



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

April 7, 2021

COVID-19

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of April 6, **6,294** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **340**
- New cases: **43**
- Currently in hospital: **34**
 - Currently admitted to HAU/ICU in hospital: **9**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **128**

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](#) – April 6, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – March 31, 2021

Northern Health residents age 70 and over can now call to book their vaccine

Vaccine booking is now available for Northern Health residents age 70+ and Indigenous peoples age 18+.

Note: Some communities are following a more condensed schedule for opening booking opportunities to eligible age groups.

To see booking information for your community, see Northern Health's [COVID-19 vaccine plan page](#).

COVID-19 prevention measures are still needed after vaccination

As the COVID-19 Immunization program continues across the North, it is important to remember that it takes time to build immunity, and public health guidelines must still be followed even after you've received a vaccine.

It takes roughly two weeks after getting the first dose of vaccine to build immunity to the virus and if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19 before or during that time, you may not yet be fully protected and can still get COVID-19.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 after you get a vaccine, it is still important to continue to follow public health guidelines. This includes:

- Washing your hands regularly
- Maintaining a safe physical distance
- Wearing a mask in public settings
- Staying home when sick.

It is important to note that all vaccines approved in Canada and available in B.C. are safe, effective, and will help protect against COVID-19. While COVID-19 infections post-vaccination are still possible, all vaccines have been shown to offer a high level of protection against serious illness and death.

Outbreak declared – Acropolis Manor, Prince Rupert

NH Medical Health Officers have declared an outbreak for the West Pod at Acropolis Manor. At the time of the outbreak declaration, two residents have tested positive for COVID-19. Communication with Acropolis Manor staff, residents, and families is ongoing.

For more details, see the [full information bulletin](#).

The latest information on outbreaks can always be found on the [NH news page](#).

Outbreak declared – Prince Rupert Regional Hospital, Patient Care Unit

Northern Health Medical Health Officers have declared a COVID-19 outbreak on the Patient Care Unit at Prince Rupert Regional Hospital, following lab-confirmed cases among patients on the unit. To date, three patients and one staff case have been confirmed in association with the outbreaks.

Monitoring and testing is underway to identify any additional cases.

The latest information on outbreaks can always be found on the [NH news page](#).

New Long-Term Care/Assisted Living Digest, Issue #20: Information for residents and families

The long-term care task group is continuing to produce updates twice a month for residents and families of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

[This issue](#) provides an update on the new visiting restrictions for long-term care and assisted living, effective April 1, 2021.

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 Virtual 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

Northern Peer Support Grant Application Form – Spring 2021

Northern Health is pleased to announce the second cycle of Peer Support grants, in partnership with Positive Living North and Seasons House, and funded by the BC Ministry of Mental Health & Substance Use.

As we enter a second year in a state of unprecedented dual health emergencies, Northern peer organizations are uniquely positioned to support the needs of people who use substances and respond to changing circumstances in Northern communities. Peer organizations develop capacity in, and deliver services to, for, and by people who use drugs.

Peers and peer organizations play a vital role in connecting people to services, providing income and skill development opportunities, and enabling relationships that save lives. This grant seeks to deliver operational and service delivery funding to allow these organizations to continue this critical work.

The call for applications will take place from April 1 to April 30, 2021 and is open to independent peer organizations within Northern Health's geographic boundaries. The maximum grant amount is \$8,000. The application form for this grant is available [here](#).

For additional information regarding this granting stream, please contact Peer.Grants@northernhealth.ca