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**Subject:** Northern Health COVID-19 update for stakeholders - Thursday, April 16, 2020

## COVID-19 Update for Stakeholders

**Thursday, April 16, 2020**

### Provincial case counts and statements

- **As of April 15, 2020**, there were **30** confirmed COVID-19 cases in NH.
- **Province of BC statistics:**
  - Confirmed cases: **1561** (**44** new)
  - Deaths: **75** (**3** new)
  - In hospital: **131** (**59** in ICU)
  - Recovered: **955**
- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – April 15, 2020

### New 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)

### Updated COVID-19 community guide

Northern Health's 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. New this week:

- Fuller information on compliance / enforcement for physical distancing
- New information on testing

The community guide is current as of today, and will continue to be updated regularly online.

### COVID-19 in children: Clinical guidance and family resources

- The Provincial Clinical Reference Group has provided guidance on caring for children with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
- See [Q & A document](#) available for families of children with medical complexity
- See [Q & A resource](#) available for families of children with immune suppression

### Reminder: Please check before dropping in for lab or imaging services

Due to COVID-19, a number of NH outpatient services (such as [laboratory](#) and diagnostic imaging) have changed their processes. We encourage patients who typically use these services to double check with the facility or department before

visiting for unscheduled or drop-in services, as appointments made in advance may now be required.

### **Thank you for your offers! Please call ahead before donating food**

We are so grateful for the many offers we've received from individuals and organizations who want to donate food to our health care staff and physicians. We appreciate your support during these challenging times.

If you're interested in donating food to health care staff or physicians, please contact [the facility](#) you're interested in donating to for more information. **Please do not drop off food at our facilities without contacting us first.** As well, please see this new checklist: [Food Donation Checklist Form for Businesses](#)

### **More groups now appropriate for testing**

As provincial capacity for COVID-19 testing is increasing, so is the list of groups for whom clinicians should now test. This now includes an expanded group of priority populations for testing who are either more vulnerable to complications due to COVID-19, or populations where testing changes Public Health management. Clinicians can now also order COVID-19 tests for anyone based on their clinical suspicion, as long as the person has symptoms.

Please note that the updated testing guidelines and expanded capacity for testing in BC are a relatively new development, and Northern Health testing sites are working to increase their capacity to accommodate any increase in testing volumes.

For more information, please see

- [Who should be tested for COVID-19?](#) (NH poster)
- [BCCDC page on testing](#)

### **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](#).