



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, June 4, 2020

Note 1: Please share any information in this update as appropriate.

Note 2: Starting next week, this update will be distributed on Wednesdays.

Provincial case counts and statement

As of June 4, 2020, there were **64** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Northern Health region.

For the latest provincial numbers, please refer to the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated each afternoon. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

[Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – June 4, 2020

COVID-19 online clinic and information line: Hours changing today

As of today, June 4, Northern Health's COVID-19 Online Clinic and Information Line will be changing its hours:

- Monday – Friday: 12 pm (noon) – 8 pm
- Saturday, Sunday, and statutory holidays: 8 am – 4 pm

The NH COVID-19 Online Clinic and Information Line can be reached at [1-844-645-7811](tel:1-844-645-7811).

The service was launched in March to help ensure that Northern BC residents have access to information and health advice around COVID-19, as well as the option of virtual screenings by a nurse, physician, or nurse practitioner if required. In May, we celebrated the milestone of having [answered over 12,000 calls](#) from Northern BC residents.

For general COVID-19 information, visit the [Northern Health website](#) or the [BCCDC COVID-19 website](#), or call the BC Govt. COVID-19 Helpline: 1-888-COVID19 or 1-888-268-4319

Reminder: Clinics are still open – don't hesitate to call your doctor or nurse practitioner

Remember, **your doctor or nurse practitioner is still here for you!** If you have a health care concern, don't hesitate to call.

Please call ahead (don't drop in), because they may not be seeing patients in person – many offices are doing appointments over the phone or online instead.

Please note that emergency departments are still open as well.

If you have symptoms of a cold, the flu, or COVID-19, call the NH COVID-19 Online Clinic and Info Line at 1-844-645-7811.

Northern Health Connections: Gradual return of service

On June 1, Northern Health Connections will go back to standard eligibility with the exception of passengers travelling without a medical appointment, which includes seniors (60+).

Northern Health Connections will continue to run with limited seating and enhanced safety measures until further notice.

For more information, see the full [information bulletin](#).

Restart of non-urgent and elective lab and diagnostic services

Northern Health sites are in the process of developing site safety plans in order to restart these services. These plans are an Order of the Provincial Health Officer and required for WorkSafe BC in order to restart. At this time, we don't have specific timelines, and it may vary by community. Please stay tuned for more info or check our website for updated info as it becomes available, here: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/services/hospital-services/lab-services/lab-locations>.

Guidance on mass gatherings

From the Government of BC: At this time, all event organizers are ordered to limit all public gatherings larger than 50 people. This includes indoor and outdoor sporting events, conferences, meetings, concerts, theatres, religious gatherings or other similar events.

A new order from May 22, 2020 replaces the March 16, 2020 order and includes an amendment of no more than 50 vehicles for outdoor drive-in events. See the latest [Order of the Provincial Health Officer on Mass gatherings](#).

The timing for a safe restart for activities requiring large gatherings is still to be determined as part of Phase four of [BC's Restart Plan](#). Opening will be conditional on at least one of the following: wide vaccination, "community immunity" or broad successful treatments.

-- From <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/event-planning>

COVID-19 Guide for Communities updated today

Northern Health's printable booklet [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): A Northern Health Guide for Your Community](#) contains all the information you need to help keep your community safe and well informed. We regularly update the guide online. The current version has been updated to reflect changes taking place as BC moves forward with its restart plan.

Trusted links and resources

- [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 COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: **1-844-645-7811**
- Northern Health Environmental Health Officer Line: **1-250-565-7322**
- For non-medical info or to report concerns about compliance with public health orders, 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 webpage on current health topics](#).