



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

October 20, 2021

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COVID-19

COVID-19 orders and policy – upcoming and in effect

Acute care facilities visitors policy

On October 5, 2021, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry [announced](#) that the visitor policy for long-term care and all other health-care settings in BC is being updated. Starting October 26, 2021, visitors to acute-care settings will also need to show they are fully vaccinated.

Gatherings and events

Northern Health's public health orders restricting gatherings and events for most of the region (some areas of the Northwest are not included) went into effect October 14. This is in addition to the provincial stage three requirements, and the orders already in place for Northern BC.

For more information:

- [New COVID-19 order for the Northern Health Authority](#)
- [Full bulletin from Northern Health](#)
- [All Northern Health COVID-19 orders](#)

For complaints or concern related to orders, please call [250-565-7322](tel:250-565-7322) or email php@northernhealth.ca.

Visit the Northern Health website for a [list of all Northern Health COVID-19 immunization clinics and other resources](#).

To book a vaccine appointment, register online at: www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/, call 1-833-838-2323, or visit a Service BC office [listed here](#).

COVID-19 resources

For information and resources for COVID-19, please see:

- [COVID-19 information and FAQs](#)
- [Proof of vaccination information](#)
- [Proof of vaccination for businesses](#)
- [Exposure information](#)
- [COVID-19 test online booking form](#)

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.

Vax for BC

If you haven't been 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.

For more information, visit:

- [Vax for BC website](#)
- [Northern Health COVID-19 vaccine plan](#)
- [Northern Health COVID-19 immunization clinics](#)

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 19, **14,275** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **864**
- New cases: **191**
- Currently in hospital: **72**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **20**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **195**

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 19, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – October 13, 2021

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

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

Not Just Naloxone: Registration for fall workshops now open

The online registration form for the regional **Not Just Naloxone** workshop is now open for fall/winter 2021/2022.

Not Just Naloxone (NJN) is a virtual workshop hosted by the First Nations Health Authority and is delivered by the Four Directions Team. This training was developed in response to the toxic drug crisis in BC, which continues to disproportionately impact Indigenous people.

Training Dates in the North: November 4 - 5, 2021

For more information please email Sony Subedi at njn@fnha.ca

Please visit the [Not Just Naloxone site](#) to register for this workshop.

Organizational news

Flu season is quickly approaching

Getting the influenza vaccination is more important than ever this year, especially with a health authority already experiencing a COVID-19 surge.

With more people returning to the workplace, children back in school and changes to public health mandates, it is expected to see an increase of influenza cases this year compared to last year.

Peak influenza season is from December to February, and it takes a minimum of two weeks for antibodies against the flu to develop fully following vaccination. Northern Health will start offering influenza vaccine beginning the week of October 18, 2021. For more information about flu vaccination, please see:

- [Northern Health influenza information](#)
- [BCCDC influenza information](#)
- [CDC influenza information](#)

For information about the flu vaccine clinics being offered in the region, please see the [Northern Health flu information site](#), and the [ImmunizeBC Find an Influenza \(Flu\) Clinic site](#).

NEW Long-term Care/Assisted Living Digest – Issue 31: Information for residents and families

The long-term care task group is producing updates once a month for residents and families of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

[Issue 31](#) of the long-term care and assisted living digest is now available. This issue provides updated information on vaccine requirements for visitors in long-term care and assisted living.