



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A weekly update for medical staff

June 14, 2022

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Clinical guidelines

Monkeypox virus: Laboratory Memo

Please see the laboratory memo attached to the email digest to guide clinicians in their approach to diagnostic testing for suspected cases of monkeypox virus in humans.

Avian influenza virus: Laboratory Memo

Please see the laboratory memo attached to the email digest to guide clinicians in their approach to diagnostic testing for suspected cases of avian influenza virus in humans.

Overdose prevention and response

Toxic drug alert issued for Quesnel June 14, 2022

There has been an increase in overdose events in the community of Quesnel. The reported substance is being sold as down. It is **deep burgundy (red) in colour, chunky, and dense**.

This substance is highly toxic and causes sudden overdose including prolonged sedation and memory loss. Overdoses are happening when the substance is smoked and injected.

For your safety

- Get overdose prevention, recognition, and response training; carry naloxone
- Don't use alone. Make a plan and tell a buddy who can call for help if needed
- If you plan to use alone, use the Lifeguard or BeSafe app available free on the app store or on Toward the Heart website (<https://towardtheheart.com>)
- Know your tolerance. If you are sick or had a time of abstinence or reduced use, use much less

- Don't mix drugs or mix drugs with alcohol
- Test a small amount first and go slow
- Use in an OPS if possible (see Quesnel locations listed below)
- Access fentanyl drug checking where available (OPS sites)
- Call 911 or your local emergency number right away if someone overdoses

Local overdose prevention sites (OPS)

- CSUN, 3-445 Anderson Dr., Quesnel
 - Friday – Wednesday, 4pm – 10pm
- Quesnel Specialized Services, 395 Elliott St., Quesnel
 - Monday – Friday, 11am – 7pm (excluding holidays)

Links to Alert

- [Northern Health Stories website - Toxic drug alert: Quesnel](#)
- [Printable poster - Toxic drug alert: Quesnel](#)
- [Northern Health website - Toxic drug alert: Quesnel](#)

COVID-19 news and updates

COVID-19 case counts and statements

Visit the [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 June 9, **30,330** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- New cases: **44**
- Currently in hospital: **4**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **1**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **352**

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](#). The following reports are updated every Thursday:

- [BC COVID-19 weekly pandemic updates](#)
- [BCCDC Situation Reports](#)

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](#).

Other organizational news

Accreditation Canada survey

Northern Health will be hosting seven Accreditation Canada Surveyors July 10-15, 2022, visiting 21 communities across Northern Health. Accreditation is an external peer review process that Northern Health uses to assess and improve the services provided to patients and clients. Accreditation status provides recognition that our services are meeting national standards of quality.

Please see the memo attached memo to the email digest for more information.

Fort St. John ER locum coverage requested

ER locum shifts will be available for the Fort St. John hospital in July, August, and September. Travel and accommodations will be covered (details to follow). If you are interested, please contact Susan Trenholm (susan.trenholm@northernhealth.ca).

Updated Medical Imaging requisitions

Updated Northern Health Medical Imaging requisitions are available through DocumentSource. These requisitions have been standardized and meet all of the Diagnostic Accreditation Program and Ministry of Health mandates. Your transition to these updated forms is appreciated. Please find links to the updated forms in the memo attached to the email digest.

Post-COVID-19 Recovery BC ECHO webinar – Session 11 (June 14, 12-1pm)

Based on the [global ECHO model](#), the BC ECHO for Post-COVID-19 Recovery (part of the Post-COVID Interdisciplinary Clinical Care Network) is a free virtual learning community of specialists and community health care providers who use instructive and case-based learning to improve care for patients recovering from symptoms post COVID-19.

For information about Session 11 (“Post-COVID-19: A Cardiology Perspective”), including how to register, please visit [the ECHO session webpage](#). For more information about all other BC ECHO sessions, please visit the [BC ECHO for post-COVID-19 recovery website](#),

and the [post-COVID-19 Interdisciplinary Clinical Care Network website](#). **Please note** that if you were unable to attend this webinar, it will be available on the [BC ECHO for post-COVID-19 recovery website](#).

CADRA Indigenous health care award

An Indigenous health care award will be presented to one health care professional to support in-person attendance to the 18th Annual CADRA (Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance) ADHD conference (October 1-2, 2022 in St. John's Newfoundland). Please see the memo attached to the email digest for more information (including how to apply).

Get the latest research and knowledge translation highlights! The 5th edition research and knowledge translation newsletter is now available

The new [research and knowledge translation newsletter](#) highlights knowledge translation and research activities being supported or developed in Northern Health or in collaboration with our partners. It will also include useful information and educational content for researchers and various stakeholders.

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

Town hall: Northern Health is going from paper to digital: What is the plan?

Join Dr. Andrew Deonarine, Dr. Dana Cole, and Bjorn Butow on **June 15 (from 5-6 pm)** on [Zoom](#) for a discussion about Northern Health's SaferCare plan. For more information about SaferCare and the speakers, please see [the physician website](#).

For information about the event, and how to join (via Zoom or telephone), please visit the [Northern Health Continuing Medical Education website](#).

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:

- [June 15 \(5-6 pm\): Town Hall \(Northern Health is going from paper to digital: What is the plan?\)](#) Speakers: Dr. Andrew Deonarine (Medical Lead, Informatics), Dr. Dana Cole, (Regional Director, Pharmacy Services; Clinical Lead, Safer Care), and Bjorn Butow (Director, Clinical Information Systems)
- [June 27, 2022 \(5-6pm\): Northern Education Rounds \(Medical Staff Complaints in Relation to Bill 14 and Respect in the Workplace\)](#). Speakers: Dr. Ronald Chapman (VP Medicine) and Dr. Becky Temple (Medical Director, Enhanced Medical Affairs Support). [Registration is required](#).

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, June 6

- 21 nursing assessments
- 64 primary care provider appointments from Charlie Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fraser Lake, Grande Prairie (AB), Kitimat, Masset, Moberly Lake, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Sylvan Lake (AB), Telkwa, Terrace, Thornhill, and Westwold

Tuesday, June 7

- 21 nursing assessments
- 64 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Fraser, Fort St. John, Kitimat, Kitwanga, Lax Kw'alaams, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Spirit River (AB), Stettler (AB), Terrace, Thornhill, Tomslake, and Victoria

Wednesday, June 8

- 16 nursing assessments
- 64 primary care provider appointments from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Houston, Iskut, Kamloops, Kitimat, Moberly Lake, Montney, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, Thornhill, and Tumbler Ridge

Thursday, June 9

- 16 nursing assessments
- 49 primary care provider appointments from Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fraser Lake, Greenville, Kitsumkalum, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Sik-E-Dakh, Terrace, Thornhill, and Tumbler Ridge

Friday, June 10

- 23 nursing assessments
- 39 primary care provider appointments from Baldonnel, Burns Lake, Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Kitimat, O'Leary (PEI), Prince George, Prince Rupert, Rocky View County (AB), Smithers, Terrace, Tumbler Ridge

Saturday, June 11

- 17 nursing assessments
- 53 primary care provider appointments from Burns Lake, Cedarvale, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kispiox, Kitimat, Lax Kw'alaams, Ming's Bight (NL), Moberly Lake, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Sik-E-Dakh, Smithers, Terrace, and Thornhill

Sunday, June 12

- 13 nursing assessments
- 38 primary care provider appointments from Charlie Lake, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Fraser, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Hazelton, Hudson's Hope, Port Edward, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, and Thornhill

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](#).