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**Sent:** February 24, 2021 5:18 PM

**To:** Alice Johnston <[AJohnston@cariboord.ca](mailto:AJohnston@cariboord.ca)>

**Subject:** Update from Northern Health: Enforcement information, FNHA video on vaccine hesitancy, paid education opportunity, and more



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

*The latest from Northern Health*

**February 24, 2021**

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

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## **COVID-19**

### **Provincial case counts and statements**

As of February 23, **4,417** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **305**
- New cases: **66**
- Currently in hospital: **41**

## **Daily update on COVID-19**

[gov.bc.ca/covid19](https://gov.bc.ca/covid19)



- Currently in ICU-level care in hospital: **12**
- Deaths in the region since the beginning of the pandemic: **104**

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.

As well, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#), which visualizes COVID-19 in BC in comparison to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, at the HSDA level. It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – February 24, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – February 24, 2021

#### The COVID-19 vaccine was developed so quickly – are we sure it's safe?



YES. It's much safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19. The vaccine was developed quickly, but no corners were cut, and all the correct processes were followed (as with any other vaccine) to ensure the vaccine is safe for all Canadians.



## The COVID-19 vaccine was developed so quickly -- are we sure it's safe?

**Yes.** It's much safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19. The vaccine was developed quickly, but no corners were cut, and all the correct processes were followed to ensure the vaccine is safe for Canadians.

Get the answers to other common vaccine questions on the new "[Facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#)" 11 x 17" poster on Northern Health's [COVID-19 vaccine plan](#) page – feel free to share!

## Enforcement information: New resource for communities

A new document on [northernhealth.ca](https://northernhealth.ca), [Enforcement information for Communities](#), provides important information on:

- The leadership role of the Provincial Health Officer

### Enforcement information for communities

February 18, 2021

It's important that Northern Health, the FNHA, and community leaders work together in our response to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### The important leadership role of the Provincial Health Officer

- Following Provincial Health Orders and recommendations is critical. Everyone in BC must follow PHO Orders regardless if there are known cases in the community or not. Safety measures should be followed with the assumption that anyone in the community could have COVID-19. See: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/orders>
- The aim of public health orders is to manage and reduce the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging physical distancing. Compliance and Enforcement Officers provide assistance with Public Health Act Orders with the following principles in mind:
  - Focussing on public education and voluntary compliance without the need for law enforcement interventions.
  - A balanced approach to maintaining public trust to ensure essential services can operate while following Public Health Orders.
  - Following these principles, supporting people to come forward for testing and treatment, and to enable COVID-19 case monitoring and contact tracing.

- How to respond if people in a community aren't following provincial health orders
- The role of compliance and enforcement officers
- And more!

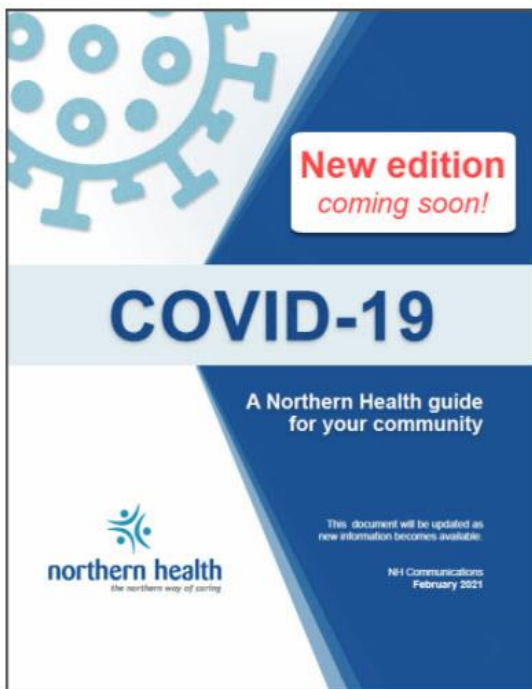


## Video from the FNHA: Dr. Nadine Caron on vaccine hesitancy

"I completely understand the questions being asked, the hesitancy," says Dr. Caron. "But at the same time, while I share some of the concerns, I myself am excited to get the vaccine."

Check out the video (just over 1 minute long) on the FNHA's Facebook page: [Do you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine? Talk to a health professional you trust](#)

*Image: FNHA*



## 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.

Watch for a fully updated new edition with all the latest information on vaccines, testing, masks, and more!

## 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

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### Reflecting on the overdose crisis in 2020

As the five-year anniversary of the province's illicit drug toxicity public health emergency approaches, [the BC Coroners Service reports](#) 2020 was B.C.'s worst year yet in terms of number of lives lost due to the effects of the toxic illicit drugs.

BC had 1,716 deaths due to illicit drugs in 2020, a 74% increase over 2019 (984). The number of deaths in 2020 equates to 4.7 preventable deaths every day, and is two deaths per day higher than in 2019 (2.7). This toxic drug supply has claimed more lives than motor vehicle crashes, homicides, suicides, and prescription-drug-related deaths combined.

In Northern Health we must continue working to keep people who use drugs safer. Resources to help staff, clients, and families stay safer:

- [Toward the Heart](#)
- [Stop Overdose BC \(Lifeguard app\)](#)



## OTHER NORTHERN HEALTH NEWS

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### **New Long-Term Care/Assisted Living Digest, Issue #17: 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](#) provides an update on COVID-19 vaccines and visiting restrictions.



### **Sign up for the Health Career Access Program: A paid education opportunity to become a Registered Health Care Assistant**

The new Health Career Access Program (HCAP) gives you the opportunity to receive paid education and on-the-job training to become a registered Health Care Assistant. Your course fees will be covered, and you'll also be paid for your time while you study and work.

The program consists of employment, education, and training, and takes up to 18 months to finish.

#### **Overview:**

Successful applicants must meet both Northern Health's job requirements and the requirements of the college they'll attend. Which college you attend depends on where you live.

After finishing your education to become a health care assistant, you'll start as a health care support worker before moving on to a health care assistant position.

- Health care support workers earn a starting salary of about \$39,000.
- Health care assistants earn an average annual salary of about \$45,090.

#### The HCAP process

1. Complete an [expression of interest form](#). Your information is collected through the Ministry of Health, which shares it with Northern Health.
2. A Northern Health representative will contact you to encourage you to create a profile on Northern Health and submit your resume. Once you have been short-listed, a Northern Health representative will contact you about next steps.

On completion of the program, you earn a recognized post-secondary credential and are eligible to register as a health care assistant.

[Learn more about what Health Care Support Workers and Health Care Assistants do and the required qualifications for the program.](#)

Watch for a fully updated new edition with all the latest information on vaccines, testing, masks, and more!

## YOUR HEALTH, A PRIORITY

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**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.

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