



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

February 17, 2021

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COVID-19

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of February 16, **4,104** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **334**
- New cases: **7**
- Currently in hospital: **39**
 - Currently admitted to HAU/ICU in hospital: **9**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **101**

For the latest provincial numbers, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

As well, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#), which visualizes COVID-19 in BC in comparison to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, at the HSDA level. It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – February 16, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – February 17, 2021

Updates to COVID-19 public health guidance for K-12 schools

The BCCDC's [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) was updated on February 4, 2021.

Key changes:

- An updated daily health check for students and staff, now available as an app at k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/.

- Revised guidance on non-medical mask use, including a recommendation for middle and secondary students to wear masks indoors when not at their seats.
- Clearer description of public health's contact tracing and school notification processes.
- More detailed guidance for staff-only spaces and gatherings.
- Specific guidance for music and physical education.
- A checklist to help schools review their health and safety plans (Appendix B).

Answers to questions:

The BCCDC has a new [School COVID-19 Information website](#) to help parents, students, school staff, administrators, and districts find the public health information they need. It includes information and resources on:

- Preventing COVID-19 from spreading in schools
- What happens when there's a case of COVID-19 in a school
- Recommendations about how to attend school safely
- Guidance on the use of [masks](#)
- Frequently asked questions for [staff](#) and [parents & students](#)

Do the COVID-19 vaccines have human and animal cells or blood products?

No. Animal and human cell cultures may be used in the process of making some vaccines, but the vaccines themselves don't contain animal or human cells or tissue.

Get the answers to this and other common vaccine questions on the new "[Facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#)" 11 x 17" poster on Northern Health's [COVID-19 vaccine plan](#) page – feel free to share!

The North's largest immunization clinic to date: A collaborative effort

A team of First Nations Health Authority, Nisga'a Valley Health, and Northern Health immunizers carried out a COVID-19 immunization clinic on February 11.

The clinic was held at the Gingolx Memorial Recreation Centre in Kincolith, where 723 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered, making this the North's largest immunization clinic so far. Thank you to everyone for their hard work, and a big congratulations to all!

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): A Northern Health Guide for Your Community](#) – watch for a fully updated version (coming soon!)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [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 info**, 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 COVID-19 webpage](#).

Overdose prevention and response

The Lifeguard app supports people who use substances alone

Social distancing orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic have made it more difficult for people to have someone with them when they use drugs. The Lifeguard app supports people who are at the highest risk of overdose death: people who use substances alone. The app connects people to emergency responders automatically if they are unresponsive. It can be downloaded for free on a smartphone or tablet through both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#).

To learn more about the app, visit <https://lifeguarddh.com/>.

Other organizational news

You may be asked to take part in a survey about your experience at a Northern Health emergency department

As part of a joint initiative between the BC Ministry of Health and the seven provincial health authorities, Northern Health is actively participating in provincial patient experience and outcome surveys.

The province is currently running an emergency department survey, which is being coordinated by the [BC Patient-Centred Measurement Steering Committee](#) (BCPCM). If you received care in an emergency department between January 1 and March 31, 2021, you may be randomly selected to participate.

A third-party research organization, [R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd.](#), is mailing out letters telling people they've been chosen to participate and telling them about ways they can take the survey.

The results will be available in almost real time on the BCPCM's [Dynamic Analysis and Reporting Tool \(DART\)](#), and the BCPCM will develop final reports when the survey is complete.

We look forward to your feedback!