



COVID-19 DAILY DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Tuesday, April 14, 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 April 13, 2020**, there were **26** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **1490** (**120** new cases since April 9 update)
 - Deaths: **69** (**19** new since April 9 update)
 - In hospital: **137** (**58** in ICU)
 - Recovered: **926**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – April 13, 2020

Flu testing restrictions – effective April 14

- BCCDC and other testing labs in the province are no longer routinely testing for FLU/RSV on COVID-19 samples.
- FLU/RSV testing will be limited to certain patient groups such as inpatients and residents from long term care facilities.
- Routine testing of FLU/RSV is no longer indicated for outpatients with some exceptions.
- Some outpatient groups can have FLU/RSV testing if they are at high risk e.g. admission to hospital appears imminent, patients who are immunocompromised, have renal disease, or are pregnant with respiratory disease.

For further details, see the [full memo](#).

COVID-19 in children: Clinical guidance and family resources

- The Provincial Clinical Reference Group has provided guidance on caring for children with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
- There is a [Q & A document](#) available for families of children with medical complexity
- There is a [Q & A resource](#) available for families of children with immune suppression

For full details, please see this memo: [COVID-19 in Children - Clinical Guidance and Family Resources](#).

NH transfer algorithm and referral patterns for COVID-19

Under the direction of the Provincial Patient Transport EOC and NH EOC, the Emergency / Transfer Task Group has developed the [NH Transfer Algorithm](#) as well as the [Transport Pathways for COVID-19](#) transfers for our 26 acute care facilities in the north.

The provincial and regional recommendation is to facilitate early referral of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients in rural and remote communities with a ground travel time greater than 2 hours from a referral hospital with critical care capabilities. The NH Transfer Algorithm and Transport Pathways are based on this recommendation and align with the critical care modeling and response planning underway.

For further details, see the [full memo](#).

Pharmacy update: Avoid the use of patients' own medications

- Until further notice, the use of patients' own medications in hospital should be avoided, if possible.
- During COVID-19, Pharmacy will provide all medication needs, regardless of formulary status, to avoid transmission of the virus.
- A poster has been created to help guide staff on this new rule. For example, [the poster](#) outlines:
 - The only exception for use of a patient's own medication will be when Pharmacy is closed or the supply is not available in time for patient care.
 - If this happens, nursing will sanitize and store the patient's own medications according to instruction.

Webinar – Friday April 17: Alcohol use disorder guidelines during a public health pandemic

Northern Health's Mental Health and Substance Use program, and BC Centre on Substance Use would like to invite you to attend an information session about the new Alcohol Use Disorder Guidelines and discussion about how to support people who use alcohol in the midst of this public health pandemic.

Content will include: Overview of new Alcohol Use Disorder Guidelines published by the BC Center on Substance Use and information on supporting patients who use alcohol, and selecting appropriate pharmacological and psychosocial treatment options for alcohol use disorder based on safety and effectiveness evidence, as well as individual patient needs, circumstances and preferences.

Friday, April 17 from 1100-1300

Please register using the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/693450294943833100>

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