

What's going on in Northern Health?

Province-wide EOCs activated: Respiratory illness season

On January 9, the Province activated emergency operations centres (EOCs) across all health authorities. This proactive step will ensure patients have continued access to hospital services during respiratory illness season and allows a co-ordinated provincial approach.

[Read more.](#)



Decriminalization of Possession of Controlled Substances in BC; NH's role

Decriminalization of controlled substances for personal use comes into effect in BC on January 31, 2023.



Northern Health's role in decriminalization is:

- Maintaining and enhancing health pathways and substance use services for people who use drugs.
- Connecting law enforcement and community partners with resource cards and community program supports.
- Facilitating voluntary referrals through the virtual clinic.
- Amending Northern Health policies to align with decriminalization.
- Supporting communications to various internal and external partners.

For more information: gov.bc.ca/decriminalization.

Do you know about the NH Recruitment Digital Strategy? Follow us on social media!

It is NH Recruitment's goal to reach further into specific target audiences through digital channels ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)) to connect with and hire qualified candidates to add to our existing amazing teams! We

believe that with a [more consistent online and digital presence](#), we can show the benefits of working at NH and living in the NH region and hope you will help us by engaging with our social media.

By establishing more two-way communication opportunities with our audiences, we can act faster and connect quickly and broadly with our stakeholders. For example: NH Recruitment recently completed a Virtual Career Fair that registered over 220 attendees!

Recruitment is a key focus area in the [Provincial Health Human Resources Strategy](#).



CAREERS

NH's Regional Eating Disorder Clinic now offers virtual care

Children, youth, and adults struggling with an eating disorder can now access the Regional Eating Disorder Clinic through virtual services (phone or video chat) for people anywhere in the North, and in-person outpatient care for people in Prince George.

Services include: assessments, consultations, education, and various types of therapy and support, including referrals to specialized programs in Vancouver.

More info:

- Phone: 250-645-7440
- Email: EDC@northernhealth.ca
- Web: [Regional Eating Disorder Clinic](#)



Northern Health Story highlights

The [Northern Health Stories site](#) is a great place to read about what's going on in Northern Health – people, places, projects, and more! Here are some recent highlights:

- [National Non-Smoking Week start with you](#)
- [2022 Jago Award Winner: Empathy](#)



OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Toxic drug alert: Prince George

Alert issued Jan 16.

There has been an increase in overdose events in **Prince George**. The reported substance is known as “down” and is a light purple/lilac colour and found in powder/chunk form. The reported substance tested positive for both benzos and xylazine and is causing overdose and heavy sedation. The substance is dangerous if unknowingly ingested. Fentanyl test strips are not working when testing this substance. [Learn more](#).



Training module for peer workers

The BCCDC Peer Worker Leadership training curriculum aims to equip peer workers with leadership skills and tools for success. Its modules are informed by the lived/living experience of people who use substances.

Released this week, a module titled “Identity and Inclusion” can be viewed [here](#), while the entire BC Peer Worker Training Curriculum is [here](#).



COVID-19

COVID-19: Preventative measures

COVID is still with us, in our communities, impacting our friends and loved ones. Vaccinations remains the best defence against both influenza and COVID-19.

Beyond vaccinations, we can all take key preventative measures, including:

- Stay at home if you feel unwell and try to avoid spending time with people at higher risk of serious illness.

- Practice respiratory etiquette: Wear a mask in crowded, public spaces, and cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean your hands regularly.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth and nose.



For more information, visit [BCCDC](#) or the [Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia](#).

Resources and information

The [Northern Health COVID-19](#) and [COVID-19 information](#) pages have information about immunization clinics, testing and self-isolation, the community toolkit, and trusted contacts.

For information outside of NH, see [these trusted resources](#).

