

## **Update # 5 (Final Update) September 07, 2018**

*Please forward/share internally as required.*

**Thank you.** Northern Health leadership and staff would like to extend a most heartfelt thank you to all of you for your sustained partnership and sharing of resources over the wildfire emergency this past month. Our partners in municipalities and regional districts have helped this year's healthcare response function smoothly and with shared intent in support of those affected by wildfires throughout the north.

### **Response & Preparedness**

As a result of the rescinding of alerts and orders across the north, NH Emergency Operations Centres are standing down and Northern Health has shifted to repatriation of patients to Fort St. James and to post event support. We continue to monitor the wildfire situation in Burns Lake and area, and will provide support as required. Burns Lake Hospital has resumed regular operations.

Repatriation of patients from St. John Hospital in Vanderhoof to Stuart Lake Hospital in Fort St. James is now complete and was carried out on Wednesday, September 05. All patients and residents have now been settled back into their rooms in Stuart Lake Hospital.

Stuart Lake Hospital in Fort St James has resumed full operation as of **Thursday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>**.

- NH has updated its [Health care information for evacuees](#) in Burns Lake, Terrace, Prince George, and Vanderhoof on the NH website, along with [other resources](#) related to public health, both during and following wildfire or smoky skies events. Impacted areas continue to be monitored closely and currently this focus includes Fraser Lake and Burns Lake.

### **Updates and information**

Northern Health continues to work and share information with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Emergency Social Services (ESS), and Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), among other agencies.

The following links to helpful resources can be shared across stakeholder networks as wildfire season continues:

- [Air Quality and Smoky Skies](#)
- [Emergency Info BC: Information for Residents Affected by Wildfire](#)
- [First Nations Health Authority Wildfire Information Portal](#)
- [Evacuee Health Care](#)
- [Active Wildfires Map](#)

- [Road Updates - DriveBC](#)

## **Response & Recovery**

As communities repatriate and support services are established, Northern Health will participate in the Province's recovery efforts for health-related needs. After-incident review processes will also be conducted when communities, staffing and services have been stabilized.

## **Returning home**

As orders and alerts change or are rescinded, many northerners who have been displaced or who self-evacuated may be engaged-in or considering a return home. There are good resources to support those looking for specific information to consider with respect to returning home after a wildfire, including:

- [PreparedBC: Re-entering your home after a wildfire](#)
- [First Nations Health Authority: Returning to Your Home After Wildfires](#)

Smoky Skies advisories continue to change from day to day across all regions. When considering air quality before planning a return to community because of a lifted alert, community members should be advised to return home as air quality varies so greatly, and a home environment may best serve health concerns.

We will continue to update you on this situation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Steve Raper at [Steve.Raper@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Steve.Raper@northernhealth.ca) or 250-640-0904.