



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A weekly update for medical staff*

**November 16, 2021**

## ***In this issue***

[Clinical guidelines](#)

[COVID-19 news and updates](#)

[Overdose prevention and response](#)

[Other organizational news](#)

[COVID-19 Virtual Clinic data](#)

[Wellness and more](#)

## **Clinical guidelines**

### **New: Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine**

A limited supply of the single dose Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine is expected to arrive soon. This vaccine will be available to priority groups including health care workers/Northern Health staff. One dose of the Janssen vaccine qualifies as an approved vaccine under the Provincial Health Officer's Orders that require vaccination to work in the health sector. If you are a Northern Health staff member who is not yet vaccinated and wish to make an appointment to receive the Janssen vaccine, please contact

[HRAdvisoryServices@northernhealth.ca](mailto:HRAdvisoryServices@northernhealth.ca)

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

### **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 November 15, **16,717** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **641**
- New cases: **74**
- Currently in hospital: **55**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **13**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **236**

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](#) – November 15, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – November 10, 2021

### **New and updated information to support people affected by COVID-19**

To better support the public with important, up-to-date information, the following page on the NH website was created: [COVID-19 testing and self-isolation](#). This page has three sections, each aimed at providing information for specific circumstances:

- [I have COVID-19](#)
- [I am a close contact](#)
- [Testing and results](#)

This new document, [Guidance for COVID-19 Cases and Contacts in the Northern Health Region](#), provides detailed information and links to additional resources for people who test positive for COVID-19 in the northern health region. It is aimed at supporting both cases and their close contacts to understand what they should do to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This updated infographic, [Positive test result for COVID-19?](#), explains what to expect from a phone call from public health and how to prepare.

A social media plan is in place to share these web pages and resources with the public.

### **Town hall meetings for medical staff**

Northern Health will be offering town hall meetings to share information about the COVID-19 pandemic, recruitment and retention priorities and strategies, planning moving forward, feedback on upcoming plans and projects, and more!

For each session, Northern Health's leaders (such as Dr. Jong Kim, Tanis Hampe, Dr. Chapman, and others) will give brief presentations, 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:

- [November 17 \(5 – 6 pm\)](#)
- [November 22 \(5 – 6 pm\)](#)
- [November 29 \(5 – 6 pm\)](#)

Dates and information for these events will be posted to the [Continuing Medical Education](#) site.

These town halls will be recorded. Please contact [physician.education@northernhealth.ca](mailto:physician.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](#)
- OurNH resources:
  - [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
  - [Pandemic Recovery Toolkit](#)
- [Northern Health online booking form – COVID-19 test](#)
- [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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### Stigma and overdose prevention

Stigma has been identified as a significant barrier towards accessing healthcare and this has direct detrimental consequences for people who use drugs. Treating people who use substances with respect improves health outcomes and helps save lives.

Several resources have been developed to support the reduction of both community and institutional level stigma toward people who use substances:

- [Language matters](#)
- [Respectful language](#)
- [Northern Health stigma resources](#)
- [Toward the Heart stigma resources](#)

## Other organizational news

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### Partners in Wellness newsletter

A new edition of the NH Physicians, Partners in Wellness newsletter has been released. In this issue you will read about: vaccine roll out, influenza and pneumococcal vaccine use guide, reporting requirements, influenza prevention program for health care workers, and other additional resources.

The [newsletter can be found on the physician website](#).

## Upcoming PQI workshops

The Physician Quality Improvement team is hosting two upcoming workshops:

- November 18 (5:30-7 pm): [Working with a patient partner workshop](#)
- December 2 (5:30-6:3 pm): [Process mapping workshop](#)

Please RSVP to [physicianqi@northernhealth.ca](mailto:physicianqi@northernhealth.ca) or [nhpqi.ca](http://nhpqi.ca).

## UPDATE to MOIS 2.27 Release Timelines

Please see the updated information below with respect to the MOIS/CMOIS 2.27 release dates.

A special thank you to Haida Gwaii for working with us on the MOIS pre-release, which allows us to run the MOIS new release at a site to evaluate any changes needed before releasing to all sites and services.

### NEW Dates and times of note:

- Fri, Nov 5– Go/No-go decision on early adopters go-live
- Sat, Nov 6 – Early adopter period starts
- Fri, Nov 26 at noon – Go/No-go decision for full MOIS/CMOIS release
- Fri, Nov 26 at 10pm – All MOIS sites go down for upgrade
- Fri, Nov 26 at 10:30pm – CMOIS goes down for upgrade
- Sat, Nov 27 at 10 am – CMOIS are available for use
- Sat, Nov 27 at noon – All other MOIS instances are available for use.

