



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

*The latest from Northern Health*

June 2, 2021

## COVID-19

### COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of June 1, **7,685** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **93**
- New cases: **2**
- Currently in hospital: **10**
  - Currently admitted to HAU/ICU in hospital: **6**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **153**

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 surveillance dashboard](#) for graphs, maps, and data showing COVID-19 case rates, test positivity and vaccination coverage by local health area (LHA) and community health service area (CHSA).

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – June 1, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – May 26, 2021

### Invitation to register for second dose but no clinics showing

Some communities are receiving invitations to book second dose vaccine appointments, but when trying to book the system is showing no booking times available. Please note that clinics are on their way. The provincial team is actively working to resolve the technical issues that are causing this.

Local teams are working hard to plan upcoming clinics. There are many logistics to consider, including staffing, vaccine supply, etc. We ask people to be patient and to refer to our website for updated info regarding future clinics and vaccination opportunities.

<https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/covid-19-vaccine-plan>

## Do your part, don't forget to register for the COVID-19 vaccine

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the quickest way for us to return to the activities we love. Don't forget to [register on the provincial site](#) to get contacted for your appointment.

We have also created shareable content that you can use to help get the word out and encourage everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Shareable COVID-19 resources.](#)

## 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

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### Illicit drug toxicity deaths for April 2021 now available (BC Coroners Report – released April 30)

On April 30, the BC Coroners Service released a [report on the illicit drug toxicity deaths for April 2021](#).

#### Summary:

- April 2021 (N=176) saw a 43% increase in the number of deaths from April 2020 (N=123).
- This has been the highest number of suspected deaths ever recorded in the month of April – it equates to approximately 5.9 deaths per day.
- In 2021, NH has had the highest rate of illicit drug toxicity deaths in the province with a rate of 50 deaths per 100,000 individuals. The 2021 provincial rate is 39 deaths per 100,000.

#### Northern Health Summary

- **Northern Health** saw 7 illicit drug toxicity deaths in April (~30 deaths per 100,000 individuals).

- **The Northwest** has seen 13 illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2021 for a rate of 51.3 deaths per 100,000 individuals. The fourth highest rate in the province.
  - There were 3 deaths in April
  - Smithers LHA has the fifth highest rate of 96.7 deaths per 100,000 individuals (n=6), in 2021
  - Terrace LHA has the eighth highest rate of 70.7 deaths per 100,000 individuals (n=5), in 2021
- **The Northern Interior** has seen 21 illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2021 for a rate of 42.7 deaths per 100,000 individuals. The seventh highest rate in the province.
  - There was 1 death in April
- **The Northeast** has seen 14 illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2021 for a rate of 63.9 deaths per 100,000 individuals. The second highest rate in the province.
  - There were 3 deaths in April
  - Peace River South LHA has the third highest rate of 106.4 deaths per 100,000 individuals (n=9), in 2021

For more information, see the BC Coroners Service report: [Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths in BC \(January 1, 2011 – April 30, 2021\)](#).

## First Nations Toxic Drug Deaths Doubled During the Pandemic in 2020

*from the First Nations Health Authority*

**Coast Salish Territory** – The [number of First Nations lives](#) lost to toxic drugs jumped dramatically in 2020. The large gap in death rates between First Nations individuals and other British Columbia (BC) residents is now wider than it has ever been.

In 2020, 254 First Nations people died due to toxic drugs, a 119% increase from 2019 and the highest number of toxic drug deaths recorded for First Nations since 2016 when the province of BC first declared a public health emergency. First Nations people died at 5.3 times the rate of other BC residents in 2020, up from 3.9 times in 2019.

Read the [full story on the FNHA news page](#).

## Other organizational news

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### Interested in starting or continuing a career in health care? Peace River Regional District scholarships now open! Deadline July 31, 2021

The Peace River Regional District, in partnership with Northern Health's Education Department, offers significant funds to support local residents to either begin or continue a career in health care.

If you reside in one of the following areas below, you may be eligible to apply.

- Fort St. John
- Hudson Hope
- Chetwynd

- Tumbler Ridge
- Dawson Creek
- Fort Nelson

For more information, visit the [Peace River Regional District scholarships page](#).

For questions, please contact [education@northernhealth.ca](mailto:education@northernhealth.ca).