



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

February 17, 2021

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

In this issue

- [Provincial case counts and statements](#)
- [Do the COVID-19 vaccines have human and animal cells or blood products?](#)
- [Updates to COVID-19 public health guidance for K-12 schools](#)
- [The North's largest immunization clinic to date: A collaborative effort](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for communities](#)
- [Trusted links and resources for COVID-19](#)
- [The Lifeguard app supports people who use substances alone](#)
- [You may be asked to take part in a survey about your experience at a Northern Health emergency department](#)

COVID-19

Provincial case counts and statements

As of February 9, 4,104 cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: 334
- New cases: 7
- Currently in hospital: 39
- Currently in ICU-level care in hospital: 9
- Deaths in the region since the beginning of the pandemic: 101

For the latest provincial numbers, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated

**Daily update
on COVID-19**

gov.bc.ca/covid19



Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

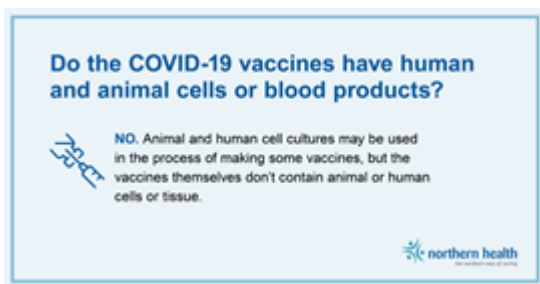
As well, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#), which visualizes COVID-19 in BC in comparison to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, at the HSDA level. It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – February 16, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – February 17, 2021

Do the COVID-19 vaccines have human and animal cells or blood products?

No. Animal and human cell cultures may be used in the process of making some vaccines, but the vaccines themselves don't contain animal or human cells or tissue.

Get the answers to this and other common vaccine questions on the new "[Facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#)" 11 x 17" poster on Northern Health's [COVID-19 vaccine plan](#) page – feel free to share!



Updates to COVID-19 public health guidance for K-12 schools

The BCCDC's [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) was updated on February 4, 2021.

Key changes:

- An updated daily health check for students and staff, now available as an app at k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/.
- Revised guidance on non-medical mask use, including a recommendation for middle and secondary students to wear masks indoors when not at their seats.
- Clearer description of public health's contact tracing and school notification processes.



- More detailed guidance for staff-only spaces and gatherings.
- Specific guidance for music and physical education.
- A checklist to help schools review their health and safety plans (Appendix B).

Answers to questions:

The BCCDC has a new [School COVID-19 Information website](#) to help parents, students, school staff, administrators, and districts find the public health information they need. It includes information and resources on:

- Preventing COVID-19 from spreading in schools
- What happens when there's a case of COVID-19 in a school
- Recommendations about how to attend school safely
- Guidance on the use of [masks](#)
- Frequently asked questions for [staff](#) and [parents & students](#)

The North's largest immunization clinic to date: A collaborative effort

Photo: A team of First Nations Health Authority, Nisga'a Valley Health, and Northern Health immunizers prepare for a COVID-19 immunization clinic on February 11.

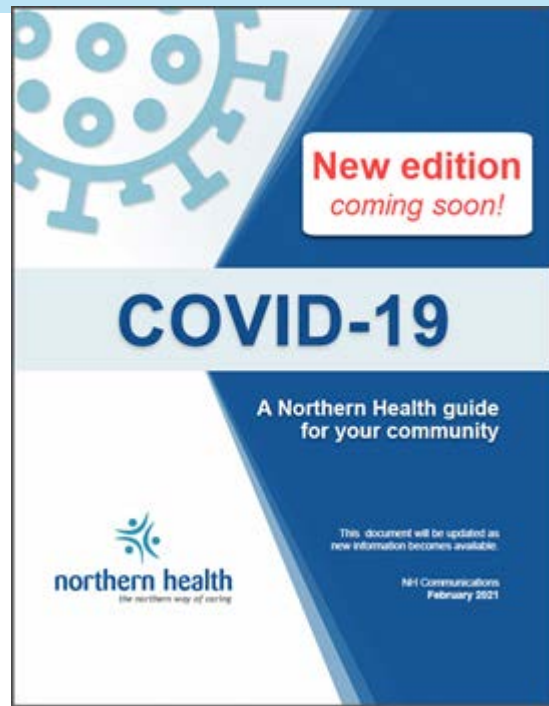
The clinic was held at the Gingolx Memorial Recreation Centre in Kincolith, where 723 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered, making this the North's largest immunization clinic so far. Thank you to everyone for their hard work, and a big congratulations to all!



COVID-19 Guide for communities

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.

Watch for a fully updated new edition with all the latest information on vaccines, testing, masks, and more!



Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [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
- For 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 webpage on current health topics](#).

OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The Lifeguard app supports people who use substances alone

Inhalation has surpassed injection as the most common method of using illicit substances. It is very important that people who use drugs never share equipment, as this increases their risk for overdose and infections.

Safer smoking supplies are temporarily publicly funded until March 31, 2021. We encourage all sites that provide harm reduction supplies to order them using this form: [Harm Reduction Program: Supply Requisition Form](#).

Image: [Toward the Heart](#)



OTHER NORTHERN HEALTH NEWS

You may be asked to take part in a survey about your experience at a Northern Health emergency department

As part of a joint initiative between the BC Ministry of Health and the BC health authorities, Northern Health is actively participating in provincial patient experience and outcome surveys.

The province is currently running an emergency department survey, which is being coordinated by the [BC Patient-Centred Measurement Steering Committee](#) (BCPCM). If you received care in an emergency



department between January 1 and March 31, 2021, you may be randomly selected to participate.

A third-party research organization, [R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd.](#), is mailing out letters telling people they've been chosen to participate and telling them about ways they can take the survey.

The results will be available in almost real time on the BCPCM's [Dynamic Analysis and Reporting Tool \(DART\)](#), and the BCPCM will develop final reports when the survey is complete.

We look forward to your feedback!

YOUR HEALTH, A PRIORITY

Wash your hands often with warm running water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

Avoid contact, keep a safe distance of at least 2 meters from others, and limit your movements to reduce contagion.