



# COVID-19 DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

**Physician 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 5, 2020**, there were **51** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
  - Confirmed cases: **2,232** (**8** new)
  - Deaths: **121** (**4** new)
  - In hospital: **78** (**21** in ICU)
  - Recovered: **1,472**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – May 5, 2020

## 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).

## Guidelines on COVID-19 in-house testing

Due to the ongoing limited supply of COVID-19 test kits, effective immediately, in-house testing will be restricted to the following groups:

- HOSP:
  - Hospital (Inpatient)
  - Emergency Department (**with intent to admit**)
  - Symptomatic pregnant women in their 3rd trimester
  - Renal patients
  - Cancer patients receiving treatment
  - Other immunocompromised patients

Other urgent requests for testing can be discussed with a pathologist on a case-by-case basis. We hope to expand testing if the supply of test kits increases. Retesting and samples that are not tested in-house will continue to be tested at Lifelabs.

For complete guidelines, see the [full memo](#).

## Laboratory service update

- As the COVID-19 outbreak response evolves, and with less pressure on hospitals than anticipated, the essential service criteria for laboratory have been updated.
- Given the duration of Phase 2 restrictions, process steps to be taken at this time include:
  - If the ordered test does not fall within the criteria specified, but immediate treatment decisions are dependent on lab results, ordering physicians are to communicate the need to complete the testing on requisitions and/or to lab staff directly.
  - All sites that also complete ECGs/Holter monitors are to designate staff to contact the ordering physicians on all requisitions currently on hold to review prioritization. The goal is both to book those that have become urgent, and to prioritize in anticipation of restrictions being eased in the near future.

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

## NH COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: Hours changing

On Thursday, May 7, the NH Online Clinic and Information Line will be changing its hours:

- Monday – Friday: 7 am - 10 pm
- Saturday, Sunday, and statutory holidays: 8 am - 8 pm
- **Note:** Health-care providers' hours changed to 8 am - 8 pm as of May 1

## Virtual health toolkit now available

Please see this [new toolkit](#) for details on:

- Guidance for the use of virtual health as a care option
- How to implement virtual health, including clinical considerations
- Patient information on virtual health

## Physicians in self-isolation

If you're a physician in self-isolation, email Susan Trenholm: [Susan.Trenholm@northernhealth.ca](mailto: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](#)
- 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