



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

April 21, 2021

COVID-19

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of April 21, **6,869** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **232**
- New cases: **31**
- Currently in hospital: **18**
 - Currently admitted to HAU/ICU in hospital: **9**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **136**

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 20, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – April 14, 2021

Don't forget, the latest information on vaccine eligibility can be found on the NH vaccine plan page

For community specific information regarding vaccine eligibility, clinics, and more, see the [vaccine plan page on Northern Health's website](#).

This page is updated regularly and has the current immunization schedule developed for the North, in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority, Métis Nation BC, and Northern Health.

BC announces new COVID-19 restrictions to curb transmission of virus

BC residents are facing new COVID-19 restrictions as the province works to reduce the current levels of transmission of the virus. The new orders will include restricting vacation and recreational travel outside of individual health authorities and are expected to be put in place later this week under the Emergency Program Act.

Current restrictions on pubs, bars, restaurants, and group fitness activities, as well as the Expedited Workplace Closure order, will be extended through to May 24, 2021 at midnight.

For more information, see the [most recent joint statement](#).

Province now vaccinating people in high-transmission neighbourhoods

The vaccine strategy in BC is being shifted to include communities with high transmissions, focussing on neighbourhoods in Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and Northern Health.

The new strategy will focus on people born in 1981 and earlier who are 40 years and older, and who will be vaccinated primarily with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Read about the new strategy and [where to book your appointment online](#).

Check to see if you're in a high-transmission neighbourhood:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/neighbourhood>

Outbreak declared: Dawson Creek & District Hospital – Medical Inpatient Unit

Northern Health Medical Health Officers have declared a COVID-19 outbreak on the Medical Inpatient Unit at Dawson Creek & District Hospital (DCDH), following lab-confirmed case(s) among patients on the unit. At the time of the outbreak declaration, testing has identified two inpatients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Monitoring and testing is underway to identify any additional cases.

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

New Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 21: 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, Advance Care Planning day on April 16, and the antipsychotic reduction initiative underway at Northern Health.

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

Five years of the overdose crisis in BC

April 14, 2021, marked five years since the overdose crisis was declared a public health emergency in BC. As we remember the lives that have been lost (family, friends, colleagues, neighbours), we must work to end stigma and knock down the walls of silence. There is much more to do to prevent these tragedies.

Learn more by visiting stopoverdose.gov.bc.ca