



COVID-19 DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Monday, May 25, 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 23, 2020**, there were **62** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **2,517** (**10** new)
 - Active cases: **303**
 - Deaths: **157** (**2** new)
 - In hospital: **39** (**8** in ICU)
 - Recovered: **2,057**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – May 23, 2020

Restart of non-urgent and elective diagnostic services

- Planning and implementation for a gradual restart to non-urgent and elective diagnostic services is underway. This includes Laboratory, Medical Imaging, and Cardiac Services.
- Before restarting services, site leaders **must** coordinate safety plan completion through use of the pandemic recovery toolkit. This includes a risk assessment and formal safety plan. This toolkit will be released Monday May 25, 2020 as per the recent [pandemic recovery update](#). This is an [Order of the Provincial Health Officer](#) and a requirement that may be requested by WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers in future workplace inspections.
- Regional guidance has been developed for staged implementation of non-urgent services in [Outpatient Laboratory services](#), [Outpatient Medical Imaging](#), [Outpatient Cardiac services](#) and inter-hospital criteria for Northern Health cardiac patients.

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

New PPE champion role established

- A PPE Champion Program has been established to ensure every community has a point of contact for PPE-related questions and concerns.

- The role of the PPE Champions is to support staff with questions and concerns about:
 - How and when to wear PPE
 - What “extended use of PPE” is and how to perform it correctly as per provincial guidelines
 - PPE substitutions due to changes in the supply chain
 - Quality and protective factors of PPE
- The PPE Champion will support sharing of current best practices and recommendations and can assist in escalating PPE concerns that are not easily resolved.
- To find the PPE Champion(s) in your community, refer to the [List of PPE Champions](#) (OurNH link).

Updated guidance on the use of non-sterile examination gloves

Guidance for the [use of non-sterile examination gloves](#) has been updated:

- Extended cuff non-sterile exam gloves have very specific indications:
 - Use of concentrated chemicals or certain hazardous drugs
 - If the wearer’s arm length does not allow the cuff of the glove and the cuff of the gown to meet
- Extended cuff non-sterile exam gloves are not required for:
 - Direct care or intubation for presumptive or positive COVID-19 patients
 - Bathing residents

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](#)
- 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