



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

*The latest from Northern Health*

Jan 2022

## **Organization and community news**

### **Statement from NH's Board Chair – NH President and CEO to retire this year**

On February 2, 2023, Cathy Ulrich, Northern Health's President and CEO, informed the Northern Health Board of Directors that she is planning to step down into retirement over the course of this year. The Board will begin the process of searching for a new President and CEO at the February 12/13 Board meeting.

Cathy has committed to the Board that she will remain in the role until such time as the Board has successfully recruited to the position. She has also committed to support a transition process once the new President and CEO has been selected and begun in the role.

Read the [full statement](#).

### **IMAGINE Community Grants are back**

We're looking for community partners with ideas for projects that will improve the health and wellness of those living, working, learning, and playing in Northern BC. Applications opened February 1 and closed March 3, 2023. Get [more information](#).

### **Respiratory illness season: EOCs remain in place**

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](#).

### **Northern Health Stories 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.

- [IMAGINE Grants are back!](#)
- [When "healthy eating" becomes unhealthy: How can we help prevent disordered eating?](#)

- [Celebrating advances in our SaferCare clinical quality improvement initiative](#)
- [Attaining a work permit in Canada as a health care worker](#)

## Overdose prevention and response

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### New! Text alerts for toxic drugs now available in the North

In response to the toxic drug emergency, a new text message alert system has been launched across Northern Health. The system sends text alerts with timely information and up-to-date resources to people who use drugs, those who support them, and community members. It's a public health measure to prevent drug poisonings and deaths and provides. Opt-in by texting **JOIN** to **ALERTS (253787)**. [More information](#).

## COVID-19

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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 Northern Health, see [these trusted resources](#).