



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Note: Please share any information in this update as appropriate.

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COVID-19

Provincial case counts and statements

As of August 12, 2020, there were **104** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region. Fourteen cases are considered active. As always, it is important that we remain vigilant in our communities.

For the latest provincial numbers, please refer to the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested. Surveillance reports for COVID-19, which includes breakdown of cases by Health Service Delivery Area, are [posted every Thursday on the BCCDC website](#).

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – August 12, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – August 6, 2020

Long-Term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue #6 now available

The long-term care task group is developing bi-weekly updates for residents and families of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

[This issue](#) provides guidelines for bringing pets into a facility, a reminder about visitation guidelines, and information on how Northern Health is resuming in-facility respite and inter-facility transfer.

COVID-19 Guide for communities

Northern Health's printable booklet [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): A Northern Health Guide for Your Community](#) contains all the information you need to help keep your community safe and well informed. The community guide is updated regularly online.

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [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

New Lifeguard app launched to help prevent overdoses

The [Lifeguard App](#) is the latest tool in B.C.'s toolbox to support people who face the risk of overdose, and who use drugs alone. It will connect them to emergency services, so that in the event of an overdose, it will initiate a response to a potentially fatal situation. The app is an innovative approach that acknowledges the reality that more than half of all overdose deaths occur while people use alone.

This app is now available in the Northern Health regions and can be downloaded at both the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Please advise clients who use substances to consider using this app.

BCCDC overdose response indicators

The Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC), part of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, works in close partnership with the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to provide provincial coordination of surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation related to the overdose emergency. This provincial surveillance report provides current data on key overdose-related indicators.

The OERC facilitates planning at the provincial, regional and local levels, structured upon a [set of eight core interventions](#) that capitalize on evidence-informed strategies. Together, these strategies form an integrated, comprehensive response to the overdose crisis.

The indicators contained in this report measure progress on these interventions across the province, and can be viewed at the provincial or regional health authority level, broken down by age and sex where possible. This report is updated monthly using the most up to date data available on each indicator.

Explore the interactive visualizations on the [BCCDC website](#) or download the full [Overdose Response Indicator Report](#).

Other organizational news

Inventory of emergency food assets in Northern BC

The emergency food inventory is a place to find organizations in Northern BC that are providing emergency food to community members. Examples of services offered include:

- Emergency food hampers/food boxes
- Take-out meals
- Food delivery services
- Non-food-related services (e.g. mental health supports, financial supports, etc.)

For more information, see [Regional Inventory of Emergency Food Assets in Northern BC](#).