



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

April 28, 2021

COVID-19

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of April 27, **7,096** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **206**
- New cases: **16**
- Currently in hospital: **18**
 - Currently admitted to HAU/ICU in hospital: **6**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **140**

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 27, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – April 21, 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.

Restrictions on travel between regions of the province

Under the EPA, an order restricting non-essential travel between certain regions of the province is in place until May 25 at midnight. This includes travel for:

- Vacations, weekend getaways and tourism activities
- Visiting family or friends for social reasons
- Recreation activities

The order combines B.C.'s five health authorities into three regions of the province. Travel into and out of the regions for non-essential reasons is not allowed and is now prohibited by law.

The regions are:

- **Northern/Interior** (Northern Health and Interior Health, including Bella Coola Valley, the Central Coast and Hope)
 - Residents from the Hope area can travel to Chilliwack for essential goods and supplies
 - Residents from the Bella Coola Valley and Central Coast area can travel to Port Hardy for essential goods and supplies
- **Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley** (Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health)
- **Vancouver Island** (Vancouver Island Health)

For more information, see the [province's page on travel restrictions](#).

NEW Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 22: 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 travel restrictions for BC, effective April 23, 2021, and information on the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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

Recently detected opioids in BC: Benzimidazoles and analogues (Nitazenes)

Please see the [fact sheet](#) for details about the more recently detected opioids in BC. The novel opioid Etodeznitizine was detected in a recent drug sample in Northern Health; however, this drug has only been detected a few times in BC and is not thought to be common in the drug supply at this time.

Etodeznitizine is NOT detected with fentanyl test strip when drug checking but it will respond to naloxone.

We strongly encourage the following for safest drug use:

- To not use alone, use in the presence of others
- Go slow, start with a small amount
- Get trained on overdose response and carry naloxone
- Know the signs of overdose and call 911 immediately if you are concerned
- Use an OPS where available
- Download the Lifeguard or BeSafe app if you are in situations where you cannot use in the presence of others.

Dual Public Health Emergencies - Overdose in BC during COVID-19

The overdose public health emergency, declared on April 14 2016, has claimed the lives of almost 7,000 British Columbians. Since the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency on March 17, 2020, the rate of overdose events and illicit drug toxicity deaths have increased and surpassed historic highs.

To learn more about the Dual Public Health Emergencies, visit - [Dual Public Health Emergencies - Overdose in BC during COVID-19](#)