



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

December 14, 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

Ectopic Pregnancy: Change to methotrexate PFS stock locations

Upon further consultation between clinicians, methotrexate PFS stock locations for ectopic pregnancy have been revised. See the memo in the emailed digest for further details regarding availability in NH.

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 13, **18,055** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **240**
- New cases: **18**
- Currently in hospital: **13**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **8**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **266**

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 13, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – December 9, 2021

COVID-19 Collection Sites – client resources

Northern Health (NH) Public Health requests that everyone tested for COVID-19 be provided with resources that outline next steps if their test result is positive. This is an important way to support people with a positive test result and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

This [memo](#) (OurNH link) outlines the specific resources to provide to people being tested for COVID-19 and how to print them.

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

BC Coroner Report updated: January – October 2021, and record number of naloxone kits ordered

BC's Coroners Service updated 2021 illicit drug toxicity deaths to include October 2021

- 201 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in October 2021, the highest number recorded in a month
- Total of 1,782 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths between January and October 2021, the highest ever recorded in a calendar year
- Fentanyl or its analogues detected in 84 per cent of all illicit drug toxicity deaths, with a greater number of cases with extreme fentanyl concentrations

- No deaths reported at supervised consumption or overdose prevention sites
- No indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths
- Read the full report [here](#)
- Read about types of drugs detected [here](#)

October 2021 - A record number of Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits (over 43,500) were shipped by Toward the Heart

- 94,522 naloxone kits were reported as used to reverse an overdose since August 2012
- Over half of kits distributed were reported as replacements for a used kit
- 83 per cent of people who received kits were people who used substances
- This highlights that people with lived and living experience are the ones getting kits and using them to save the lives of their friends and community members

Other organizational news

Pressure ulcer prevention and skin and wound care reminder - Learn more about the required organizational practice!

Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) are evidence-informed practices addressing high-priority areas that are essential and that the organization must have in place to enhance patient safety and minimize risk.

Participation and achievement of national standards of care gives reassurance to the public, patients and families, caregivers and the entire organization that Northern Health is providing high-quality services.

The “northern way of caring” is to assess each client’s risk for developing a pressure injury and implement interventions to prevent pressure injury development.

Use the Braden Risk Assessment Scale and head-to-toe skin assessments to identify clients at risk for developing pressure injuries. Best practice guidelines indicate that clients who score at risk on their initial Braden Scale (on admission) should then be re-assessed at regular intervals, and whenever their condition changes.

[Pressure Ulcer and Skin and Wound Care ROP Poster](#) (OurNH link).

For more information on all ROPS see the [ROP Handbook](#).

If you have any questions, please email Lexie.Gordon@northernhealth.ca.

PQI Virtual Action Learning Series

Do you have an idea to improve quality in your workplace? Bring your quality improvement (QI) project idea and lead an interprofessional team through virtual QI training with the support of a [physician quality improvement \(PQI\)](#) coach. [Continuing medical education \(CME\)](#) credits and physician reimbursement for your time is available.

To register, please contact physicianqi@northernhealth.ca by January 14, 2022.

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, December 6

- 79 nursing assessments
- 51 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Kitimat, Nine Mile River (NS), Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Terrace, Thornhill, Topley, Chetwynd, Houston, Kitwanga, and Pouce Coupe

Tuesday, December 7

- 71 nursing assessments
- 44 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Houston, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Quesnel, Telegraph Creek, Valemount, Haisla, and Moberly Lake

Wednesday, December 8

- 87 nursing assessments
- 55 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Houston, Port Edward, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Quesnel, Smithers, Mackenzie, Pouce Coupe, and Kitimat

Thursday, December 9

- 52 nursing assessments
- 49 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Pouce Coupe, Prince Rupert, Taylor, Terrace, Hudson's Hope, Iskut, Prince George, Quesnel, Thornhill, and Lax Kw'alaams

Friday, December 10

- 66 nursing assessments
- 55 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Gitanyow, Houston, Prince George, Terrace, Iskut, Kitimat, Nanaimo, Nine Mile River (NS), Pouce Coupe, Stewart, Thornhill, Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Houston, and Quesnel

Saturday, December 11

- 37 nursing assessments
- 32 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Quesnel, Southbank, Telkwa, Kitwanga, Moberly Lake, Port Edward, Surrey, Thornhill, and Terrace

Sunday, December 12

- 43 nursing assessments
- 22 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St John, Houston, Moberly Lake, Pouce Coupe, Prespatou, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Smithers, Prince George, and Kitimat

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](#).