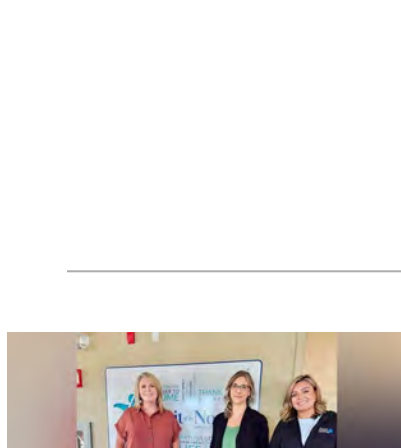


Welcome to the Northern Health community update! Stay connected as we bring you monthly updates and valuable insight into health care in the North.

Want more frequent updates? [Follow Northern Health on Facebook](#) where we share news, stories, tips and ideas on healthy living.

Organization and Community News



Northern Centre for Clinical Research (NCCR) and Northern Health launch first clinical trial

The Northern Centre for Clinical Research (NCCR) launched its first clinical trial this year at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia (UHNBC) in Prince George. The NCCR is a collaborative initiative between University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Medicine, the University of Northern BC (UNBC) and Northern Health (NH), with the mission to enhance the capacity and cohesion of the clinical and life sciences research programs in the North, creating strategic opportunities to share resources among UBC faculty, NH, and UNBC in collaboration with local partners. [Read more.](#)



Driving equity: A car seat initiative supporting Northern families

When Sarah Wheeler, a Northern Health (NH) social worker at the University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC), raised concerns about a gap in care for Northern families, NH and [Spirit of the North \(SOTN\)](#) Healthcare Foundation took action. Many families who rely on the NH Connections transportation program to travel to and from care centres often face a straightforward but serious challenge: limited access to safe, appropriate car seats for their infants and young children. [Read more.](#)



The BREATHE Project: Fostering community and connection in the North

In the wake of increasingly fast-paced changes in our climate, the impact of wildfires is being felt for longer and to a greater extent than ever before. In our communities, the health impacts of poor air quality are a constant concern. As a result, protecting the population's health is at the forefront of several community-based initiatives focused on mitigating these risks. [Read more.](#)



Measles cases confirmed in Northern BC

Northern Health and other BC health authorities have identified lab-confirmed cases of measles in various regions of BC. The BC Centre of Disease Control reports on measles cases in BC online at: [Measles](#). Case numbers are updated every Monday and Thursday, and locations of potential exposures are listed on the BCCDC site as well.

Measles is highly contagious and can be very serious with almost 1 in 10 people being hospitalized. Getting immunized with at least two doses of measles-containing vaccine is the best way to prevent measles and potentially serious complications like pneumonia or encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). For information on how and where to get immunized, visit the [measles page](#) on our website.

If you have a fever and rash, and think you may have measles, especially if you have been in contact with someone with measles or traveled to an area with a measles outbreak, talk to a healthcare provider. As always, if you are feeling ill, please delay social visits to long term care settings or acute care patients in Northern Health facilities.



Helpful wildfire resources

Wildfire season continues, and we have compiled a list of resources to help you stay informed and prepared:

- [Northern Health – Wildfires and your health](#)
- [Extreme heat and heat warnings](#)
- [Wildfire preparedness](#)
- [Latest air quality advisories](#)
- [BC Wildfire fire list](#)
- [Emergency Info BC Advisories](#)
- [Heat Warning in BC](#)
- [Disaster stress](#)
- [BCCDC – Wildfire smoke](#)
- [FireSmoke Canada – BC smoke forecasts](#)
- [Recover after a wildfire – Re-entering your home or business](#)

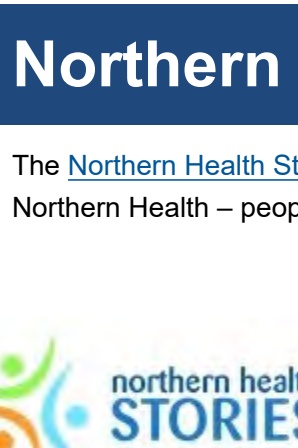


Appropriate use of the emergency department and options for accessing health care

Emergency rooms in the North may be facing increasing strain. Help take the pressure off the doctors and nurses that serve our communities by seeking care through these options, when you can:

- Call your family care provider
- Visit an urgent primary care centre or primary care clinic if one is available in your community
- Check out [HealthLinkBC.ca](#) or speak to a nurse at 8-1-1
- Talk to your local pharmacist about their expanded services, and [book an appointment with a pharmacist](#).
- If you do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, book an appointment with the [Northern Health Virtual Clinic](#) at 1-844-645-7811
- Call 1-855-344-3800 to book an appointment with the [First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day](#)

For life-threatening emergencies like chest pains, difficulty breathing, broken bones, or severe bleeding, the ER is the place to be. Call 9-1-1 for transport to your nearest available and appropriate facility. For more information, please visit our [service interruptions page](#).



