



# MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

*A weekly update for medical staff*

**January 25, 2022**

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## **Clinical guidelines**

### **Introducing Take Home Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19 at NH Collection Sites**

Take home Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) have been introduced by the province as a COVID-19 testing tool to expand capacity with the increasing demand for COVID-19 tests. Take home tests are being rolled out Northern Health (NH)-wide the week of January 17. Take home tests are available to patients with COVID-19 symptoms who are at risk of developing severe disease. Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms that are associated with a high-risk setting will continue to be offered a PCR test and contacted by the Case and Contact Management team.

For more information, please read the full memo (attached to the emailed digest).

### **Important Lab Notice: Angel wing set (butterfly) critical shortage**

Surges in COVID-19 infection rates over the last 6 months have resulted in global supply chain impacts due to surges in consumer demands for goods, labour shortages, transportation challenges, and raw material constraints. Most recently is a global shortage of BD Wingset supplies. The vendor has experienced supply challenges at the end of 2021, which will continue well into 2022. Currently, there is no expected resolution timeline. See the full memo for the approved temporary substitutions.

### **Laboratory services update: respiratory testing strategy**

Laboratory services update: the [respiratory testing strategy for 2021-2022](#) (OurNH link) season has been activated for surveillance purposes. NH Laboratory services will test for COVID-19, Influenza A/B and RSV on a proportion of samples submitted for COVID-19 testing.

## 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 January 24, **23, 544** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **1, 566**
- New cases: **91**
- Currently in hospital: **33**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **7**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **283**

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](#) – January 24, 2022
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – January 19, 2022

### Get your booster (if eligible):

Boosters are the health care system's best defense against COVID-19 because the vaccine becomes less effective over time. The booster returns and even improves vaccine effectiveness from shortly after when you received Dose 2. Boosters help protect our seniors, who are most likely to experience severe illness and hospitalization as a result of COVID-19 infection. **Regardless of the setting, if or when you are eligible (6 months after Dose 2), please [book your booster](#) immediately.** For more information on Omicron and the importance of getting booster dose, check out "[Omicron Wave COVID-19](#)", a presentation by Medial Health Officer Dr. Corneil.

### 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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### NH Overdose Prevention and Response regional update now available

The most recent NH Overdose Prevention & Response Update was published and posted to our external [Overdose Prevention](#) page.

The update provides an overview of the provincial toxic drug crisis including:

- NH overdose data
- Peer engagement initiatives
- Tips on reducing Stigma
- Overdose Prevention 101
- Community Corner

Please find the full update [here](#).

## Other organizational news

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### 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](mailto: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!

### Health authority parking sites

As of March 4, 2022, pay parking will be reinstated at BC health authority sites to ensure that parking spots are available for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors, and so that free parking can continue to be extended to those who regularly receive certain treatments in acute-care settings.

Free parking at provincial health-care facilities will continue for patients receiving dialysis treatment or undergoing cancer treatment in acute-care programs, and for parents or caregivers of children staying in the hospital overnight. Volunteers will still be able to park for free, and financial hardship provisions will continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis by health authorities.

For more information, please see the [Province of BC news release](#).

### **UBC Continuing professional development**

New, exciting opportunities for continuing professional development (CPD) out of UBC are available on the [continuing medical education \(CME\) page of the physicians website](#). These opportunities are regularly updated and there are a number of new series to explore! Please visit [the site](#) to check out what's available.

### **MOIS MST server migration tonight (January 25, 2022)**

NH-CTS-Core Tech Services and NH-CIS-Primary and Community Systems are working to correct issues with MOIS time auto-population in the Northeast Health Service Delivery Area (NE HSDA).

Daylight saving time affects some MOIS functions (e.g., the CTRL+T shortcut that auto-populates the date and/or time into a field). A server migration will happen tonight (January 25, 2022) to fix these issues. Please [read the memo](#) (OurNH link) for more information.

### **Stroke Transport and Triage Guideline Stakeholder Review**

The 2020 Provincial Stroke Triage and Transport Guideline describe a decision making framework for pre-hospital triage and transport of hyperacute stroke patients, and aims to support improved and equitable care by streamlining access to early diagnostics, specialist consultation and advanced hyperacute stroke therapies for all British Columbians.