Alerts will be sent when the systems are being brought down and when they are brought back up.

For affected sites/services, please follow the [standard downtime procedures](#).

### MOIS 2.27 Training

[LearningHub](#) Training is available here [NHA - ITS - MOIS 2.27 Release Overview](#) for Northern Health Staff that currently use MOIS for documentation purposes. UPDATE: Please open this course using Microsoft Edge to avoid issues.

## Reducing risk of food allergy in infants – November 19 Q&A session with Dr. Zaneta Lim

An opportunity for health care providers who support families with infants.

Join Terrace-based pediatrician Dr. Zaneta Lim for a Q&A session about the prevention and treatment of food allergy in infants.

The intent of this session is to provide an opportunity for health professionals to ask clarifying questions of Dr. Lim, after they have reviewed the following recorded presentation from Dr. Victoria Cook, pediatric allergist: [Prevention and Treatment of Food Allergy in Infancy](#) (May 2021, 1.5 hours)

Register via the LearningHub: [Reducing Risk of Food Allergy in Infants](#)

For more information, related resources, and key practice points, see [OurNH news: Reducing risk of food allergy in infants – November 19 Q+A session](#)

## **The importance of the influenza vaccine during COVID-19**

It's likely that influenza viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both spread this fall and winter. This means getting an influenza vaccine during 2021-2022 is more important than ever.

Influenza and COVID-19 can have similar symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat or fatigue. Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease that can lead to serious illness, hospitalization or death. If influenza spreads rapidly in communities at the same time as COVID-19, it could overwhelm our health care system and put our loved ones at risk.

The Workplace Health and Safety influenza clinics are winding down, to be completed November 12. However, access to the influenza vaccine can still be done through your local pharmacy as well as public health vaccine clinics.

Northern Health requires all employees to self-report your decision, you can find the link to do so here: [Influenza Self-Reporting \(healthcarebc.ca\)](#)

## **Prevent influenza, mask or immunize. Report your choice; it's your duty to care.**

Have you had your flu shot, or decided you won't get one this year? Don't forget to let us know.

Physicians and staff can visit [flu.healthcarebc.ca](#) to report your choice (by December 1, 2021).

More questions or information, check out the flu page on OurNH, read the memo on the physician website, or email us at [influenza@northernhealth.ca](mailto:influenza@northernhealth.ca).

## **Flu season information**

For more information about flu vaccination, please see:

- [Northern Health influenza information](#)
- [OurNH influenza information](#)
- [BCCDC influenza information](#)
- [CDC influenza information for health professionals](#)

For information about the flu vaccine clinics being offered in the region, please see the [Northern Health flu information site](#), and the [ImmunizeBC Find an Influenza \(Flu\) Clinic site](#).

## 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, November 8

- 132 nursing assessments
- 56 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Houston, New Hazelton, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Hudson's Hope, Lax Kw'alaams, Smithers, Mackenzie, and Quesnel.

#### Tuesday, November 9

- 135 nursing assessments
- 53 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Burns Lake, Fort St John, Gitsegukla, Houston, Mackenzie, Prince George, Moberley Lake, Quesnel, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Hudsons Hope, Kitimat, and Thornhill.

#### Wednesday, November 10

- 127 nursing assessments
- 53 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Burns Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Kispiox, Kitwanga, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Moberley Lake, Quesnel, Smithers, Thornhill, Baldonnel, Brandon, Charlie Lake, and Tomslake.

#### Thursday, November 11

- 78 nursing assessments
- 31 primary care provider appointments from Houston, Fort St John, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Kispiox, Quesnel, Dawson Creek, Taylor, Prince George, and Thornhill

#### Friday, November 12

- 118 nursing assessments
- 51 primary care provider appointments from Terrace, Rose Prairie, Telkwa, Chetwynd, Prince George, Coaldale, Fort St John, Quesnel, Mackenzie, Smithers, Hudsons Hope, Hazelton, Golden, Dawson Creek, Prince Rupert, Hazelton, Houston, and Moberly Lake.

#### Saturday, November 13

- 38 nursing assessments
- 35 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Cecil Lake, Prince George, Terrace, Taylor, Hixon, Prince Rupert, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Quesnel, Smithers, Telkwa, Thornhill, and Kamloops.

**Sunday, November 14**

- 64 nursing assessments
- 25 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, Chetwynd, Edmonton AB, and Burns Lake.

**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](#).