



COVID-19 UPDATE

STAKEHOLDERS

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Provincial case counts and statement

- **As of Thursday April 2, 2020, at 3:00 pm**, there were **17** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **1121** (**55** new)
 - Deaths: **25** (**0** new)
 - In hospital: **149** (**68** in ICU)
 - Recovered: **641**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – April 1, 2020.
 - Today's update not available at time of release.

UPDATED: COVID-19 community guide

Northern Health updated our COVID-19 community guide: [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. This guide is current as of April 2nd and it will be updated regularly online.

COVID-19 resources for working with vulnerable populations

Northern Health has developed [COVID-19 information and resources for community partners who work with vulnerable people](#). Vulnerable populations represent a variety of people, including those who are experiencing homelessness or under-housing, people with complex care, people who engage in sex work, or those with mental health and substance use needs.

Printable one-page resources are included at the end of the document linked to above for sharing with clients and for posting in facilities/service areas as appropriate.

Managing anxiety and stress in families with children and youth during the COVID-19 outbreak

As anxiety around COVID-19 rises, we anticipate increased levels of family stress and negative coping as regular daily routines are disrupted. For families with a history of mental

health and substance use, the issue will be twofold as they will also be affected by disruptions of services and supports.

These factors may result in a combination of new issues, exacerbations and relapses so access to support services is vital. The Child & Youth Mental Health & Substance Use (CYMHSU) Community of Practice has developed [guidance for families with children to manage stress and anxiety in these times](#).

COVID-19 response guidance for industrial camps

The Province has provided guidelines for industrial work camps to support their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to keep workers safe.

The guidelines include:

- Prevention measures and control in camps
- Plans on how to manage individuals with suspected COVID-19 infection
- Outbreak protocols
- Support for camp residents who are self-isolating
- Enacting physical distancing
- Ensuring sufficient infection-control supplies

The [full guidelines](#) are available online through the BCCDC.

Temporary suspension of pay parking at Northern Health sites

In an effort to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, Northern Health is temporarily suspending pay parking for the public, staff, and medical staff, **effective April 1 through April 30, 2020**.

Northern Health's only public pay-parking site in the region is at the University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC) in Prince George. Northern Health is working with IMPark, the parking services provider at UHNBC, to implement this change to public and staff parking immediately.

Pay parking machines require people to touch screens and buttons that may have been touched by someone previously. Discontinuing the use of pay parking machines reduces the risk of potential spread of infection and also supports physical distancing measures that have been mandated by the Provincial Health Officer.

Restrictions on the Northern Health Connections bus

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, Northern Health Connections will be restricting passenger travel. As NH connections largely serves an at-risk demographic, we are only offering travel for essential medical appointments.

Northern Health Connections will also not be accepting any walk-on passengers, with no exceptions.

All bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Temporary suspension of outpatient Hepatitis C testing

The BCCDC performs all Northern Health's Hepatitis C testing; however, they are also currently performing high volumes of COVID-19 testing.

To free up testing capacity for COVID-19 tests, non-urgent outpatient Hepatitis C serology, viral load and genotype testing will be suspended immediately, with reassessment on April 17/2020.

Testing will continue to be performed for hospitalized and emergent patients and for organ donation.

Outbreak response Phase 2: Laboratory services update

As we move into outbreak response Phase 2, hospitals will shift to providing only necessary laboratory services.

Outpatient testing will be reduced to only essential tests for certain patient groups, and outpatient collection hours will be reduced to limit the number of outpatients entering the hospital, while allowing for physical distancing of those requiring outpatient lab testing

Hospitalized and emergency patients will receive testing without interruption.

Trusted links and resources

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLink BC FAQ](#)
- [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](#). This page has links to the latest joint statements and orders issued by the Provincial Health Officer and a link to the Government of Canada's travel advice and advisories.