Work is underway to adapt the Provincial Guidelines for use in Northern Health. The attached draft regional Stroke Triage and Transport Guidelines for the Northwest, Northeast and Northern Interior were developed in collaboration with Stroke Services BC as well as Northern Health and BC EHS stakeholders, and are now being circulated for broad stakeholder review and feedback. We welcome feedback to [RCD.Communications@northernhealth.ca](mailto:RCD.Communications@northernhealth.ca) by February 11, 2022.

### **Upcoming webinar: Knowledge Translation and Communications: What's the difference? – January 28, 2022**

Knowledge translation (KT) describes activities that move research from the lab and into society resulting in changes to behaviour, practice or policy, the development of further research, and its application. KT relies on good communication — a discipline in its own right — that effectively informs, persuades, builds trust and creates culture, value, and meaning. This webinar will go over the fundamentals of the fields of KT and Communications — what they are, how they are similar, how they are different, approaches used to develop good KT and communications plans, as well as some of skills and supports, tools and techniques needed to do them well.

After this webinar, the audience will be able to:

- define the terms “knowledge translation” and “communications” as used in the context of health care and health research and understand their similarities and differences
- apply simple templates in the implementation of basic KT and communications plans

- be familiar with basic tools and techniques needed to execute a KT or communications plan

Join us on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 12 pm PST for this 45 min webinar.

[Register here](#)

**Speaker** – Kevin Sauvé, Head of Knowledge Translation (Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre)

### **Chronic pain mentorship opportunity (primary care providers and allied health professionals)**

Pain BC is launching the [BC Adaptive Mentorship Network for Pain, Mental Health & Substance Use](#) (BCAMN) in March. The program is for community-based primary care providers and allied health professionals. These health care provider mentees will be connected with professional mentors from a variety of disciplines across the province. Through group-based mentoring and learning opportunities, as well as on-demand one-to-one mentoring conversations, mentees and their mentors will explore the topics of chronic pain, mental health and substance use. You'll be sure to see some familiar faces: Dr. Sean Ebert (long-time Vanderhoof GP) is a Network Co-Director, and Dr. Devan Reddy (GP and NH Medical Co-Lead for Chronic Pain) is a mentor.

The BCAMN is currently recruiting for the first cohort of mentees. [Apply by February 3, 2022.](#)

### **Education Opportunity: Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project's first virtual conference – Realizing the Provincial Vision 2022: Perinatal Substance Use**

- **Dates:** February 9-10, 2022 at 9 am – 4 pm PST
- **Location:** Virtual event
- **Cost:** Free
- **Objective:** Gather together health care professionals, physicians, health care leaders, Indigenous leaders and Knowledge Keepers, policymakers, cross-sector partners and people with lived and living experience to network, learn and share perspectives on evidence-informed, leading practices, wise practices and culturally safe care that are contributing to strengthening the perinatal substance use continuum of care.

To learn more:

- Registration link: [Realizing the Provincial Vision 2022: Perinatal Substance Use](#)
- Overview: [Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project](#) (PPSUP)
- Questions? Email [ppsup@phsa.ca](mailto:ppsup@phsa.ca)

### **Advance Care Planning basics – Public education sessions**

Advance Care Planning is an important process for all adults 19 and older to engage in as a part of life planning. It is a process that encourages adults to think about and communicate their values, wishes and beliefs for their future health care. This can help to ensure healthcare

received is in line with those beliefs, values and wishes. This process is especially important for adults living with complex and/or chronic health challenges. While many Canadians recognize that Advance Care Planning is valuable it is estimated that one in five actually have participated in Advance Care Planning.

Northern Health will be hosting four virtual events for the public on the dates listed in the poster as a way to share the importance of Advance Care Planning and how to get started.

### **Electrocardiogram (ECG)/Holter Monitor Survey**

Attention all professions that perform electrocardiograms (ECGs) and/or Holter Monitors. Please complete this [short, voluntary, and anonymous survey](#) to help identify and plan for ongoing education as well as policy development.