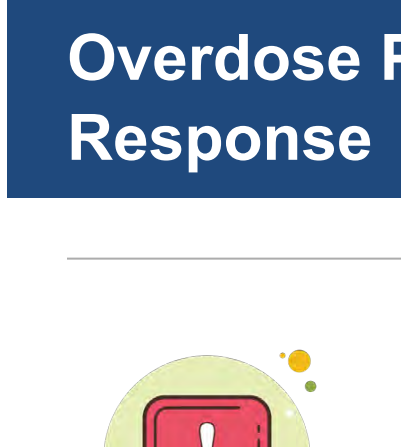
Health Human Resources (HHR)

The items in this Health Human Resources (HHR) section highlight some of NH's efforts to strengthen health care in the North by improving staff recruitment and retention as part of [BC's Health Human Resources Strategy](#).



Respectful relationships in action: A Northern Health training journey

Northern Health continues to take meaningful steps toward Truth and Reconciliation by fostering respectful, culturally safe care for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people. One recent example of this commitment comes from the Specialized Services Northeast team, who partnered with the Indigenous Health Education Team to complete the Respectful Relationships: Cultural Safety course. [Read more.](#)



Northern Care, Northern Careers: Grow with UHNBC

A new \$1.66 billion acute care tower is coming to the University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC) in Prince George, bringing major advancements in cardiac care, surgery, and mental health. As the largest acute care facility in the region and a Level III trauma and teaching hospital, UHNBC is expanding with state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization labs, modern operating rooms, and new inpatient units. [Read more.](#)

Recruiters on the road

As summer comes to a close, our physician, staff, and Indigenous recruitment teams are ramping up for a busy September! Recruiters are travelling across BC, Canada, and even to Salt Lake City, Utah to have conversations with health care professionals in emergency medicine, intensive care, and laboratory sciences. With school back in session, our recruiters are also connecting with secondary and post-secondary students.

To see highlights of events and conferences, check out [Northern Health Careers](#).

Capital Projects



Minister of Health Josie Osborne visits Northeast BC

From August 26 to 29, 2025, Minister of Health Josie Osborne conducted a multi-day tour in Northeast British Columbia focused on health care infrastructure and community engagement. She engaged with health care professionals as well as Indigenous, municipal, and regional leaders.

Minister Osborne began in Fort St. John with a tour of the Fort St. John Hospital and Peace Villa and a meeting with BC Emergency Health Services. [Read more.](#)



Dawson Creek and District Hospital Replacement – Mock-up #4: Refining patient care spaces through clinical engagement

We're thrilled to share an exciting milestone was recently achieved in the design and construction of the new Dawson Creek and District Hospital with the completion of our fourth mock-up session, which took place on-site and inside the new hospital!

Mock-up #4 focused on two key spaces: a typical medical/surgical inpatient room and a typical bariatric patient room. [Click here to view photos.](#)

Kathy's Story: A Call for Cardiac Care in Northern BC

After a day of worsening coughing, Kathy Yeulet, a Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator, went to bed early, only to wake at 2:30am with intense chest heat, stomach pain, and a racing heart. Her clinical instincts told her something was wrong. Despite the symptoms feeling different from textbook cases, she suspected a heart attack. Tylenol and antacids didn't help. She went straight to the Emergency Department at the University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC). [Read more.](#)

FAQ: UHNBC Acute Care Tower Project Helipad – What You Need to Know

As part of the UHNBC Acute Care Tower project, we want to share what we know so far about the helipad, and what's still to come. [Read the FAQ here.](#)

Northern Health Story 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:

- [DIY air cleaners: Building community resilience against wildfire smoke](#)
- [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Listening, learning, and advancing together](#)
- [Creating space and safety for every body](#)
- [The 3% Club: A journey towards wellness.](#)

Ministry of Health highlights

Including highlights from the [Ministry of Health](#) and [Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions](#) that are of interest to all BC residents:

- [Deputy provincial health officer's statement on back-to-school vaccinations](#)
- [Expanded, streamlined HPV vaccine program protects more people against cancers](#)
- [Province provides first report on community-based primary care services](#)

Public Health

Northern Health Communities E-Brief – August 2025

The E-Brief is a monthly newsletter sharing resources, learning opportunities, and grant funding that supports community health in Northern BC. [Check out what's new for August 2025.](#)

To subscribe to this monthly newsletter, please email healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca with the subject line "subscribe."

Overdose Prevention and Response

Drug advisory: Dawson Creek – August 23, 2025

There has been an increase in overdose events including one death in the community of Dawson Creek. The reported substance is a brown/gold beige colored tablet sold as Fentanyl. Specific adulterants testing is underway.

This substance is highly toxic, causes heavy and prolonged sedation, and requires more naloxone to reverse. Overdoses are happening when the substance is smoked and/or injected. [Read more.](#)

Drug advisory: Prince George – August 22, 2025

Northern Health has issued a Toxic Drug Alert for Prince George. A pressed pill sold as oxycodone tested positive for floufentanyl (fentanyl analogue) and bromazolam (benzo) this drug has been linked to an increase in overdoses. [Read more.](#)

Drug Advisory: Fort St. John – August 21, 2025

There has been an increase in overdose events in the community of Fort St. John, with people reporting heavy and prolonged sedation, and requiring more naloxone to reverse. Overdoses are happening when the substance is smoked and/or injected. [Read more.](#)

Drug advisory: Prince George – August 18, 2025

Northern Health and First Nations Health Authority are issuing a drug advisory. A light purple pebble-like substance testing positive for carfentanil is possibly linked to increased overdoses and abnormal symptoms. [Read more.](#)

Text alerts for toxic drugs available in the North

In response to the toxic drug emergency, a text message alert system has been implemented 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.](#)