



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

*The latest from Northern Health*

December 22, 2021

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## COVID-19

### COVID-19 orders - Province strengthens COVID-19 measures for safer holiday season

The provincial health officer is implementing additional measures to address rising COVID-19 case counts that could result in increased hospitalizations and critical care admissions and the potential to overstress the health care system.

Revised provincial health orders will take effect on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 11:59 pm.

The restrictions will extend to January 18, 2022, at 11:59 pm, and include:

- No organized indoor social events and gatherings of any size;
- Concerts, sports games and theatres reduced to 50% seating capacity, regardless of venue size;
- Closing gyms, fitness centres and dance studios;
- Closing bars and nightclubs; and
- Limiting table sizes at restaurants, cafes and pubs to a maximum of six people per table with physical distancing or barriers.

These provincial orders are applicable to all of British Columbia, while the Northern Health region also has NH-specific public health orders on Gatherings and Events. For more information, 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 Northern Health's Order or compliance with current measures and restrictions, please call 250-565-7322 or email [php@northernhealth.ca](mailto:php@northernhealth.ca).

## COVID-19 immunization plan

### Pediatric dose

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now available for children 5 to 11. This vaccine uses a lower dose (10 micrograms), at one-third of the dose formulated for older children and adults, which will provide effective protection tailored to children's immune systems. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) advises that children receive a two-dose series of the vaccine with an interval of eight weeks or more between the first and second dose.

For more information about this vaccine (including information about the vaccine and how to register a youth), please see [COVID-19 vaccines for children 5 to 11](#).

### Third dose

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.

### Booster dose

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.

**Please note** that pediatric, third, and booster doses may be by appointment only, not walk-ins. Please see the [Northern Health COVID-19 immunization clinic page](#) for more information for your community.

## COVID-19 vaccines in BC pharmacies

BC's community pharmacies will play a major role in delivering (mRNA) COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible British Columbians. As of December 14, 2021, community pharmacies in 80 communities are taking appointments for individuals 12 and older. These vaccinations will be by appointment only. Register and book through the province's [Get Vaccinated system](#).

Pharmacies are not providing COVID-19 vaccinations to children ages 5 to 11. For more information, visit the Province of BC's [website](#).

## 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.

\*Please note that the Children Age 5-11 group has been added into this report and weekly change for that group is now noted.

## **Building Respectful Relationships In COVID Times – New video resource**

Indigenous Health, Northern Health (NH) and the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) present a new video called Building Respectful Relationships in COVID Times.

This video is intended to encourage vaccination uptake and show that the vaccination clinic space is designed to be safe and inclusive for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

To read more about this resource and watch the video, please visit the [Northern Health Stories site](#).

## **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 December 21, **18,308** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **186**
- New cases: **23**
- Currently in hospital: **10**
  - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **5**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **272**

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](#) – December 21, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – December 15, 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

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### Stop the Stigma Campaign

The Province of British Columbia recently released a provincial anti-stigma campaign titled “Stop The Stigma”.

People who use substances deserve compassion and support, and so do their families. Make the connection, have the conversation, and stop the stigma.

To learn more, please visit the [stop the stigma website](#), and watch the [campaign video](#).

## Organizational news

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### 12 Things to Know this Holiday Season

We know the past two years have been really hard. Thank you for getting vaccinated against COVID-19 – you’re doing your part to help keep yourself, your family and your community safe and protected.

We are counting down some of the top twelve things to know to have a safe, healthy holiday season.

Please visit the [Northern Health Stories site](#) to follow along for the rest of the week for more tips and reminders for enjoying your holidays, while staying safe and healthy!

### Call for proposals for Mills Memorial Hospital Replacement project logo!

PCL Construction, with the help of Northern Health and the Skeena Salmon Arts Festival Society, is seeking proposals from artists to create a logo for the Mills Memorial Hospital Redevelopment project in Terrace.

The project is seeking Northwest Coast formline-style drawing, created by an artist of Indigenous heritage who resides in Northern Health's Northwest services area.

Download the [call for proposals](#) for info about submission requirements, eligibility, pricing, and more.

Deadline to submit: Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Submit proposals and any questions to: [skeenasalmonartfest@gmail.com](mailto:skeenasalmonartfest@gmail.com)

Spread the word! Tell your artist friends.

For more information about the Mills Memorial project, visit the [Northern Health Let's Talk site](#).