Please note: the deadline to complete this survey is February 1, 2022 and is designed only for professions who perform ECGs and/or Holter Monitors.

### **Preceptorship in Practice Training now available. Great opportunity for nurses and allied health professionals who provide clinical preceptorship to students**

Preceptorship in Practice is a classroom-based learning session designed to provide an interactive learning experience for nurses and allied health professionals who preceptor students.

Topics include:

- The clinical preceptor-preceptee relationship
- How to give effective feedback
- How to facilitate clinical thinking and reasoning
- How to manage challenging preceptorship situations in the clinical setting.

[Register on Learning Hub – Course #27767](#)

**(Space is limited but you may drop in and attend if there is room in the session)**

**January 25 – UHNBC LDC Building, Room 505**

1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm

**January 27 – UHNBC LDC Building Room 501**

9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 2 pm

If you have any questions, contact Cara Visagie at [cara.visagie@northernhealth.ca](mailto:cara.visagie@northernhealth.ca).

### **Seeking feedback on the NHMAC Cultural Safety Action Plan**

Northern Health's work regarding cultural safety and humility focuses on ensuring equity and a system free from stigma, discrimination, and racism for medical staff, employees and those people we serve. In light of the recent attention on systemic racism in the health care system, the Northern Health Medical Advisory Committee (NHMAC) has committed to

dedicated leadership and efforts to facilitate this transformation, particularly where it pertains to medical staff.

Please join Northern Health's leadership, including the Northern Health Medical Advisory Committee Chair Dr. Helene Smith, the VP of Indigenous Health Dr. Margo Greenwood, and Dr. Becky Temple, Medical Director, to provide feedback and input into the draft Action Plan. This will be a CME accredited event where leaders will present their initial thoughts on the direction we need to take and provide the opportunity for medical staff to reflect, discuss and provide input into the draft Action Plan.

This discussion will be held on January 25, 2022 (from 5-6pm), also available on [Zoom](#). For more information, including the links to the Zoom meetings, please see the [CME website](#).

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

Northern Health has been offering town hall meetings to share information about the COVID-19 pandemic, recruitment and retention strategies, to get feedback on upcoming plans and projects, and more! After every presentation, there will be time for questions and comments.

For more information about upcoming town hall and education events, including topics for each presentation and how to join the (virtual) meetings, please click into the schedule of events:

- [February 2 \(5-6 pm\): Pandemic update](#)

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.

## **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, January 17**

- 289 nursing assessments
- 68 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Houston, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Port Edward, Smiters, Telkwa, Terrace, Thornhill, Witset, and Charlie Lake

#### **Tuesday, January 18**

- 235 nursing assessments
- 60 primary care provider appointments from Fort St John, Mackenzie, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Telkwa, Terrace, Tumbler Ridge, Dawson Creek, Houston,

Prespatou, Quesnel, Smithers, Chetwynd, Moberly Lake, Fort St James, Port Edward, Smithers, and Thornhill

**Wednesday, January 19**

- 272 nursing assessments
- 54 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Houston, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Skidegate, Smithers, Telkwa, Terrace, Chetwynd, Laxgalts'ap, Quesnel, Mackenzie, and Burns Lake

**Thursday, January 20**

- 261 nursing assessments
- 51 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Metlakatla, Moberly Lake, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace, Thornhill, Quesnel, Fraser Lake, Valemount, and Edmonton (AB)

**Friday, January 21**

- 171 nursing assessments
- 68 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Endako, Fort St John, Houston, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Taylor, Terrace, Tumbler Ridge, Valemount, Smithers, Thornhill, Skidegate, and Grande Prairie (AB)

**Saturday, January 22**

- 127 nursing assessments
- 41 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Fraser Lake, Houston, Masset, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, Thornhill, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, Moricetown, Telkwa, and Tumbler Ridge

**Sunday, January 23**

- 142 nursing assessments
- 34 primary care provider appointments from Dawson Creek, Burns Lake, Fort St John, Groundbirch, Houston, Haida Gwaii, Moberly Lake, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, and Terrace

**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](#).