest. Congratulations Samantha and Amanda!  
- NH Communications

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## **Clinical guidelines**

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### **Lateral critical care transfer process out-of-health authority**

Due to the current critical care capacity challenges, this algorithm (attached in digest email) has been created to coordinate activation of the NH transfer system to facilitate timely acceptance and transport of critical care patients out-of-health authority.

## **COVID-19 news and updates**

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### **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 October 8, **12,816** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **893**
- New cases: **196**
- Currently in hospital: **93**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **18**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **177**

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](#) – October 8, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – October 6, 2021

### **N95 Respirators: No shortages of current models**

Over the past few weeks, concerns have been raised about potential shortages of N95 respirators. Staff can be assured there is currently no shortage of our standard models of N95s in BC and over the past year, work has been done to reduce the potential of future N95 shortages, including the use of reusable respirators in high usage areas and the opening of manufacturing facilities in Canada.

A list of our standard and alternate [N95 models](#) can be found on OurNH.

All staff that have the potential to be exposed to airborne infectious diseases as part of their job duties can check their fit test status through the [Employee Fit Test Report](#) (must be logged into an NH computer). If you are not fitted to an available N95 or your fit test is over a year old, please speak to your supervisor.

### **Updated risk stratification tool – Level of care guide for adults with COVID-19**

With ongoing pandemic planning, and considering our experience to date with patients infected with COVID-19, the NH Therapeutics Committee (NHTC) has reviewed our health authority Risk Stratification Tool Level of Care Guide and updated it accordingly.

- Updates are based on experience of the clinician members of this committee and include:
- Adjusted formatting to make it clear which path to follow based on patient's clinical status
- Highlighted the difference between moderate and severe patients (i.e. stable versus unstable)
- Clearly stated that oxygen support requirements are the main reason for hospital admission of any COVID-19 patients
- Added Internal Medicine consults for stable moderately ill patients
- Updated ICU regional support to Regional COVID-19 Intensivist on-call via UHNBC switchboard
- Updated hyper-links as needed
- Removed COVID-19 progression timeline and added note to beware of patients deteriorating at any point during their illness (no longer limited to 5 – 8 days from symptom onset)

Any questions or comments please see the [updated algorithm](#) and or contact the NHTC Co-Chairs via [Jennifer.Bogh@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Bogh@northernhealth.ca)

## Northern Health residents can now book a COVID-19 test online!

Starting October 4, 2021, symptomatic Northerners that require a COVID-19 test will be able to access an online [NH COVID-19 test booking form](#). This form will initiate the process for individuals to access a test at their preferred testing site. People can still continue to call the NH Virtual Clinic or contact their primary care provider for a COVID-19 assessment and test.

Health Care Workers (HCWs) can book their test online through the new [test booking form](#) or continue to call the NH Virtual Clinic at 1-844-645-7811. The Virtual Clinic will continue to have the HCW line option which codes the requisition as HCW and prioritizes the requisition at the testing site for booking. Just a reminder that this prioritization is only for health care workers and not their family members. The prioritization for HCWs is not available with the online booking form.

The website for the [COVID-19 test booking form](#) is now live, and will be shared with the public on the [Northern Health website](#) and social media channels.

## Town hall for medical staff regarding COVID-19

In September and early October, there will be a number of Town Hall information sessions available for medical staff to get the latest information and ask questions about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. For each session, Northern Health's leaders Dr. Jong Kim, the Chief Medical Health Officer, and Tanis Hampe, the new VP of Public Health, will give a brief presentation, then provide an opportunity for medical staff to ask questions or provide comments.

For more information, including topics included in each presentation and how to join the (virtual) meetings, please click into the schedule of events:

- [October 12 \(5-6 pm\)](#)
- [October 21 \(5-6 pm\)](#)
- [October 25 \(5-6 pm\)](#)

These town halls will be recorded. Please contact [physican.education@northernhealth.ca](mailto:physican.education@northernhealth.ca) for access to the latest town hall recording.

## Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- On the NH physician website:
  - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- On OurNH:
  - [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
  - [Pandemic Recovery Toolkit](#)
  - [Northern BC community immunization coverage page](#)
  - [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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### Take Home Naloxone Program Report Review of Data to December 2020 Available Now

#### Take Home Naloxone (THN) Program Report

Toward the Heart published the [THN program evaluation report](#) this week, which includes a review of data until December 2020. Notable findings and recommendations include:

- The BC THN program saw increased kit shipment and reported distribution in 2020 amidst ongoing dual public health emergencies
- Kit distribution to individuals actively responding to overdoses is increasing over time (50.4% of all kits reported distributed in 2020 were to replace a used kit)
- More than 94,000 kits have been reported as used to reverse an overdose since the program began
- Naloxone administration records indicate that 1-3 doses of naloxone are most commonly administered during an overdose response event
- There is evidence of a decreasing trend in police presence at overdose events when 911 is called based on naloxone administration records
- Involving people with lived and living experience (PWLLE) in program practice and evaluation is important to ensure that services are accessible, acceptable, accommodating and affordable

The success of the THN program would not be possible without the advocacy, expertise and tireless efforts of people with lived and living experience who continue to be on the frontlines of the drug toxicity crisis as well as community partners and colleagues at the BCCDC, Regional Health Authorities and the Ministry of Health.

## Other organizational news

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### Last chance! - Doctors of BC 2021 Health Authority Engagement Survey seeks your input

Beginning Monday, September 13, Doctors of BC will be conducting its 6th annual Health Authority Engagement Survey. This important survey seeks input on your level of engagement and interaction with our Health Authority. You are encouraged to participate and provide your feedback. The results will help us collaborate with you and your colleagues in shaping programs and policies at a regional and local level, to improve physician engagement.

The deadline for responses is midnight on **Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

For more information, see [the full memo](#).

## ByteBloc App as the eScheduling tool for MOCAP schedules coming soon to NHA

In consultation with UPIC, the eScheduling Steering Committee has approved to deploy ByteBloc as the standard tool for Physician on Call scheduling for Northern Health. This change will have the following benefits for our on call provider groups:

- A paperless and better coordinated scheduling process that reduces the number of redundant contacts to physicians
- A centralized, real time, up-to-date calendar available to providers, schedule administrators and support staff which in turn prevents calls made in error and at wrong times
- Significantly improved user experience for providers as they try to schedule and swap/trade shifts with colleagues
- Better visibility and usability for physicians providing on call services across multiple locations
- Increased accessibility via a web and mobile app that can be used anywhere with an internet connection

(More information attached to digest mail-out.)

## Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 Clinical Simulation Week Open House CPR Challenge!

Congratulations to Samantha Siegrist and Amanda Durrant, second year UNBC nursing students, on this year's winner!

[Learn more about the event and winners.](#)

For more information on the Northern Clinical Simulation Program, contact 250-645-6400 or email [SimulationTeam@northernhealth.ca](mailto:SimulationTeam@northernhealth.ca)

[Learn more about the Northern Clinical Simulation Program](#)

## COVID-19 Virtual Clinic data

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### 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, October 4

- 407 nursing assessments
- 42 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Cumberland, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kitimat, Peace River (AB), Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Terrace, Rose Prairie, and Smithers

#### Tuesday, October 5

- 340 nursing assessments

- 34 primary care provider appointments from Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Prince George, Taylor, Terrace, Vanderhoof, Kitkatla, Fort Fraser, Fort St. John, Moberly Lake, Smithers, and Thornhill

**Wednesday, October 6**

- 232 nursing assessments
- 51 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Kitwanga, Moberley Lake, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Taylor, Terrace, Chetwynd, Houston, Kitimat, Kitkatla, New Aiyansh, Smithers, and Thornhill

**Thursday, October 7**

- 277 nursing assessments
- 41 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Houston, Moberley Lake, Terrace, Granisle, Hudson's Hope, Laxkw'alaams, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Burns Lake, Houston, Quesnel, Baker Creek, Burns Lake, and Thornhill

**Friday, October 8**

- 174 nursing assessments
- 49 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Houston, Masset, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Tomslake, Fort Nelson, Mackenzie, Smithers, and Moberly Lake

**Saturday, October 9**

- 136 nursing assessments
- 29 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Burns Lake, Fort St. John, Houston, Prince George, South Taylor, Taylor, Terrace, Tomslake, Fort Nelson, Grand Prairie, Smithers, and Dawson Creek

**Sunday, October 10**

- 93 nursing assessments
- 27 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kitwanga, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Taylor, Terrace, Smithers, Terrace, and Vanderhoof

**Wellness and more**

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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](#).