



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

April 19, 2022

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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 April 14, **29, 550** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- New cases: **107**
- Currently in hospital: **11**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **1**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **330**

For the latest provincial numbers, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated every Thursday. 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](#).

- [BC COVID-19 weekly pandemic update](#) – April 14, 2022
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – April 14, 2022

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

Summary of the BC Coroners Service Review Panel: A review of Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths

The [BC Coroners Service Review Panel: A review of Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths](#) was released March 9, 2022. Key points from the summary include:

- The death review panel examined drug toxicity deaths that occurred between August 1, 2017 and July 31, 2021 in British Columbia (BC)
- The average number of deaths per month more than doubled after the start of COVID-19 restrictions compared to the previous year
- Deaths due to illicit drug toxicity are the second leading cause of death for potential years life lost; this has resulted in a decline in life expectancy in BC
- NH had the highest rate of illicit drug toxicity deaths in the province during the review period

To read the full review, visit the [BC Coroners Service Review Panel: A review of Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths](#).

Other organizational news

Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 37: 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 37](#) of the long-term care and assisted living digest is now available. This issue provides updated information on visitor guidelines, second COVID-19 booster doses, and social events and gatherings.

Town hall meetings and CME events 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. There are also many interesting continuing medical education presentations coming up that we will be showcasing.

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:

- [April 19 \(5-6 pm\): Northern Education Rounds \(Addressing Patient Safety Events\)](#)
- [April 25 \(5-6 pm\): Northern Education Rounds \(Vaccine Updates with Dr. Abu Hamour, Tanis Hampe, Dr. Jong Kim\)](#)
- [May 10 \(5-6 pm\): Northern Education Rounds \(Incorporating the Physician Voice at Northern Health\)](#)
- May 25 (5-6 pm): To be determined

Dates and log-in information for these events will be posted to the [Continuing Medical Education site](#). The town hall events will be recorded.

Please contact physician.education@northernhealth.ca for access to the latest town hall recording.

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, April 11

- 49 nursing assessments
- 52 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Cecil Lake, Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St John, Groundbirch, Kinkolith, Kitimat, Moberly Lake, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smeaton (SK), Taylor, Terrace, and Thornhill

Tuesday, April 12

- 40 nursing assessments
- 42 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Fraser Lake, Granisle, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Rolla, Terrace, and Thornhill

Wednesday, April 13

- 50 nursing assessments
- 70 primary care provider appointments from Cedarvale, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St John, Granisle, Houston, Kitimat, Moberly Lake, Port Alberni, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Sidney, Smithers, Terrace, Thornhill, and Tumbler Ridge

Thursday, April 14

- 46 nursing assessments
- 57 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Groundbirch, Houston, Hudson's Hope, Kitimat, Kitwanga, Nanaimo, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace, Thornhill, and Tumbler Ridge

Friday, April 15

- 29 nursing assessments
- 41 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Hazelton, Houston, Hudson's Hope, Kitimat, Kitwanga, Pink Mountain, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Terrace, and Tumbler Ridge

Saturday, April 16

- 27 nursing assessments
- 41 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St James, Fort St John, Houston, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Rolla, Smithers, Terrace, and Thornhill

Sunday, April 17

- 18 nursing assessments
- 42 primary care provider appointments from Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St John, Kitimat, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Taylor, Terrace, Thornhill, and Witsset

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](#).