



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

December 28, 2021

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Clinical guidelines

Omicron variant sequencing update

- As BC's omicron variant cases continue to increase, BCCDC continues to sequence 100% of all COVID-19 samples to determine variant type for all samples.
- Within Northern Health, all sequencing results will be available in CMOIS. It may take two to three weeks for results to be reported.
- However, the type of variant does not change the clinical or public health management for confirmed cases. The most recently updated [BCCDC guidance](#) for public health management of COVID-19 was posted on December 15, 2021.

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 24*, **18,462** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **236**
- New cases: **66**
- Currently in hospital: **8**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **6**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **274**

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.

*42 new cases reported on the [BC Pandemic Report](#) from December 28 (more information coming December 29, please connect with the [BC Ministry of Health newsfeed](#) and [BC COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for up to date, detailed information).

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 28, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – December 22, 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

The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction Issues of Substance Conference and resource links

CCSA Conference Presentations

The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) hosted their Issues of Substance conference recently. The Conference highlights new research and best practices related to substance use, addiction, harm reduction, and treatment. BCCDC's harm reduction team presented 10 abstracts and posters, including:

- [Substances as Social Lubricants: Understand 'Party and Play'](#)
- [Exploring the Communication of Drug Alerts in BC](#)
- [Safety Beliefs and Behaviours](#)
- [Motivations for Concurrent Use of Uppers and Downers](#)

- See full conference program [here](#).

Other organizational news

Physician highlight

The [NH Stories site](#) is a great place to read stories about NH physicians, staff, events, insights, and much more! This month, we are featuring [Dr. Anurag Singh and his work in virtual health](#).

If you have a story to tell, or have a colleague you'd like to spotlight, please reach out to Kim Matheson at kimberly.matheson@northernhealth.ca.

Don't forget! The PQI team also has a new [podcast](#), where you can hear more about NH physicians and their projects!

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 20

- 117 nursing assessments
- 47 primary care provider appointments from Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Lax Kw'alaams, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Moberly Lake, Thornhill, and Smithers

Tuesday, December 21

- 106 nursing assessments
- 49 primary care provider appointments from Fort St John, Dawson Creek, Taylor, Terrace, Burns Lake, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Rose Prairie, Mackenzie, Quesnel, Chetwynd, Houston, Prince George, Charlie Lake, Telegraph Creek, Progress, and Pouce Coupe

Wednesday, December 22

- 88 nursing assessments
- 53 primary care provider appointments from Prince Rupert, Terrace, Smithers, Prince George, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Fort St John, Moberly Lake,

Quesnel, Fraser Lake, New Hazelton, Mackenzie, McBride, Thornhill, Valemount, and Kitimat

Thursday, December 23

- 85 nursing assessments
- 56 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Hixon, Houston, Kitimat, Pouce Coupe, Prespatou, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace, Chetwynd, Nazko, Moberly Lake, and Quesnel

Friday, December 24

- 70 nursing assessments
- 49 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Baldonnel, Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St James, Fort St John, Moberly Lake, Peace River, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Taylor, Terrace, Smithers, Victoria, Spruce Grove (AB), and Telkwa

Saturday, December 25

- 33 nursing assessments
- 17 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Fort St John, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace, and Thornhill

Sunday, December 26

- 66 nursing assessments
- 39 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Moberly Lake, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Terrace, and Telkwa

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](#).