



COVID-19 DAILY DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Monday, April 6, 2020

Physician updates will be sent out Monday to Friday. For the latest news and resources on COVID-19, visit the [Coronavirus page on OurNH](#) or on the [physician website](#).

Printable PDFs of these updates are on the physician website.

Provincial case counts and statements

- **As of Monday April 6, 2020, at 2:00 pm**, there were **23** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **1266** (**63** new since last update)
 - Deaths: **39** (**1** new since last update)
 - In hospital: **140** (**72** in ICU)
 - Recovered: **783**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – April 4, 2020 (April 6 update unavailable at time of release).

The role of, and when to call, the regional triage intensivist

The Regional Triage Intensivist is a regional physician role aimed to clinically support rural and specialist physicians in dealing with critically ill and injured patients within Northern Health. It will be a point of contact for requests to speak to an intensivist for advice or referral and will be available 24/7. This includes critical care related PTN calls to UHNBC and any direct calls from physicians outside of UHNBC regarding critically ill or injured patients.

Established referral pathways and critical care communication channels within Northern Health in the North East, North West and Northern Interior will continue to be followed as far as possible depending on regional resource availability unless otherwise agreed and communicated. The NH Regional Triage Intensivist is there to support the critical care physicians on duty to off-load some of the outside communications and can be contacted by any clinician requiring advice in dealing with critically ill patients.

The role of this person is to:

- Support the critical care physicians and internists on duty for the ICUs in the region as a communication support and advice to rural physicians.

- Advise with ongoing management of critically ill or injured patients in outlying facilities within the north, who are caring for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19-related cases for prolonged periods of time.
- Help coordinate regional critical care resources by supporting both the rural physicians and the specialists working on the ICUs and HAUs in Northern Health.
- To deal with critical-care-related consult requests outside of UHNBC, or calls for consideration of transfer of critically ill or injured patients in the NE and NI to the ICU in Prince George.
- Support the ICU internal medicine groups in the NW and NE as a regional advice / support resource.
- Assist in triaging patient transfers based on regional resources as capacity decreases within the pandemic surge and assist in the communication around where the regional critical care resources are help facilitate referrals and patient movement in collaboration with local clinicians and the regional Transport and Flow Office.

Please contact the NH Regional Triage Intensivist for calls coming in from PTN, or directly from physicians outside of UHNBC, wanting to be connected to an intensivist or ICU physician. **Please do not contact the ICU intensivist on duty at UHNBC directly unless it is a referral from within UHNBC, contact the Regional Triage Intensivist.**

For ICU referrals to Mills Memorial, the Regional Triage Intensivist can be contacted if the ICU IM physician is unreachable or can also be called as a support tool if general critical care advice is sought in dealing with critically ill or injured patients in outlying areas.

Until further notice, Dr Marietjie Slabbert, the head of the ICU will be the NH Regional Triage Intensivist to contact.

The role will be operational 24/7 and can be contacted by calling:

- [250-645-7890](tel:250-645-7890) / [1-866-645-7890](tel:1-866-645-7890)
- UHNBC Switchboard: [250-565-2000](tel:250-565-2000)

COVID-19 Community-Level Data

We have received multiple requests for community-level data from physicians throughout Northern Health. Although we appreciate your concerns, Medical Health Officers, public health staff, and health care leaders have a legal obligation to protect the personal information they receive regarding cases of reportable communicable diseases. This includes the location of these cases, which is legally confidential patient information.

This information can be shared on a need-to-know basis. Information that will be shared publicly includes:

- Case counts at the health authority level
- Notification of outbreaks in high-risk settings, such as acute care and long-term care facilities (for COVID-19, a single case in a LTC facility is considered an outbreak – there are currently no facility outbreaks in NH)
- Notification of high-risk public exposures involving contacts that are not otherwise identifiable (such as the Pacific Dental Conference)

Appropriate prevention strategies and mitigation planning can, and should, be undertaken by all communities across the North. Health care providers should treat anyone who has symptoms compatible with COVID-19 as a potential case.

For more information:

- [Full memo](#)
- [Physicians must not disclose information about COVID-19 patients—even if anonymized](#) (College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC)

COVID-19 ethical decision making framework

[Provincially-endorsed ethics frameworks](#) are now available to support operational and clinical decision-making, including [duty to care](#) and [PPE allocation](#)

The NH Ethics Committee is available to provide consultations and support with ethical framework interpretation and implementation

Access to both the provincial and NH resources can be found on the COVID-19 OurNH page

Read the [full memo](#).

Notify your MHO

The Medical Health Officers would like clinicians in acute care settings to quickly report clinical (non-lab-confirmed) cases of COVID-19 to Public Health when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

- Clinical symptoms (fever, respiratory, or GI symptoms) with severity (hospitalization or ICU).
- No other pathogens detected (results may be pending).
- Radiological and non-microbiological lab findings suggestive of viral pneumonia; e.g., ground glass opacity on CT, diffuse opacities on CXR, normal to low WBC.

This will ensure swift Public Health follow-up of likely cases, ahead of lab confirmation.

Report these cases to the Northern Health Communicable Diseases Hub (250-565-2990) during daytime hours, or the Medical Health Officer on call after hours (250-565-2000, press 7, ask for the Medical Health Officer on call).

COVID-19 all staff dashboard removed

Please note that the [COVID-19 All Staff Dashboard](#) has been removed and is now linking to the BCCDC Website for updates. This has come as a request from NH EOC.

The NH EOC Dashboard will remain available to those granted access. The NH EOC Dashboard is managed by IT Reporting Services; we will continue to work with this team to reconcile data and improve reporting through this dashboard.

Physicians in self-isolation

If you're a physician in self-isolation, email Susan Trenholm: Susan.Trenholm@northernhealth.ca

Resources available for stress and emotional support

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 and resources

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLink BC FAQ](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 content in other languages](#)
- WorkSafe BC - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: **1-844-645-7811**
- For **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 webpage on current health topics](#). This page has links to the latest joint statements and orders issued by the Provincial Health Officer and a link to the Government of Canada's travel advice and advisories.

24/7 Physician Call Centre

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

Rural Outreach Support group (ROSe) for COVID-19

24/7 additional information, support, or guidance

- Toll Free: 1-888-918-0626