



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

August 25, 2021

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COVID-19

BC launches proof of vaccination to stop spread of COVID-19

“Starting September 13, 2021, proof of vaccination will be required in BC for people attending certain social and recreational settings and events.

This important step will continue to increase the vaccination rate across the province and provide confidence to fully vaccinated people that those around them are also fully vaccinated.”

To continue reading, please visit the [BC Gov News site](#) and [article on proof of vaccination](#).

Mask mandate to reduce transmission, protect people in public spaces

“As of Wednesday, August 25, 2021, masks must be worn in all indoor public spaces throughout BC to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 as BC prepares for the fall and respiratory illness season.”

To continue reading this article, which includes additional information, such as a list of public spaces, please visit the [BC Gov News site](#).

Vax for BC

If you haven't got vaccinated yet or if it's been more than 28 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 24, **8,403** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **308**
- New cases: **39**
- Currently in hospital: **7**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **7**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **160**

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 24, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – August 18, 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

Overdose alert for Terrace and Smithers

There has been an increase in overdose events in Terrace and Smithers.

Please visit [the NH Stories website](#) to view the alert, which includes a description of the reported substance and ways to stay safe.

Paper straws now available to order for harm reduction sites

Biodegradable single use straws are now available to order for harm reduction sites.

Straws can be used for snorting crushed or powdered drugs or inhaling vapor from heating drugs on foil. These paper straws can replace rigid devices such as cracked or broken glass tubes, which have a higher risk of transmitting blood borne viruses from small cuts or tears in the nasal passage.

Straws come in a variety of colours to reduce the risk of unintentionally using another person's straw.

For more information please visit [the BCCDC Harm Reduction Services website](#) regarding the harm reduction supply program for launch of paper straws. The [new harm reduction order form](#) is also available on this 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](#)