



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

*The latest from Northern Health*

April 14, 2021

## COVID-19

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### COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of April 13, **6,595** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **300**
- New cases: **28**
- Currently in hospital: **28**
  - Currently admitted to HAU/ICU in hospital: **12**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **132**

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 13, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – April 7, 2021

### Expedited COVID-19 workplace closure orders

BC's provincial health officer (PHO) has put in place an Expedited Workplace Closure order to allow WorkSafeBC inspectors to support the work of public health and to support businesses when a COVID-19 outbreak occurs at a worksite.

Effective Monday, April 12, workplaces with COVID-19 cases related to workplace transmission may be closed down for a minimum 10-day period, unless there is an overriding public interest in keeping that workplace open. Public Health will determine whether it is more likely than not that transmission has occurred at work.

If the public health investigation determines that transmission of COVID-19 has occurred at a workplace, an order may be issued closing the workplace for 10 days or longer to stop the transmission. In the case of complex workplaces (e.g., large construction sites), the closure may be restricted to those parts of the workplace where transmission has occurred.

There have been no workplace closure orders issued in the NH region, to date. Any future closure issues will be listed on the [public exposures and outbreaks page](#).

### 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

#### Joint statement on the five-year anniversary of B.C.'s overdose emergency

Premier John Horgan; Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; and Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, have issued the following statement on the five-year anniversary of drug-related overdoses being declared a public health emergency in British Columbia:

“Today, people in every community throughout the province hold sorrow in their hearts for loved ones lost, as we mark the sombre five-year anniversary of British Columbia’s overdose emergency.

“As we grieve the more than 7,000 people who have died by overdose since the public health emergency began, we reaffirm that we cannot – and will not – allow this tragedy to continue.”

For the full statement, see the [full news release](#).

## 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](mailto:Peer.Grants@northernhealth.ca)

## Other organizational news

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### BC declares April 11-17 as Trauma Awareness Week

The BC government has officially proclaimed April 11 – 17 as Trauma Awareness Week.

During the week, we will acknowledge trauma survivors and their families, as well as our interdisciplinary team members who work behind the scenes to save lives.

We will highlight the importance of injury prevention strategies, the role of trauma education and promote awareness surrounding the impact of major trauma in BC.

### Why promote awareness of survivors of traumatic injury?

- Build public awareness of the impacts of traumatic injury
- Provide education of prevention strategies
- Acknowledge individuals and their families who have survived a traumatic injury and may be living with the physical and mental impacts
- Highlight the continuum of care, from prevention to community reintegration post traumatic injury
- Create a voice of compassion and solidarity from the trauma community on behalf of patients and their families

## How can you help promote awareness?

### Post to your social media accounts. #TraumaAwareBC

- [Download the sign](#)
- Add your message to the sign, such as I am a survivor; I am trained to help in an emergency; I acknowledge survivors.
- Take a picture holding the sign
- Upload it onto social media with #TraumaAwareBC
- Or send it to us via email [tsbc@phsa.ca](mailto:tsbc@phsa.ca) and then we can upload it onto our social media directly
- Tag friends and family

Posting messages of hope and support by every one of us will create an unprecedented voice of compassion. For more information, please contact the team at Trauma Services BC [tsbc@phsa.ca](mailto:tsbc@phsa.ca).

### Video links: Survivors of traumatic injuries share their stories

The VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation created five-minute videos in which survivors of traumatic injuries share their stories from the traumatic experience to hospitalization and recovery. These are stories of strength and how health care teams play an integral role in the journey of a patient with traumatic injuries.

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmyQmYB\\_0Xs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmyQmYB_0Xs)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7W8UCRghQc>

## Cognitive care kits now available to support those living with cognitive decline

Cognitive care kits are now available for sign out to Prince George residents through the Prince George Public Library. These resources provide stimulating brain activities for people experiencing cognitive decline, including memory loss and thinking skills, due to disorders such as [Alzheimer's disease](#). The kits include games, puzzles, books, and workbooks that encourage social connection and provide meaningful links to daily activities.

Materials in the kits are designed to support the skills and abilities of people living with dementia. They encourage the use of skills the disorder has not affected, such as fine and gross motor, reading, spelling, and sorting. Proper use of the kits stimulates engagement, cognitive activity and supports memory.

There are nine kits available – each one with a variety of activities matched to abilities supporting different stages of the journey which you sign out using your library card. There are three additional kits available through the Alzheimer Society of BC.

The kits were developed in partnership between the [Prince George Public Library, Northern Health](#) and the [Alzheimer Society of BC](#) through a \$6000 grant from the [United Way of Northern BC](#), and were inspired and informed by a similar project at Burlington Public Library and Halton Hills Public Library in Ontario.

The videos are available on the library's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/pglibrary](http://www.youtube.com/user/pglibrary).

Once the library resumes in-person programming, additional training for caregivers on how to use the Cognitive Care kits with their loved ones will be available.

**For more information:**

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