



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

May 19, 2021

COVID-19

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of May 18, **7,473** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **122**
- New cases: **8**
- Currently in hospital: **7**
 - Currently admitted to HAU/ICU in hospital: **3**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **147**

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](#) – May 18, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – May 12, 2021

My COVID-19 Immunization Record

Every client who receives an immunization in Northern Health is provided with a paper copy of their Immunization Record. The official record of your COVID-19 vaccination is the paper record you receive at the time of immunization with the date stamp, and your personal immunization records.

Vaccine documentation might look different depending on the community you receive your vaccine in. Most clinics are providing an 8.5x11 white piece of paper that has details about the vaccine patients received at the top, symptoms to watch for in the middle, and information to access health gateway on the bottom.

The immunization is documented in each individual's electronic health record. We encourage everyone to sign up for Health Gateway to access their immunization records by following this link: <https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca>.

If Canada proceeds with a standard federal proof of immunization, whether it is a digital or paper 'vaccine passport', it will be based on an individual's electronic record of immunization. At this time, there is no requirement to present proof of vaccination.

NEW Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 23: 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 an amendment to the new travel restrictions for BC, effective April 23, 2021, and information on the Health Career Access Program.

My vaccine “why”: I want to hug my dad

From NH Stories

I recently got my first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the Northern Health clinic at the Prince George Civic Centre, and it was a very positive experience.

Why did I do it?

There were lots of reasons... including being part of the solution, returning to normalcy, protecting our most vulnerable, and so on.

But really, I just want to hug my dad.

Neither my husband's family nor mine lives in Prince George (they're mostly down on the coast), so they're not in our bubble. Even with our Zoom get-togethers, it's been a long, lonely time.

The last time I hugged my dad was 11 am on February 28, 2020, right before leaving his house to catch the ferry...

[Read the full story on Northern Health Stories.](#)

COVID-19 – Outbreak declaration – Heritage Manor II, Fort St. John

Northern Health Public Health has declared a COVID-19 outbreak at the Heritage Manor II assisted living facility in Fort St. John, BC. At the time of the outbreak declaration, there have been three lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among facility residents.

All Heritage Manor II residents and staff are being closely monitored for symptoms; social visits are temporarily suspended, and activity programs placed on hold. Essential visits can continue.

The outbreak declaration will be in place for at least 28 days.

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

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

Safer smoking supplies will continue to be provided free of charge through the BCCDC harm reduction supply program

For many people who use drugs in the Northern region, inhalation is the preferred method of drug use. To help prevent harms that occur when people share drug supplies such as pipes, the BCCDC has announced that they will continue publicly funding pipes and they have now added filters to the list of supplies they fund. Sterifilt filters are used to help prevent harm to a person crushing and injecting tablets and these will now be publicly funded for the first time.

Program Updates:

- Additional funding for Sterifilt filters has been received for two years until March 31, 2023
- Funding for safer smoking supplies (glass pipes) has been extended for three years until March 31, 2024

Ordering:

- Registered sites are encouraged to order these supplies on AS NEEDED basis only to avoid stockpiling and to ensure equal access to these supplies across BC
- Orders may be adjusted to ensure equitable distribution among sites
- The new order form can be found [here](#)

For more information about harm reduction, see the following:

- [Safer Tablet Injection Resource](#)
- Videos: [Guidance for Injecting Tablet Medication](#) and [Preparing Your Drugs](#)
- [Learn more about Sterifilt FAST and other harm reduction supplies](#)