



# COVID-19 DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Wednesday, May 13, 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 12, 2020**, there were **57** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
  - Confirmed cases: **2,360** (**7** new)
  - Deaths: **131** (**1** new)
  - In hospital: **63** (**16** in ICU)
  - Recovered: **1,832**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – May 12, 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).

## WorkSafe BC: Tools for a safe restart

The Province of BC recently announced [BC's Restart Plan](#), an outline for a gradual return to a new normal. WorksafeBC has been given the responsibility to develop the framework around this plan. A new WorkSafe BC page gives employers information and resources to help minimize the risks of exposure to the coronavirus at their workplaces: [COVID-19 and returning to safe operation](#).

## Vulnerable populations

As part of the multifaceted response to the COVID-19 pandemic, specific consideration has been needed for people who use substances and for people who don't have access to safe space to self-isolate.

Each of these groups are considered to be at increased risk, and it's recognized that a number of people living in the North fall into both categories.

This information aims to support and inform Northern Health staff and partners of relevant provincial planning and guideline resources, and highlight the Northern Health work currently under way to regionalize response work as it pertains to these populations.

For full details, including links to relevant documents, see [Vulnerable Populations -- COVID-19 Response Resources and Planning](#)

Questions? Contact:

- Michelle Lawrence: [Michelle.Lawrence@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Michelle.Lawrence@northernhealth.ca) or 250-960-9120
- Nick Rempel: [Nick.Rempel@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Nick.Rempel@northernhealth.ca) or 250-565-2960
- Kerensa Medhurst: [Kerensa.Medhurst@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Kerensa.Medhurst@northernhealth.ca) or 250-565-5509

## **New resource on child and youth mental health and substance use**

A new NH resource document gives youth and families clarity and direction on where to seek help for mental health and substance use challenges: [Child & Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Resources for Families](#)

Northerners are encouraged to be aware that there is help available during these difficult times; they shouldn't hesitate to reach out for themselves or on behalf of a loved one.

## **An update from Education and Development**

- 1) The Education and Development Team is resuming work put on hold due to COVID-19. The majority of PPE and mechanical ventilator training is completed, and PPE training moved to an online format and is available on the [LearningHub](#). Updates include:
  - Clinical Nurse Educators will resume activities such as developing Standardized Clinical Orientation.
  - Priorities for face-to-face delivery: Code Management, Orientation and Speciality Education and Skills Labs
  - All non-essential face-to-face clinical education needs to be approved on a case-by-case basis.
  - Managers with urgent and specific needs, please contact the Regional Manager, Clinical Education.
  - Virtually delivered courses/ training should resume.
  - Face-to-face organizational education, such as leadership development, will not resume until approved by the NH EOC.
  - Virtually delivered courses/ training such as the CORE Linx Management Learning Hub modules should continue to be utilized.
- 2) We continue to support health care student clinical placements, Employed Student Nurses, and New Graduate Transition to ensure workforce sustainability.
- 3) The Simulation Team is currently prioritizing COVID-19-related education sessions. Cleaning procedures are currently being formalized in preparation for a gradual return to service while using social distancing recommendations.

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

## Northern Health and partners work together to safely engage students in the response to the COVID-19 crisis

- Our thanks for your continued support of nursing and allied health education and student placements, which are vital to addressing Northern Health's immediate and longterm healthforce needs.
- Northern Health is collaborating with our post-secondary and provincial partners to support positive learning environments that prioritize student, staff, and patient safety. New placement experiences include the COVID-19 online clinic and information line and the contact tracing teams.
- Learn more about these joint efforts through the **Student Practice Education & Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) memos from [March 27](#) and [April 9](#)** or by contacting the Student Practice team:
  - [Employed Student Nurse program](#): Jody Kucharyshen
  - [Specialty Education](#): Stacey Pickering
  - [Student Placement team](#): Amy Davalovsky & Sarah Foot
  - [Regional Manager, Organizational Education & Development](#): Amy Blanding

## Your story, our future: BC government COVID-19 survey

*From the provincial government:*

“BC COVID-19 SPEAK: Your story, our future” is a population health survey to understand citizen experiences, knowledge and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Take the survey now: [www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey](http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey)

This survey is the first of several activities that will strengthen our pandemic response and our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 to date (social, economic, mental wellness and community wellness).

About the survey:

- Open to all British Columbians 18 years of age and older.
- Takes 10-15 minutes and can be done on any tablet, computer or mobile device.
- Open until May 31.
- Available in English and Chinese, as well as a Punjabi survey translation guide.

For more information about the survey, visit <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

## Engaging youth in telehealth an information and support webinar for providers

The recent rapid transition to providing mental health care to youth by phone and video has created challenges for many. Issues range from setting appropriate boundaries to brief, superficial responses, to ensuring privacy at home. This series of three webinars will provide practical pointers on building engagement with youth and delivering quality care, while leaving space and time for discussing participants' questions.

Webinar sessions are conducted over Zoom and will run May 13, 20, and 27 from 1 – 2 pm. To register, email [compass@cw.bc.ca](mailto:compass@cw.bc.ca).

## UBC Faculty of Medicine continuing professional development, upcoming courses

### Rural Health Conference 2020: Webinar Series

**Dates:** May 13, May 20, May 27 from 7 – 8:30 pm.

**Target audience:** rural physicians, family physicians, emergency physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, paramedics, residents & students.

1. **May 13:** Acute Respiratory Distress: Approach and Management in the Suspected COVID-19 Patient
2. **May 20:** Delivering Culturally Safe Care During a Pandemic — Rural BC Success Stories
3. **May 27:** Ask Anything: Rural Emergency Topics during COVID-19

### Managing COVID-19 Patients in the Rural ER: Diagnosis to Transport and Everything in Between

**May 14** (Thu) 8 – 9 am

**Target audience:** family physicians in rural communities and remote urban centres, and other health care professionals.

**Agenda:**

1. Learn about the management of COVID-19 in small, medium and large rural BC communities.
2. Review new rural transport pathways and considerations when managing a patient with suspected COVID-19.

### Office-Based Primary Care: Safety for Your Patients, Your Staff, and Yourself

**May 14** (Thu)

**Agenda:** Dr. Brenda Hardie, Jacqueline Holmes, and Dr. Olivia Sampson from WorkSafeBC will address questions that have arisen during the COVID-19 pandemic related to physician, staff, and patient health and safety.

For a full list of upcoming courses and modules, see the [full UBC Faculty of Medicine update](#).

## 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