



For Immediate Release | November 24, 2021

Interior Health resuming emergency department services in Merritt

MERRITT – Interior Health plans to resume emergency department services at the Nicola Valley Hospital beginning Monday, Nov. 29, 2021.

Emergency department hours at Nicola Valley Hospital will be as follows:

- On Monday, Nov. 29, the emergency department will be open from **noon to 6:30 p.m.**
- Beginning Tuesday Nov. 30, the emergency department will be open daily (seven days/week) from **7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

IH is reviewing the situation and weather impacts daily and will advise the public of any changes to the planned gradual resumption of emergency department services.

COVID-19 testing is also expected to resume in Merritt starting Friday, Nov. 26. Anyone who needs a COVID-19 test can review their closest options when booking online here: https://interiorhealthcovid.secureform.ca/index.php

We would like to remind the public that following flooding events there continues to be health hazards. Please review the following resources to stay safe when returning home from a flood:

HealthLink BC: https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/clean-after-flood

BCCDC: <u>http://www.bccdc.ca/news-stories-site/Pages/Flood-zones-are-danger-zones.aspx</u>

Interior Health: <u>https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies/floods-and-landslides</u>

Please check the City of Merritt webpage for the most-to-date local evacuation order and alert notices: <u>https://www.merritt.ca/news/</u>

We will continue to work closely with municipalities, regional districts, and the province to ensure precautions are underway to protect patients, clients, and residents.

Those requiring support during this crisis are encouraged to call the BC Crisis Line at 310-6789.

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Media, for information: <u>Media@interiorhealth.ca</u> I-844-469-7077