



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

August 18, 2021

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COVID-19

Northern Health celebrates 70% COVID-19 immunization

Northern Health has hit the 70% COVID-19 immunization mark due to collaborative efforts across the region.

Now it's time to reach for 75%. Some communities, like [Kitimat](#), have exceeded 80% vaccination rates. We look forward to seeing more communities reach new vaccination records – especially as summer holidays continue and a new school year edges closer.

Visit the [BCCDC COVID-19 surveillance dashboard](#) for information about vaccination rates, and [Northern Health COVID-19 immunization clinics website](#) for a list of local vaccination clinics.

Vax for BC

If you haven't got vaccinated yet or if it's been more than 49 days since your first dose, get vaccinated now at a drop-in, mobile or special event clinic. Roll up your sleeve and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Visit the [Vax for BC website](#) for more information.

Community Toolkit

To empower local partners to share helpful information, we have created a [COVID-19 Community Toolkit](#) - a digital resource for community partners, which includes vaccine clinic information (including [clinic schedules](#)), a community guide, trusted information and links, and more!

BC vaccination coverage rates and COVID-19 activity

COVID-19 dashboard

Visit the [COVID-19 surveillance dashboard](#) from the BCCDC for information by local health area (LHA) and community health service area (CHSA).

COVID-19 Numbers

As of August 17, **8,163** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **206**
- New cases: **35**
- Currently in hospital: **2**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **4**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **159**

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, for a visual comparison of COVID-19 cases in BC by HSDA to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#). It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [BC COVID-19 pandemic update](#) – August 17, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – August 11, 2021

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [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 Primary and Community Care Clinic: **1-844-645-7811**
- Northern Health Environmental Health Officer Line: **1-250-565-7322**
- 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

International Overdose Awareness Day is August 31, 2021

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose. It is a time to pause and acknowledge those lives lost and those family and friends who are deeply impacted by both overdose events and overdose deaths in our communities.

Holding a local event is one way to show support and raise awareness in an effort to bring an end to further loss and the stigma associated with substance use.

Ideas for local community events are:

- Support from municipalities to declare the day International Overdose Awareness Day
- Hold a memorial service
- Plant a tree, offer candle lighting or banner signing
- Offer space for tributes
- Have a BBQ with speakers or an open mic
- Write a press release regarding IOAD and your community event plans
- Run an educational campaign
- Train community members on overdose recognition and response and distribute naloxone

If your community is hosting an international overdose event and would like to share your event with NH please feel free to email HarmReduction@northernhealth.ca. Northern events will be featured on our NH social media channels.

For more information and resources, please visit the [International Overdose Awareness Day website](#).

Organizational news

Wildfire safety

High temperatures across the province have increased the wildfire risk. Northern Health is collaborating with local and provincial to monitor wildfires in the North, as well as their impact on Northerners' health and Northern Health services.

Report a wildfire by calling *5555 on most cell phones or 1-800-663-5555

- [BC Wildfire Management Branch](#)
- [Emergency Info BC](#)
- [Wildfire Preparedness](#)
- [BC Air Quality Advisories](#)
- [Interactive Wildfire Map](#)
- [Wildfire App for Apple](#) and [Android](#)

Staying safe in warm weather

As the summer months continue, warm weather warm weather and bright sunshine can still lead to increased risks for our health and safety. For ways to stay safe while working in the heat, please see:

- [Northern Health heatwave information](#)
- [BC Government tips to stay safe and cool](#)
- [HealthLinkBC's beat the heat resources](#)
- [BCCDC's Warm weather safety](#)

