



COVID-19 DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Medical Staff updates will be sent out Monday, Wednesday, and 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 May 26, 2020**, there were **62** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **2,541** (**11** new)
 - Active cases: **258**
 - Deaths: **161** (**0** new)
 - In hospital: **37** (**7** in ICU)
 - Recovered: **2,122**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – May 26, 2020

New and updated Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) protocols for surgical and obstetrical procedures during COVID-19

- New obstetrical procedures guidance aligns with the updated surgical procedures guidance.
- Guidance outlines that a pre-surgical patient assessment is completed 24-72 hours prior to the scheduled surgery and then be repeated at the hospital the day of surgery.
- The [COVID-19 Surgical Patient Assessment Form 10-800-5009](#) supports the assessment and risk categorization to guide the PPE use before, during, and after the surgical procedure.
- Surgical teams must agree on the Patient Risk Category (green, yellow or red).

BCCDC Guidance:

- [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Protocol for Obstetrical procedures during COVID-19](#) (New May 21, 2020)
- [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Protocol for Surgical Procedures during COVID-19](#) (Updated May 21, 2020)

For more information, see the [full memo](#).

COVID-19 specimen collection and testing

In Northern Health, access to COVID-19 diagnostic testing is available for patients who are symptomatic and meet the [guidelines from BCCDC](#).

For regional guidance on sample collection and testing, please see this new document from NH Primary and Community Care and NH Diagnostic Services: [COVID-19 Pandemic Specimen Collection & Testing](#).

Canadian Blood Services: Known interference between Rebinyn and laboratory assays

Canadian Blood Services has issued a customer letter detailing known interference between Rebinyn and laboratory assays used to diagnose coagulopathy caused by COVID-19.

Monitoring of certain recommended coagulation parameters can be influenced by the type of coagulation product that a hemophilia patient is using. Specifically, Rebinyn is known to interact with the reagents used for the aPTT analysis.

For more information, see the [full customer letter](#).

COVID-19 in-house testing updates

- As of May 25th, MMH and FSJH have validated the GeneXpert platform on site and are now performing COVID-19 testing for eligible patients in each HSDA.
- Results will be available through regular reporting channels, including PowerChart or eHealth viewer.
- Patient groups eligible to be tested in house remain the same, HOSP, LTC, OBK and FN-COMM. All other patient groups will continue to be tested at Life Labs.

For more information, see the [full memo](#).

Updated resources for child and youth mental health/substance use

An updated resource list for health care providers caring for children and youth with mental health and substance use concerns is now available – see [Child & Youth Mental Health and Substance Use for Providers](#).

There are many resources available, including direct consultation to health care providers who are supporting and treating patients with mental health and substance use concerns.

It is important to ensure your own wellbeing while caring for others; there is support available to you during this time.

Reminder: Give Northern Health Emergency Management your feedback on NH's COVID-19 response

Northern Health Emergency Management is interested to hear from you: What's working well, what challenges or barriers do you see, and what recommendations do you have for improvement? **You can provide feedback multiple times.**

Click to provide your feedback now:

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/NHCOVID19responsefeedback>

This tool will remain open throughout the COVID-19 response for you to submit thoughts or feedback as they occur. Your responses are anonymous. Questions? Contact Research.Evaluation@northernhealth.ca.

Downtown Prince George parking limits resume June 1st

Effective June 1st, the City will be returning to normal operations for parking that were in place prior to COVID-19. Please be aware of the 3-hour maximum parking limit for on-street and non-reserved off-street parking in downtown Prince George.

To avoid parking fines, staff who work downtown should remember to renew/reapply for their monthly parking permits.

Dashboard provides detailed look at BC data

For data broken down by health authority, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#) (may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested).

Physicians in self-isolation

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

Resources 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: [Doctors of BC: Physician Health Program](#)
- **BC Crisis Line**
 - Call **310-6789** for access to 24/7 crisis services.

Trusted links and resources

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control "new today" page](#)

- [HealthLink BC COVID-19 page](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 content in other languages](#)
- WorkSafe BC - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- [BC Physician Wellness in COVID-19](#) (BC COVID-19 Medical Student Response Team)
- Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: **1-844-645-7811**
- Northern Health Environmental Health Officer Line: **1-250-565-7322**
- For **non-medical information or to report concerns regarding non-compliance with public health orders**, 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](#).

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