

Healthier Northern Communities E-Brief

September 2021

COVID-19 and return to school

Put vaccinations on your back to school list!

- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Notebooks
- ✓ Vaccine

Get ready for the new school year by visiting a vaccine clinic in your community.

Back to school is an exciting time of year, and Northern Health's [Healthy Schools team](#) is here to support the health and safety of K-12 students across the north. BC students can look forward to returning to full-time, in-person learning, including sports and other extra-curricular activities. The [updated guidelines](#) include maintaining the required mask mandate for grades 4-12, and all adult staff and visitors in BC public schools and on buses. However, distancing guidelines, as well as the restricted use of water fountains, restrictions on school food programs are lifted, and sanitation and cleaning guidelines are updated. For more information, please visit the [BC government's website](#).

For Your Information

Canada celebrates Breastfeeding Week from October 1 to 7

This year's theme "[Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility](#)". What role can you play?

- Consider how your organization can best support families with infants and young children. See our NH webpage: [Breastfeeding - For community partners](#).
- Read and share this tip sheet: [Make breastfeeding your business: Welcome families to breastfeed any time, anywhere](#).

Print or [order](#) the [provincial breastfeeding decal](#) to display in your window or door.

Baby-Friendly Initiative Plaque: Original Artwork Request for Proposal

Calling all artists! The Breastfeeding Committee for Canada (BCC) has a Request for Proposal (RFP) for artwork suitable for the plaque awarded to hospitals and community health services when they achieve Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI) designation. Details about the RFP and the submission form can be found at breastfeedingcanada.ca. The RFP release date is August 1, 2021 and submission deadline is October 1, 2021. Please share this information with artists who might be interested.

Resources (toolkits, reports, websites)

BC Centre for Disease Control [School COVID-19 Information](#) - Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools

This [document](#) provides guidance for educators, administrators, and support staff (hereafter referred to as staff) at public, independent, and First Nations Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) schools of what infection prevention and exposure control measures should be implemented during the 2021-22 school year to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including COVID-19. It also outlines how public health expects to manage COVID-19 cases impacting schools, if and when they occur.

Northern Health COVID-19 Community Toolkit

To empower local partners to share helpful information, Northern Health has created the [COVID-19 Community Toolkit](#). A digital resource for community partners, the toolkit contains: links to factual sources of information about COVID-19 and vaccination; digital images suitable for sharing on the web through social media and by email; and printable posters and infographics. Help spread the word about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine and support your audience to get vaccinated by downloading and sharing these resources through your internal communications channels. If you have any questions about the toolkit, or suggestions for other materials that would support your organization in spreading the word, please email healthpromotions@northernhealth.ca.

Events and Learning Opportunities

On-demand Webinar: Local Government Leaders Speaker Series - [Affordable Housing Land Acquisition Strategies](#)

Housing affordability is a key issue for many local governments across the province. Its effects can be felt across a community through secondary impacts such as homelessness, labour shortages, strained transportation networks, hampered local economic development and diminished participation in civic life. Many communities in

B.C. are exploring the use of land acquisition strategies to proactively respond to these challenges, guide decision-making and help create property portfolios that lend themselves to the community's strategic priorities and goals.

Funding Opportunities

Union of BC Municipalities - Regional Community to Community Forum Program

Deadlines:

September 10, 2021. For events between September 27, 2021 and March 31, 2022

December 3, 2021. For events between January 1 and March 31, 2022

New in 2021/22 - The [C2C program](#) can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities – to a maximum of \$5,000.

Northern Development Initiatives Trust - Northern Healthy Communities Fund

Deadline: October 29, 2021

The Northern Healthy Communities Fund (NHCF) is currently accepting applications for both the [Capacity Building Program](#) and the [Capital Program](#).

BC Indigenous Agriculture Development Program

Deadline: Ongoing

The BC Indigenous Agriculture Development Program is offering three types of financial support for Indigenous governments, communities, organizations, and entrepreneurs. The first is up to \$5,000 to complete a feasibility assessment of agricultural development options, food security planning, and/or business planning functions related to agriculture and food production, processing and other associated activities. The second provides up to \$10,000 for financial analysis, specialized business planning and skills development related to agriculture and food production, processing and other associated activities. The third is a community engagement top-up fund; during each step of the program, you are also eligible for up to \$2,000 of additional funding to support community engagement during your project. For more information [visit the Government of BC website](#).

Disaster Financial Assistance

Deadline: variable

Following a disaster, the provincial government may declare the event eligible for [Disaster Financial Assistance \(DFA\)](#). Once declared, the DFA program may compensate individuals for essential uninsurable losses and/or reimburse local

governments for damaged infrastructure. For more information and to apply, visit the [Forms & Information page](#).

TELUS Friendly Future Foundation Grants

Deadline: variable in September

The TELUS Friendly Future Foundation is an independent registered charity dedicated to funding health, education, and technology focused charitable programs for at-risk youth in communities across Canada. Registered Canadian charities in a TELUS Community Board region are invited to apply for single-year funding of up to \$20,000 supporting local education, health, or technology programs. To learn more or to apply, visit the [TELUS Community Grant webpage](#)

Northern Health Stories

My “why”: Fort Nelson resident shares her reasons for getting the COVID-19 vaccine

When it comes to the COVID-19 vaccine, everyone has their own reasons why they got the shot. Fort Nelson community member Krista Vandersteen shares why she decided to get her vaccine... [continue reading](#)

Protecting the people around me, at home and in the workplace

Kailey Miller, regional director of workplace health and safety for Northern Health shares why she made the choice to get vaccinated. "Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic I've experienced two big moments of immense relief: The first was when vaccines became available for our healthcare workers to protect them, their loved ones, and the workplace; the second was when my family and I became eligible too... [continue reading](#)

Store-bought baby foods: Tips from a student dietitian

Did you know that jarred baby foods have been around for 100 years, since the 1920s? Today, the baby food section of the grocery store looks a little different, with plastic squeeze pouches taking up as much shelf space as all other store-bought baby foods combined! ... [continue reading](#)

See the latest stories at stories.northernhealth.ca.

E-Brief Information

The Healthier Northern Communities [E-Brief](#) is produced by [Northern Health's regional Population and Preventive Public Health program](#).

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