



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

July 2022

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Overdose prevention and response

New drug checking machine now available in Terrace

To save lives, and help people who use drugs make informed choices, a new Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) [drug checking machine is now operational in Terrace](#).

Provision of harm reduction services at festivals

The Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, recently issued [a letter](#) for festival organizers, promoters, local governments, health authorities, public safety officials, and the general public about the importance of holding festivals and events safely in the context of a toxic illegal drug supply and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Resources

- Visit [Toward the Heart](#) for access to naloxone training and kits
- [Find a local naloxone site](#) in your community

COVID-19 Information and updates

It might seem like COVID-19 is gone, but the virus is still in our communities, impacting the health and wellbeing of Northerners.

Northern BC stats

Immunization coverage for every community in Northern Health is updated weekly on the [Northern BC community immunization coverage page](#).

For the latest Northern Health and provincial COVID-19 infection numbers, visit the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#) (updated every Thursday; recommended browser: Google Chrome).

Trusted links and resources

Misinformation remains a challenge. [Find COVID-19 information](#), processes, and links from trusted sources.

Not immunized? It's not too late!

Summer is short in the North. Don't let COVID ruin it for you or your child! [Find an immunization option](#) near you. There are youth-friendly clinics for 5-11 year olds in most communities.

Organization and community news

Prioritizing public health protection and Environmental Health Officer recruitment

A significant [shortage of Environmental Public Health staff](#) in Northern BC is requiring Northern Health to temporarily focus on areas of highest potential risk to public health, while aggressively recruiting for Environmental Health Officers who perform this important work.

Summer temperatures are rising! Beat the heat!

With hotter weather in the short-term forecast for most of the North, learn how to prepare for the heat, what to do during it, and how to recognize the signs of heat-related illness:

- [Preparing for summer weather](#)
- [Emergency preparedness: Be prepared for extreme heat](#)
- [Extreme heat – why it's important to know the risks](#)

June 21 was National Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21, we recognized [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#)! This is a day for everyone in Canada – Indigenous, non-Indigenous, and newcomers – to reflect on and celebrate the history, heritage, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across the country.

To continue reading, visit the [Northern Health Stories site](#).

Indigenous Health highlights

Each week, the Indigenous Health department highlights good news stories from the North and from across the country.

Visit the [Indigenous Health website](#) to read more.

Farm to school

[Farm to School BC](#) is a healthy eating program of the Public Health Association of BC. Read more about the program on the Northern Health Stories site: [part one](#) and [part two](#).