



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

October 2022

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Organization and community news

New health workforce strategy

The Government of BC is launching a [new health workforce strategy](#), with actions starting in 2022-23. The multi-year strategy will support patients and staff by adding more doctors, nurses, and health sciences professionals; adding new education and training seats; and taking actions to improve retention and to help with workload.

First Nations Health Authority project recognizes grief experienced by people who have lost a loved one to toxic drugs

First Nations Health Authority has created a virtual space for you to remember, honour and grieve the loved ones you have lost to the toxic drug crisis. Sharing stories generates an outlet for our grief, love and loss. Share your story or read the stories of others on the [Remembering and Honouring Loved Ones Lost to the Toxic Drug Crisis website](#).

Join us for the first NH Nurse and Laboratory Virtual Career Fair

Northern Health will be having a [virtual career fair October 19-20, 2022!](#)

Wondering what Nursing and Laboratory opportunities are available in the North, and in what communities? [We invite you to chat with a Northern Health recruiter and find out!](#)

Celebrate National Breastfeeding Week (October 1-7) - Step up for breastfeeding: Educate and support

Let's "step up for breastfeeding" together! Canada is celebrating Breastfeeding Week during Oct 1-7. We're dedicated to educating and supporting families and helping professionals with breastfeeding, chestfeeding, and human milk feeding. Look out for a [variety of stories](#) and

resources shared this week. Keen to learn more? We encourage you to explore the [NH Breastfeeding website](#).

Northern Health Story highlights

The [Northern Health Stories site](#) is a great place to read about what's going on in Northern Health – people, places, projects, and more! Here are some recent highlights:

- [First ever Indigenous Advisory Working Group supports new Terrace hospital design](#)
- [Embedding Indigenous cultural elements into the new Dawson Creek and District Hospital](#)
- [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – A message from Nicole Cross, VP Indigenous Health](#)
- [Fort St. John Hospital and Peace Villa Celebrate 10 Years](#)

Overdose prevention and response

Coroners Report for Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths (until the end of August 2022)

The number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in August 2022 equates to about 5.5 deaths per day. In August 2022, there were 169 suspected illicit drug toxicity death, which represents a 14% decrease from the number of deaths in August 2021 (197) and a 12% increase from the number of deaths occurring in July 2022 (193). In the NW 33 people have died due to illicit drug toxicity deaths, 59 in the NI, and 15 in the NE. Illicit drug rates in NH have increased this month, and death rates in all other health authorities have decreased.

For more detailed information, see the [BC Coroners Service Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths in BC report](#), and [BC Coroners Service Illicit Drug Toxicity Type of Drug Data report](#).

COVID-19 and Monkeypox information and updates

Province prepares for fall respiratory viruses, encourages people to get vaccinated

People are encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and influenza for the most effective protection in the fall. The COVID-19 fall booster program started early in September and will be joined by the annual influenza vaccine campaign in October. [Learn more](#) on the BC Government website.

For information about [influenza immunizations](#), visit the Northern Health flu website.

Resources and information

The [Northern Health COVID-19](#) and [COVID-19 information](#) pages have information about immunization clinics, testing and self-isolation, the community toolkit, and trusted contacts.

For information outside of Northern Health, see [these trusted resources](#).