



COVID-19 UPDATE

MEDICAL STAFF

March 19, 2020

For the latest news and resources on COVID-19, visit the [Coronavirus page on OurNH](#).

Provincial updates

- **As of March 18, 2020**, there have been **four** (4) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Northern Health.
- In the province, there are **231** identified cases.
- On March 18th, the province declared a provincial state of emergency.
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – March 18, 2020.

COVID-19 clinical guidelines

A provincial COVID-19 Clinical Guideline Review subcommittee is actively developing clinical guidelines for acute and community care and are posting the most current documents on the BC CDC website. Current information includes:

[Primary Care](#)

- Patient ID and Assessment with MD/NP
- PPE
- Cleaning & Disinfecting Clinical Spaces
- Vulnerable Populations
- Clinical Care
- Patient Handouts
- Posters & Signage

[Hospital & Critical Care](#)

- Currently includes only the [WHO's Clinical Management of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection when COVID-19 is suspected](#)

[Long-Term Care & Assisted Living Facilities](#)

- Restricting Visitors
- Guidance for Health Care Workers (links to PHAC for updates)

No need to stockpile supplies

Please be advised that there is no need to stockpile. NH Materiel Management is managing and distributing our stock to ensure all sites have what they need. However, it is important that staff be judicious in their use of all supplies.

COVID-19 decision tree

A [new decision tree](#) has been developed for Covid-19 to assist health care providers in assessing patients presenting to the virtual clinic.

Virtual clinic toll-free: 1-844-645-7811

Support for rural providers managing COVID-19

The **Rural Outreach Support** group (ROSe) is a team of BC rural intensivists who are working with Dr. John Pawlovich and the [Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues](#) (JSC) to provide a wide range of advice and/or support to rural physicians looking for a consultation/second opinion about a patient.

If you are looking for advice about how to test or treat a patient with a suspected case of COVID-19, call the intensivists at ROSe 24/7 for additional information, support, or guidance. **Toll Free: 1-888-918-0626**

Health care providers collecting COVID-19 samples

Swabs approved for use to collect for COVID-19: Collect only 1 swab.

- Aptima Unisex STI Swab (white label)
 - available through Purchasing - item # 5102033
 - please order this swab for primary care and community collections
- Copan Viral swab - Red or Blue Top
 - limited supply from the lab (or available through BCCDC if normally ordered through them)

Add the following to the requisition in RED as a notification alert to the lab:

- HOSP - hospitalized, or soon to be hospitalized patient, or immunocompromised patient)
- LTCF - long term care facility resident
- HCW1 - health care worker - direct patient care
- HCW2 - health care worker - indirect patient care
- UPCC - patient seen at an Urgent & Primary Care Center or ER Department and sent home

- COMM - patient seen at a Primary Care Clinic or COVID-19 Collection Station

Use of ibuprofen/Advil

A memo has been circulating on social media branded with the logos of PHSA, VCH and PHC, claiming to cite advice from BCCDC regarding the use of ibuprofen/Advil in relation to COVID-19.

This is not an authentic memo and it was not issued by BCCDC or any of the health authorities. The information about ibuprofen is new and we are reviewing the evidence. In the meantime, since there are alternatives to manage fever, such as acetaminophen, it is prudent to use those.

Stress and emotional support

We recognize this can be a period of significant stress. NH has psychosocial and resiliency supports available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for physicians, staff and their families. For more information on self-care, please see [Emergencies and Disasters: Employee Self-Care Policy](#).

Support Lines

- **Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP)**
 - **1-844-751-2133** – 24/7 crisis counselling support and/or referral to community resources.
- **Physician Health Program** – supports available through Doctors of BC
 - Refer to information online at: <https://www.doctorsofbc.ca/resource-centre/physicians/physician-health-program-php>
- **BC Crisis Line**
 - Call **310-6789** for access to 24/7 crisis services.

Trusted links

- [Northern Health Internal Memos](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLink BC FAQ](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)

24/7 Physician call centre

- Number: 250-645-7897
- Local: 507897
- Toll Free: 1-833-645-7897