



COMMUNITY UPDATE

The latest from Northern Health

September 15, 2021

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COVID-19

Northern BC community immunization coverage

As of September 15, 2021, the Northern BC population as seen: 360,470 doses administered; 74% of population age 12 and older have received at least one dose (64% are fully immunized with two doses). For more detailed community information, see the [full chart](#).

BC proof of vaccination card

By order of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), proof of vaccination is now required to access some events, services and businesses in BC. Under the order, you must have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. By October 24, you must be fully vaccinated. The requirement is in place until January 31, 2022 and could be extended.

Details on places vaccine cards are required for entry can be found [here](#).

It is important to note that proof of vaccination is **not** required to vote in-person in the September 20 federal election. Meetings of local authority councils and school boards, where members of the public attend in person, are also exempt.

[Get your BC Vaccine Card here.](#)

COVID-19 cases are increasing again: get vaccinated, be vigilant

Northern Health is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases across the region, which is putting pressure on health care to respond. [Read the update](#) to learn what to do if you test positive, how to get tested, and how to protect yourself during this surge.

Northern Health thanks our public health case and contact management staff for their work and asks the public for their patience and respect as we work through this challenging time. Please be safe, be calm, and be kind.

Read the full update on the [Northern Health Stories news site](#).

Vax for BC

If you haven't got vaccinated yet or if it's been more than 28 days since your first dose, get vaccinated now at a drop-in, mobile or special event clinic. Roll up your sleeve and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Visit the [Vax for BC website](#) for more information.

Community Toolkit

To empower local partners to share helpful information, we have created a [COVID-19 Community Toolkit](#) - a digital resource for community partners, which includes vaccine clinic information (including [clinic schedules](#)), a community guide, trusted information and links, and more!

BC vaccination coverage rates and COVID-19 activity

BCCDC COVID-19 dashboard

Visit the BCCDC [COVID-19 surveillance dashboard](#) for information by local health area (LHA) and community health service area (CHSA).

COVID-19 Numbers

As of September 14, **10,035** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **964**
- New cases: **99**
- Currently in hospital: **46**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **14**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **165**

For the latest provincial numbers, see the Province of BC [COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

As well, for a visual comparison of COVID-19 cases in BC by HSDA to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#). It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [BC COVID-19 pandemic update](#) – September 14, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – September 8, 2021

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 Primary and Community Care Clinic: **1-844-645-7811**
- Northern Health Environmental Health Officer Line: **1-250-565-7322**
- 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 COVID-19 webpage](#).

Overdose prevention and response

Supporting Harm Reduction within the context of COVID-19

Northern Health has deemed harm reduction and overdose prevention services as an essential service during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Although the messaging regionally and provincially around COVID-19 preventative measures will reduce the spread of COVID-19, they may further isolate our most vulnerable populations. Therefore it is vital that we find innovative and creative ways to meet the urgent needs of people who use drugs in our communities.

The [document linked here](#) outlines key messages and approaches aimed to support NH staff and community based organizations to continue to provide access for overdose prevention and harm reduction measures in the context of COVID-19.

Organizational news

October 1-7 is Breastfeeding Week in Canada

Celebrate with us! This year's theme is "Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility". When needed, timely and skilled support can help to get feeding off to a good start. This month, read [Northern Health Stories](#) about health professionals who support clients with breastfeeding.

However, protecting breastfeeding goes beyond the work of health care providers. "Shared responsibility" speaks to how members of our communities *all* have a role to play in protecting, promoting, and support breastfeeding.

How can you get involved?

- **Child care providers:** How can your program welcome and normalize breastfeeding? For ideas, see [Breastfeeding is easier with support: What child care providers can do](#)

- **Teachers/educators:** For younger grades, teach about how mammals feed their babies; for older grades, explore societal influences on infant feeding
- **Employers:** Accommodate staff to nurse or express their milk at work. See relevant policies and guidelines from the [City of Toronto](#) and the [City of Vancouver](#)
- **Businesses:** Welcome families to breastfeed any time, anywhere. Learn more: [Breastfeeding-friendly spaces: Make breastfeeding your business](#)