



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

January 27, 2021

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

In this issue

- [Provincial case counts and statements](#)
- [Northern Health's most recent vaccine clinics](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for communities](#)
- [Trusted links and resources for COVID-19](#)
- [Episodic Overdose Prevention Services \(e-OPS\) available](#)
- [New Long-Term Care /Assisted Living Digest, Issue #15: Information for residents and families](#)

COVID-19

Provincial case counts and statements

As of January 26, 2021, **3,251** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **511**
- New cases: **38**
- Currently in hospital: **46**
- Currently in ICU-level care in hospital: **16**
- Deaths in the region since the beginning of the pandemic: **61**

For the latest provincial numbers, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

Situation reports, including a breakdown of cases by HSDA, are [posted each Friday by the BCCDC](#).

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – January 26, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – January 22, 2021

**Daily update
on COVID-19**

gov.bc.ca/covid19





Northern Health's most recent vaccine clinics

See stories and photos from Northern vaccine clinics in these recent Facebook posts:

- [Fraser Lake Community Health Centre](#)
- [Smithers: Bulkley Lodge, and Bulkley Valley District Hospital](#) (see photo at left of Ron Purnell, a resident of Bulkley Lodge, receiving his COVID-19 immunization)
- [Quesnel: Dunrovin Park Lodge](#)

Even with the COVID-19 vaccines, we still need to follow all the [orders and guidelines for public health and safety](#). This will help keep us all safe.

For more information on vaccines:

- See Northern Health's new [vaccine information page](#)
- For immunization numbers, see "Vaccine supply and administered" on the [provincial dashboard](#) (works best in Chrome).
- See details on vaccine distribution: [BCCDC: BC's plan for vaccine distribution](#).
- Follow Northern Health on social media, where we share the most up-to-date information on vaccine clinics, outbreaks, new provincial orders, and more:
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - Spread the good news! Like and share this Facebook post, which provides general info on COVID-19 vaccines throughout the North: [COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Prince George](#)
- For local vaccine information for your community, check out the [Northern Health Facebook community groups](#).

Photo: Northern Health



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. The community guide is updated regularly online.

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

Episodic Overdose Prevention Services (e-OPS) available

To prevent overdose deaths, episodic overdose prevention services (e-OPS) is another option to meet these needs in Northern communities. E-OPS allows providers to observe substance use anywhere and anytime. To learn how it works for people who use drugs, see the BCCDC's overdose resource: [Episodic Overdose Prevention Services \(e-OPS\)](#).

To find a harm reduction site near you, visit <https://towardtheheart.com/site-finder>.

Overdose Resources
Episodic Overdose Prevention Services (e-OPS)

To prevent overdose deaths, episodic overdose prevention services (e-OPS) allow providers to observe substance use anywhere and anytime. E-OPS supports health and social service providers, including peer or experiential workers to observe substance use wherever overdoses may occur - not only at a fixed site with an address like an SCS or OPS.

How e-OPS works:

1. Ask a provider for episodic OPS services
2. They may discuss other things like drug checking with you
3. They must allow you to use your drugs in the most private and clean space nearby
4. They will watch you for signs of overdose and provide help if you do overdose

e-OPS is just starting to be offered in BC. You may hear about it by word of mouth. You can also ask your service provider. e-OPS may not be available until providers are trained.

To find a harm reduction site near you, visit [www.towardtheheart.com](https://towardtheheart.com)

Who can offer e-OPS and where it can happen:

- Health and social service providers in BC
- All regulated and non-regulated providers (e.g. paramedics and experiential or peer support workers)
- Health and social service settings (e.g. bedside in hospital, supportive housing sites, shelters)
- Smoking e-OPS is allowed in open or well-ventilated spaces

e-OPS values:

- Promote dignity and respect
- Reduce stigma related to substance use
- Provide better care for people who use substances
- Help people engage with services
- Reduce stress and risks for staff
- Improve relationships between providers and people who use substances

OTHER NORTHERN HEALTH NEWS

New Long-Term Care /Assisted Living Digest, Issue #15: Information for residents and families

The long-term care task group is continuing to produce updates twice a month for residents and families of long-term care homes and assisted living facilities.

[This issue](#) of the update provides information on COVID-19 vaccinations and the updates to the long-term care and seniors' assisted living visitor policy.



Photo: Registered Nurse Teresa Friesen immunizes Dunrovin resident Richard Brophy at Dunrovin Park Lodge in Quesnel.

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.