



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

November 24, 2021

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COVID-19

Safe, effective COVID-19 pediatric vaccine available for children aged 5-11

“British Columbia welcomes the news that Health Canada has approved Pfizer’s COVID-19 pediatric vaccine for children aged five to 11. The rigorous review confirms that this first vaccine formulated for younger children is safe and effective. We also welcome the recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization on use of this new lower-dose vaccine to provide protection to children from five to 11 years of age. We look forward to making the pediatric vaccine available for 360,000 young British Columbians as soon as possible.”

To continue reading this statement and for more information, please visit the [BC Government website](#).

COVID-19 immunization plan – booster shot and third dose (for eligible people)

The third dose of the COVID-19 vaccination is for some people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. People who need a third dose [will be contacted](#) by the provincial [Get Vaccinated](#) system.

The booster dose is an additional non-urgent, non-compulsory vaccine that gets immunity back up to a desirable level of protection for an extended period of time. It will be available starting in January 2022.

To book a booster dose, please ensure you're registered in the [Get Vaccinated](#) system. If you have difficulty accessing online booking, please call 1-833-838-2323.

Booster shots and third doses will be by appointment only, they are not available for walk-ins.

COVID-19 policy and orders

For more information about current Provincial orders (such as the acute- and long-term care visitors policy, and restrictions around gatherings and events), please see:

- [NH Orders and FAQ resources](#)
- [NH Public Health COVID-19 Order Enforcement Actions](#)
- [Provincial and regional restrictions](#)

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

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.

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 November 23, **17,249** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **444**
- New cases: **60**
- Currently in hospital: **48**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **17**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **246**

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](#) – November 23, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – November 17, 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

Delivery barriers for take home naloxone and harm reduction supplies

Due to the emergency events across BC, BCCDC is experiencing delivery barriers to the northern region for take home naloxone (THN) and harm reduction supplies. We are encouraging sites to monitor stock and source naloxone and HR supplies locally from neighbouring community locations wherever possible.

If your site is critically low please reach out to [Reanne Sanford](#) or [Kristen Jensen](#). More information to come as it is available.

A bulk order of naloxone will be sent to the northern region (Prince George) for dispersal to other northern communities as needed. Standing orders have been paused for NH sites.

BCCDC will share out communication to THN sites in regards to shipping delays and plans to coordinate alternate shipping methods. BCCDC will be assessing incoming additional requests on a case by case basis. Our team will provide updates when they are made available.

BC Centre on Substance Use - Webinar series: opioid use disorder care in ED settings

A six-part, interactive and case-based webinar series, led by emergency care providers for emergency care providers, has been launched to support the initiative aimed to improve the experience of opioid use disorder care for people and providers. Register for upcoming webinars or view previous sessions here:

- [November 25, 5:00 - 6:00pm: Buprenorphine/naloxone in the ED \(webinar\)](#)

Organizational news

Northern Health Connections

Due to the mudslides and highway closures, [Northern Health Connections](#) is not running our Prince George - Vancouver route at this time. Once it is safe for all our buses and passengers to travel on Highway 1, we will resume our planned schedule.

Clearing the Smoke – BC Lung Foundation Wood Smoke Webinar December 1

Residential wood smoke impacts many of our Northern communities during the winter months. This smoke can linger at ground level and worsen a variety of health conditions. The BC Lung Foundation invites you to a webinar to learn about the science of wood smoke, how it impacts health and how to reduce exposure.

If you're interested in attending, you can register on the [2021 Wood Smoke Webinar Registration site](#).