



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

December 7, 2021

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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 December 6, **17,855** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **342**
- New cases: **32**
- Currently in hospital: **25**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **9**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **261**

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](#) – December 6, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – December 1, 2021

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

Overdose alert for the Quesnel area

NH and FNHA jointly issued an overdose alert for the community of Quesnel on December 2, 2021, due to an increase of overdose events.

Despite this being a community specific alert, please share broadly, as we know that substances move throughout our region and may present in other communities:

- The reported substance is light purple/blue in powder/pebbles, and when broken apart it turns pink. It is sold as down.
- It is highly toxic, causes heavy and prolonged sedation and requires more naloxone to reverse.
- Overdoses are occurring when the substance is injected.
- One of the first signs of overdose is choking, gurgling, or snoring sounds

Key Messaging

- Don't use alone, if possible use an OPS
- If you have to use alone use [Lifeguard](#) or [Be Safe](#) apps.
- Don't mix with other substances
- Carry and know how to use naloxone
- Call 911 or your local emergency number right away if someone overdoses.

Direct Links

- [Story Link](#)
- [Overdose Page](#)
- [Printable Poster](#)

Alert expires December 15, 2021

Other organizational news

Now Available: Northern Health Antimicrobial Mobile Assistant – Firstline (formerly known as Spectrum)

What is it?

- Firstline is a mobile app that can be customized to deliver local antimicrobial stewardship and infectious diseases resources within any hospital or health system.

How do we access it?

- Download the mobile app for free from your app store (available for IOS and android) or access [online](#) from your desktop.

How do we navigate it?

- Go to the [NH Antimicrobial Stewardship](#) page for an intro on navigating the application

Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 32: 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.

[Issue 32](#) of the long-term care and assisted living digest is now available. This issue provides updated information on visitor restrictions, holiday celebrations, and bringing food and gifts into long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

Get the latest research and knowledge translation highlights! The third edition of the Research and Knowledge Translation Newsletter is now available

The new [Research and Knowledge Translation Newsletter](#) (OurNH link) highlights knowledge translation and research activities being supported or developed in Northern Health or in collaboration with our partners. It also includes useful information and educational content for researchers and various stakeholders.

If you would like to be a contributor or have questions, please contact marcelo.bravo@northernhealth.ca.

COVID-19 Virtual Clinic data

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 29

- 100 nursing assessments
- 53 primary care provider appointments from Houston, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Prespatou, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Mackenzie, Thornhill, Chetwynd, Prince George, Goodlow, Kitimat, Fort St John, Smithers, and Quesnel

Tuesday, November 30

- 85 nursing assessments
- 48 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Hudson's Hope, Kitimat, Prince George, Terrace, Moberly Lake, Prince Rupert, Telkwa, Thornhill, Fort Nelson, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, and Valemount

Wednesday, December 1

- 108 nursing assessments
- 53 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Hudson's Hope, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Taylor, Terrace, Port Coquitlam, Quesnel, Chetwynd, Kispiox, Kitimat, Thornhill, Wells, Port Edward, Smithers, and Valemount

Thursday, December 2

- 103 nursing assessments
- 41 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Houston, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace, Endako, Kitimat, and New Hazelton

Friday, December 3

- 70 nursing assessments
- 49 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Telkwa, Terrace, Quesnel, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Moberley Lake, New Aiyansh, Prince George, Prince Rupert, South Hazelton, Thornhill, Houston, Kitimat, Burnaby, Hudson's Hope, Moricetown, and New Hazelton

Saturday, December 4

- 35 nursing assessments
- 29 primary care provider appointments from Fort St John, Halfway River, Houston, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Rose Prairie, Smithers, Terrace, Vanderhoof, Dawson Creek, Quesnel, Charlie Lake, Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Kispiox, Terrace, and Tumbler Ridge

Sunday, December 5

- 36 nursing assessments
- 17 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Terrace, Fort St John, Moberly Lake, Quesnel, Prince George, Tumbler Ridge

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](#).