

COVID-19 UPDATE

May 14, 2020

Note: Please share any information from this update that you feel would be appropriate.

In this issue

- [Provincial case counts and statements](#)
- [Dashboard provides detailed look at BC data](#)
- [National Nursing Week: A message from Northern Health CEO Cathy Ulrich](#)
- [Worksafe BC: Tools for a safe restart](#)
- [Your story, our future: Take BC's COVID-19 survey](#)
- [New resource on child and youth mental health and substance use](#)
- [Dr. Kalen Geddes wins "My Family Doctor" award](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for communities](#)
- [Updated guidelines on in-house testing](#)
- [Trusted links and resources](#)

Provincial case counts and statement

- **As of May 13, 2020**, there were **57** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
 - Confirmed cases: **2,376** (16 new)
 - Active cases: **385**
 - Deaths: **132** (1 new)
 - In hospital: **59** (14 in ICU)
 - Recovered: **1,859**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – May 13, 2020



Dashboard provides detailed look at BC data

For data broken down by health authority, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#) (may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested)

National Nursing Week: A message from Northern Health CEO Cathy Ulrich

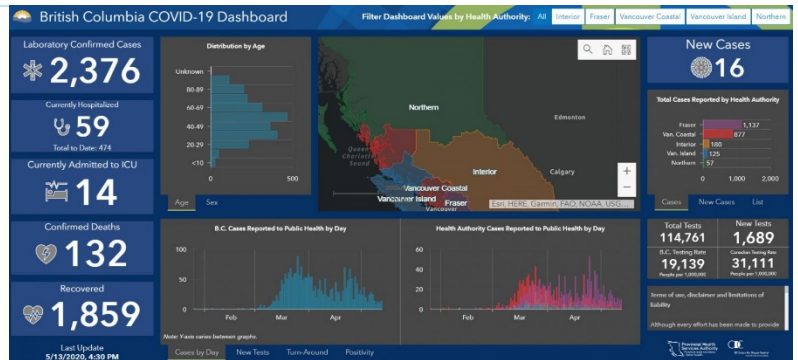
During these difficult times, I want to recognize all support staff, clinical staff, facilities staff, administrative staff, and physicians for their response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The World Health Organization has recognized 2020 as the [Year of the Nurse and the Midwife](#). 2020 also marks the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale – someone who dedicated her life to the practice of nursing and to improving health care.

In Canada, May 11 to 17 is designated as [National Nursing Week](#). The theme this year is Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Nursing the World to Health, in recognition of the contributions nurses make to health and wellbeing and enabling people to overcome health challenges.

2020 has brought unprecedented health challenges to the global community in the form of a COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a sequence of actions that have impacted all aspects of our lives. This pandemic has profiled the vital importance of nursing practice, whether in long-term care facilities, community settings, and acute care facilities, or in nursing education, nursing administration, and nursing research.

Each day before the pandemic and throughout it, nurses across the North have provided compassionate care and services to people and their families. As the pandemic has unfolded, I have been heartened to hear the many stories about how nurses and their health care colleagues



have responded to the needs of people with courage, innovation, and compassion.

Over this Nursing Week, I encourage you to find a nurse and hear their story (perhaps virtually) – about why this is their chosen career. I suspect you will be impressed and encouraged!

On behalf of Northern Health, thank you to the nurses across Northern Health for their commitment to the profession of nursing and to serving the people of Northern BC.

Cathy Ulrich
President and CEO, Northern Health

Worksafe BC: Tools for a safe restart

The Province of BC recently announced [BC's Restart Plan](#), an outline for a gradual return to a new normal. WorksafeBC has been given the responsibility to develop the framework around this plan. A new WorkSafe BC page gives employers information and resources to help minimize the risks of exposure to the coronavirus at their workplaces: [COVID-19 and returning to safe operation](#).

Your story, our future: Take BC's COVID-19 survey

From the provincial government

"BC COVID-19 SPEAK: Your story, our future" is a population health survey to understand citizen experiences, knowledge and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was launched on Tuesday, May 12.

