



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

October 13, 2021

Sections

[COVID-19](#)

[Overdose prevention and response](#)

[Organizational news](#)

COVID-19

Northern Health critical care patients moved south

Recently, 55 critical care patients have been transferred from Northern Health to hospitals on Vancouver Island, in the Fraser Health Authority, and Vancouver Coastal Health. Of those 55, 43 are positive for COVID-19, and 42 were not fully vaccinated. Over the Thanksgiving weekend alone, 14 people were transferred. There are 40 critical care base beds in all of northern BC. There are 42 patients with COVID-19 from the North in critical care. A further 23 surge beds that have been added to critical care capacity in the North, for a total of 63. (BC Minister of Health Adrian Dix, October 12, 2021.)

On October 12, BC Minister of Health Adrian Dix said, "for those people walking around unvaccinated who might be in those critical care beds in two or three weeks, I say to them now is the time, surely. Now is the time to get vaccinated. For the whole health care system, all-in in support, now is the time to get vaccinated."

Visit the Northern Health website for information about [vaccination clinics in the region](#).

Northern BC community immunization coverage

Immunization coverage for every community in Northern Health is available for you on the [Northern BC community immunization coverage page](#). This link includes both first and second dose counts and percentages per community and is updated every week.

Proof of vaccination and the BC Vaccine Card

The BC Vaccine Card is now the only acceptable proof of vaccination for British Columbians to enjoy certain businesses and recreational events safely.

For Northern Health, Environmental Public Health Team responds to incoming complaints related to the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders (face coverings and vaccine status, for instance). The Environmental Public Health Team will reach out to non-compliant facilities to provide education, and then follow progressive enforcement processes that could include ticketing and potential closure orders.

For more information, please see the [proof of vaccination](#), and the [information for businesses](#) sites.

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

BCCDC COVID-19 dashboard

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

COVID-19 Numbers

As of October 12, **13,167** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **833**
- New cases: **37**
- Currently in hospital: **84**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **22**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **184**

For the latest provincial numbers, see the Province of 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](#) – October 12, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – October 6, 2021

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [Northern Health COVID-19 test online booking form](#)
- [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

Take Home Naloxone Program Report Review of Data to December 2020 Available Now

Take Home Naloxone (THN) Program Report

Toward the Heart published the [THN program evaluation report](#) this week, which includes a review of data until December 2020. Notable findings and recommendations include:

- The BC THN program saw increased kit shipment and reported distribution in 2020 amidst ongoing dual public health emergencies
- Kit distribution to individuals actively responding to overdoses is increasing over time (50.4% of all kits reported distributed in 2020 were to replace a used kit)
- More than 94,000 kits have been reported as used to reverse an overdose since the program began
- Naloxone administration records indicate that 1-3 doses of naloxone are most commonly administered during an overdose response event
- There is evidence of a decreasing trend in police presence at overdose events when 911 is called based on naloxone administration records
- Involving people with lived and living experience (PWLLE) in program practice and evaluation is important to ensure that services are accessible, acceptable, accommodating and affordable

The success of the THN program would not be possible without the advocacy, expertise and tireless efforts of people with lived and living experience who continue to be on the frontlines of the drug toxicity crisis as well as community partners and colleagues at the BCCDC, Regional Health Authorities and the Ministry of Health.

Organizational news

Celebrating National Occupational Therapy Month

October is National Occupational Therapy Month, where we highlight how occupational therapy can support people to stay safe at home! As part of our celebrations, we'll be sharing a couple of stories to highlight occupational therapists from across the North. Take a journey with us and discover how occupational therapy can positively impact your life.

To start, we interviewed Desiree Lillico and Caitlin De Smit, two occupational therapists working in Fort St. John. To read their stories, please visit the [Northern Health Stories website](#).