

Northern Health Guiding Principles for Primary Care

1. Northern Health is committed to supporting longitudinal primary care in community. The relationship that occurs between primary care providers (general practitioners/nurse practitioners) is fundamental and foundational in person- and family-centred care.
2. Northern Health is committed to increased cultural competency and safety and enabling culturally safe and accessible primary and community care services for people and their families.
3. Northern Health has worked with the Ministry of Health to establish urgent and primary care centres in two communities. Utilizing this resource is foundational to providing access to care, as well as caring for those with urgent needs, and supporting attachment to primary care providers for those who are not attached.
4. Northern Health is committed to supporting our most vulnerable patients in communities, and working with our primary care interprofessional teams, primary care providers, and Divisions of Family Practice in order to continue with care for this population.
5. Northern Health is committed to not disrupting current primary care services throughout the region.
6. Northern Health recognizes that in many communities, primary care physicians are providing not only primary care, but also various additional enhanced sub-disciplinary care including, but not limited to, emergency medicine, obstetrics, anesthesia, oncology coverage and surgical care, and caring for our patients in acute care and long-term care. Any strategy which is developed needs to recognize and support the full scope of service provision by primary care providers within their respective communities.
7. Northern Health is interested in solutions that are locally driven and appreciative of the regional context. Solutions should be considered within the context of their ability to be scaled back as the COVID-19 pandemic resolves or to endure beyond the pandemic where this is appropriate. Solutions should also be replicable and scalable throughout our communities.
8. Northern Health is committed to matching the best resources in the most reasonable and realistic way which will result in the most desirable outcome, while considering risk to care teams, patients, and family members.