



COVID-19 DAILY DIGEST

MEDICAL STAFF

Friday, March 27, 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 Thursday March 26, 2020, at 3 pm**, there were **11** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **725** (**66** new cases)
 - Deaths: **14** (**0** new)
 - In hospital: **66** (**26** in ICU)
 - Recovered: **186**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – March 26, 2020.

Correction: Emergency prioritization of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Key change: Cleaning of disposable and reusable face shields should be done with Oxivir wipes/solution, not Accel wipes as previously stated.

The [COVID-19 Response PPE Practice Update memo](#) has also been updated with new information.

UPDATE: Interim therapeutic guidance developed for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

The [interim therapeutic guidelines](#) developed by NH for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 has been updated.

- To access the latest updates, please use Google Chrome.
- If you still see the old guidelines, you may need to refresh your page several times.

Transitioning from nebulizer to MDI treatment

As per Northern Health (NH) Infection Control Policies and those endorsed by the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), it is important to avoid performing aerosol generating procedures during a respiratory outbreak or pandemic as there is a risk of transmitting aerosolized pathogens such as COVID-19.

The use of small or large volume wet nebulizers for the administration of bronchodilators is discouraged as it falls within the category of a high-risk aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP). It is well documented that bronchodilator therapy by metered dose inhaler (MDI) is at least equal if not superior to bronchodilator therapy by wet nebulization.

Therefore, all patients receiving salbutamol/atrovent/nebulizer therapy should be converted to MDI administration techniques whenever possible.

See the [full memo and conversion ratios](#).

Canadian Blood Services: Blood shortages during COVID-19

Canadian Blood Services has developed [guidelines](#) and a [poster](#) on appropriate blood usage during COVID-19 in order to avoid shortages.

Telehealth training sessions

ITS is hosting training sessions to help physicians get set up with telehealth to allow for remote care.

Sessions dates:

- Wednesday, April 1st, 12:15 pm - 1 pm
- Friday, April 3rd, 12:15 pm - 1 pm

If interested please RSVP to Kathy Stogneff at Kathy.stogneff@northernhealth.ca.

Physicians in self-isolation

If you are a physician in self-isolation, please send an email to Susan Trenholm informing her. 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

- [Northern Health Internal Memos](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLink BC FAQ](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 content in other languages](#)

24/7 Physician call centre

- Number: 250-645-7897
- Local: 507897
- Toll Free: 1-833-645-7897