



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

April 2022

Organization and community news

Expansion of transportation services between Masset and Daajing Giids

Northern Health is expanding transportation services between Masset and Daajing Giids to support patients accessing services in Daajing Giids, their families and support persons, and for staff travel between communities.

The new shuttle service is the result of ongoing collaboration between Northern Health - working closely with the Ministry of Health - and community leaders on Haida Gwaii to improve and stabilize health care staffing and patient access to services at Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital for residents in Masset, Old Masset and surrounding communities.

The [new transportation route](#) will operate in partnership with Eagle Transit, offering same-day return service, Tuesday through Saturday, between Masset and Daajing Giids. There is no cost for the service.

Patient transport fees – the cost of calling 911

BC Centre for Disease Control and BC Emergency Health Services have partnered to [develop a new provincial resource](#) to explain the costs of patient transport by ambulance - this has been identified as a barrier to calling 911 in response to toxic drug poisoning events.

Join the conversation about preventing falls

Did you know that the number one reason people are hospitalized due to an injury in Northern Health is the result of a fall? A fall can be a serious injury, particularly if the person is 65 years or older. There are many ways these falls can be prevented. Northern Health has secured funding from the [BCCDC Foundation for Public Health](#) to learn more about how people and communities in the North work together to prevent falls. Starting this spring, Northern Health will be hosting conversations across the region to learn how falls are prevented. [Read more.](#)

Dawson Creek & District Hospital (DCDH) Replacement Project – April Quarterly Update

The DCDH Replacement Project has been progressing over the past few months. Read the [April 2023 Project Update](#) to learn about upcoming project milestones, topics of discussion and membership for the recently formed working groups, and engagement initiatives that the team has been participating in. To learn more about the project or read older project updates, visit [Let's Talk DCDH](#).

Northern Health Stories highlights

The [Northern Health Stories site](#) is a great place to read about what's going on in Northern Health – people, places, projects, and more! Here are some recent highlights.

- [Taking care of their own](#)
- [Celebrating pharmacy in Smithers](#)
- [This Nutrition Month, dietitians go virtual!](#)
- [Give a Lift a massive fundraising success](#)

Overdose prevention and response

Reminder! Text alerts for toxic drugs now available in the North

In response to the toxic drug emergency, a new text message alert system has been launched across Northern Health. The system sends text alerts with timely information and up-to-date resources to people who use drugs, those who support them, and community members. It's a public health measure to prevent drug poisonings and deaths and provides. Opt-in by texting **JOIN** to **ALERTS (253787)**. [More information](#).

COVID-19

COVID is still with us, in our communities, impacting our friends and loved ones. Vaccinations remain the best defence against both influenza and COVID-19.

On April 6, many of the remaining COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders were lifted, including mandatory universal masking at health care facilities and visitor restrictions to enter long term care, assisted living and other health care facilities. [Learn more about the provincial announcement](#).

Beyond vaccinations, we can all take key preventative measures, including:

- Stay at home if you feel unwell and try to avoid spending time with people at higher risk of serious illness.
- Practice respiratory etiquette: Wear a mask in crowded, public spaces, and cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean your hands regularly.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth and nose.

For more information, visit [BCCDC](#) or the [Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia](#).

Resources and information

The [Northern Health COVID-19](#) and [COVID-19 information](#) pages have information about immunization clinics, testing and self-isolation, the community toolkit, and trusted contacts.

For information outside of Northern Health, see [these trusted resources](#).