



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

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

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COVID-19

COVID-19 case counts and statements

Confirmed NH cases since the beginning of the pandemic, according to the **October 27 provincial update**:

- **383** cases
 - **11** active
 - **0** new
- **3** deaths (**0** new)

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 a breakdown of cases by Health Service Delivery Area, are [posted every Friday on the BCCDC website](#).

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – October 27, 2020
- [BCCDC Surveillance report](#) – October 23, 2020

To combat rising cases of COVID-19 in BC, a new provincial health order limiting private gatherings is now in effect

COVID-19 cases are rising across the province, with many of the new cases linked to social gatherings in private homes. To help combat this spike, a new provincial health order has gone into effect as of Oct 26, limiting private gatherings across the province.

Gatherings in private homes are now limited to your immediate household, plus six others. This is a province-wide order that applies to all homes for all occasions.

For more information on the new public health order, see the [full page on the provincial site](#).

Halloween is right around the corner. Learn how to keep it safe and spooky this year!

This Halloween may look a little different as we find ways to safely enjoy the holiday. The [BCCDC has developed guidelines](#) to let us celebrate Halloween, while still maintaining needed safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BCCDC guidelines include topics on:

- Halloween parties
- Trick-or-treating
- Handing out treats
- Halloween decorations

For more information, see the [full BCCDC guidelines](#) or the [full story on the NH Stories site](#).

Going back to school can be stressful for youth, especially during a pandemic. Need help? Check out these resources.

There are a number of [great resources](#) available to assist parents, teachers, health care and social service providers in supporting young people as they are resuming classes.

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): A Northern Health Guide for Your Community](#)
- [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

Toxic drugs are circulating. Learn what you can do to stay safe or help someone in need.

If you use drugs, stay safer. Carry naloxone. And call 9-1-1 if you or someone you know needs help. Learn more at [StopOverdoseBC.ca](https://www.stopoverdosebc.ca).

- Watch and share the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2qrvJ9EeV8>

Other organizational news

Northern Health celebrates National Infection Control Week and Canadian Patient Safety Week

A Message from Cathy Ulrich, Northern Health's Chief Executive Officer:

"I am pleased to highlight two nationally celebrated weeks that take place each year in October - [National Infection Control Week \(October 19-23\)](#) and [Canadian Patient Safety Week \(October 26-30\)](#). These weeks provide an opportunity to showcase and celebrate Northern Health's efforts towards Patient Safety and Infection Prevention and Control – particularly as we continue the critical work of enabling the people we serve and their families, as well as Northern Health's staff and physicians, to be safe in Northern Health facilities and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme of Canadian Patient Safety Week 2020 is **Virtual Care is New to Us**. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the planning and delivery of virtual care and services across Northern BC. Many of the people Northern Health serves value the option to access virtual care and services. While these virtual care options expand in both types of services and their reach, we must strive to ensure that the virtual patient experience attends to person- and family-centred care, to cultural safety, and to quality of care.

Since the pandemic was declared on March 2020, the commitment to quality and safety by Northern Health staff and physicians has been exceptional. I have heard many examples of the extra measures that staff have taken in their day-to-day work to enable care to be provided safely in the pandemic context. As we recognize Canadian Patient Safety Week, I would like to sincerely thank Northern Health staff and physicians for these efforts."