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Sent: May 5, 2021 3:02 PM

To: Alice Johnston <AJohnston@cariboord.ca>

Subject: Update from Northern Health: Launch of the Northern Health Virtual Clinic, priority vaccination for pregnant people, and more



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

May 5, 2021

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

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COVID-19

Provincial case counts and statements

As of May 4, **7,237** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **167**
- New cases: **14**
- Currently in hospital: **15**

**Daily update
on COVID-19**

gov.bc.ca/covid19



- Currently in ICU-level care in hospital: **8**
- Deaths in the region since the beginning of the pandemic: **140**

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](#) – May 4, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – April 28, 2021

Don't have easy access to medical care? Call the Virtual Clinic.



1-844-645-7811

SPEAK TO A FAMILY DOCTOR
OR NURSE PRACTITIONER BY PHONE OR VIDEO
Open 7 days a week, 10am to 10pm, including holidays.



Launch of the Northern Health Virtual Primary and Community Care Clinic

We are excited to advise that Northern Health has launched the Northern Health Virtual Clinic, a permanent expansion of the Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic, which was created in March 2020 to serve patients across the region. The Virtual Clinic is designed for:

- Patients without a family doctor or nurse practitioner
- Patients in rural communities for whom access to their family doctor may be limited due to weather or other barriers

- Patients needing after hours health care: Virtual Clinic hours of operation are 10 am to 10 pm, 7 days a week, including holidays
- Patients experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19

The name of the COVID-19 Online Clinic will shift to the Northern Health Virtual Primary and Community Care Clinic to recognize the expanded service offering. The phone number will remain the same: [1-844-645-7811](tel:1-844-645-7811)

The Virtual Clinic will provide a supplemental layer of service to Northern Health's family physicians, who remain the cornerstone of our regional health care system. It aims to provide accessible and same-day health care service, using encrypted technology to ensure a secure experience.

For more information, visit the [Virtual Clinic webpage](#).



Priority COVID-19 vaccinations now available for pregnant people

All pregnant people who are age 16+ are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines as a priority population through B.C.'s Immunization Plan.

"All Health Canada-approved vaccines are safe and effective, and I encourage everyone to register and receive their vaccine as soon as they are eligible. Today, this includes people who are pregnant," said Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer. "We have reviewed the data here in B.C. and this shows pregnant people experience severe illness from COVID-19 at a rate that is similar to people who are in their 50s. By prioritizing pregnant people today, we add another layer of protection for them, their babies and their communities."

To book a vaccine, people who are pregnant can:

- Register at gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated if they have not done so already,

- Phone 1 833 838-2323 and identify as being pregnant. Online booking for pregnant people is not available.

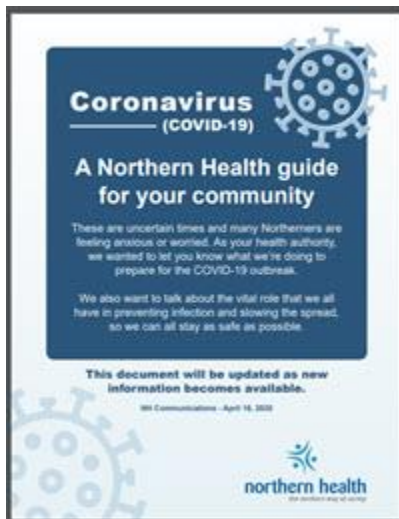
For more information, see the [Government of B.C. news release](#).

COVID-19 outbreak declared over at Acropolis Manor in Prince Rupert

Northern Health Medical Health Officers have declared an end to the COVID-19 outbreak at Acropolis Manor in Prince Rupert.

In total, 5 residents tested positive for COVID-19 in association with the outbreak that was declared April 3, 2021, and four have since recovered. One resident who had tested positive, passed away. There were no associated staff cases.

Northern Health Public Health continues to actively monitor and follow up all laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff and patients at any NH facilities.



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. The community guide is updated regularly online.

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 Virtual 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



Statistics on BC's illicit drug toxicity deaths for March 2021 now available

Please see the [fact sheet](#) for details about the more recently detected opioids in BC. The novel opioid Etodeznitizine was detected in a recent drug sample in Northern Health; however, this drug has only been detected a few times in BC and is not thought to be common in the drug supply at this time.

Etodeznitizine is NOT detected with fentanyl test strip when drug checking but it will respond to naloxone.

We strongly encourage the following for safest drug use:

- To not use alone, use in the presence of others
- Go slow, start with a small amount
- Get trained on overdose response and carry naloxone
- Know the signs of overdose and call 911 immediately if you are concerned
- Use an OPS where available
- Download the Lifeguard or BeSafe app if you are in situations where you cannot use in the presence of others.

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.



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