Join the 75,000+ British Columbians who have already responded -- take the survey now: www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey



About the survey:

- Open to all British Columbians 18 years of age and older.
- Takes 10-15 minutes and can be done on any tablet, computer or mobile device.
- Open until May 31.
- Available in English and Chinese, as well as a Punjabi survey translation guide.

This survey is the first of several activities that will strengthen our pandemic response and our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 to date (social, economic, mental wellness and community wellness).

For more information about the survey, visit <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

New resource on child and youth mental health and substance use

A new NH resource document gives youth and families clarity and direction on where to seek help for mental health and substance use challenges: [Child & Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Resources for Families](#).

Northerners are encouraged to be aware that there is help available during these difficult times; they shouldn't hesitate to reach out for themselves or on behalf of a loved one

New resource on child and youth mental health and substance use now available



This new NH resource gives youth and families **clarity and direction** on where to get help for mental health and substance use challenges.

 northern health
the northern way of caring

Dr. Kalen Geddes wins "My Family Doctor" award

from the [BC College of Family Physicians](#)

Ahead of [BC Family Doctor Day](#) on May 19, the BC College of Family Physicians is celebrating the amazing work of our 6,000+ family physicians in BC and the unique role of family medicine in our health care system.

As part of our celebrations, we are pleased to announce the [recipients of the 2020 BCCFP peer- and patient-nominated awards](#).

In the Northern Health region, **Dr. Kalen Geddes** (pictured) is the recipient of a patient-nominated "My Family Doctor" award.



Dr. Kalen Geddes is a family physician practising in Prince George. He has an interest in primary care obstetrics and practises as a hospitalist and medical assistance in dying (MAID) provider.

In addition to his family practice, Dr. Geddes works out of the youth primary care clinic and gender-affirming care clinic at Foundry Prince George. He is a clinical instructor for the Northern Medical Program and UBC residency programs.

Dr. Geddes values the longitudinal continuity of care from birth to death that he is able to provide through family medicine, as well as the variety of practice opportunities family medicine offers.

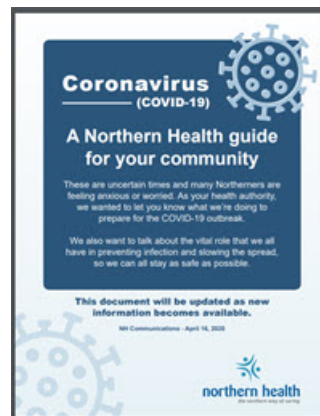
Dr. Geddes's nominator says, "He cared enough to change my husband's quality of life, not just quantity of life, because he really cared. He talked to us and took time with us to find a balance that we both agreed on. He went out of his way to research questions we asked and helped us make life-changing decisions that we could both manage and still maintain. We weren't just a number on a chart that you should

reach. He put us through a lot of changes before we found something that worked, but he did find it and we are so grateful that he cares about his patients. He means everything to us."

Please join us in celebrating Dr. Geddes. [Read more about all the award recipients here.](#)

COVID-19 Guide for communities

Northern Health's 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. There are no new changes this week. The community guide will continue to be updated regularly online.



Updated guidelines on in-house testing

Effective immediately, in-house testing will be extended to:

- **LTC** – Symptomatic residents of long-term care facilities
- **OBK** – Symptomatic residents or staff of long-term care facilities that are under outbreak investigations
- **Request of public health/MHO**
- **Remote First Nations communities (test only if symptomatic):**
 - Communities in the Fort St. James area: Takla Lake, Yekooche, Tl'azt'en, Nak'azd'li
 - Communities in the Finlay Hub area: Kwadacha and Tsay Keh Dene
 - Fort Nelson
 - Coastal Tsimshian communities: Gitgaat, Kitkatla, Lax Kwalaams, and Metlakatla



- Tahltan (Telegraph Creek) and Iskut
- Mark requisitions with this code: FN-COMM

For details, see the [full memo](#).

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**
- 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](#).

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.
