Newsletter April Edition 2025



Q'wemtsin Health Society • 250.314.6732 130 Chilcotin Road Kamloops, BC, V2H 1G3 qwemtsin.org

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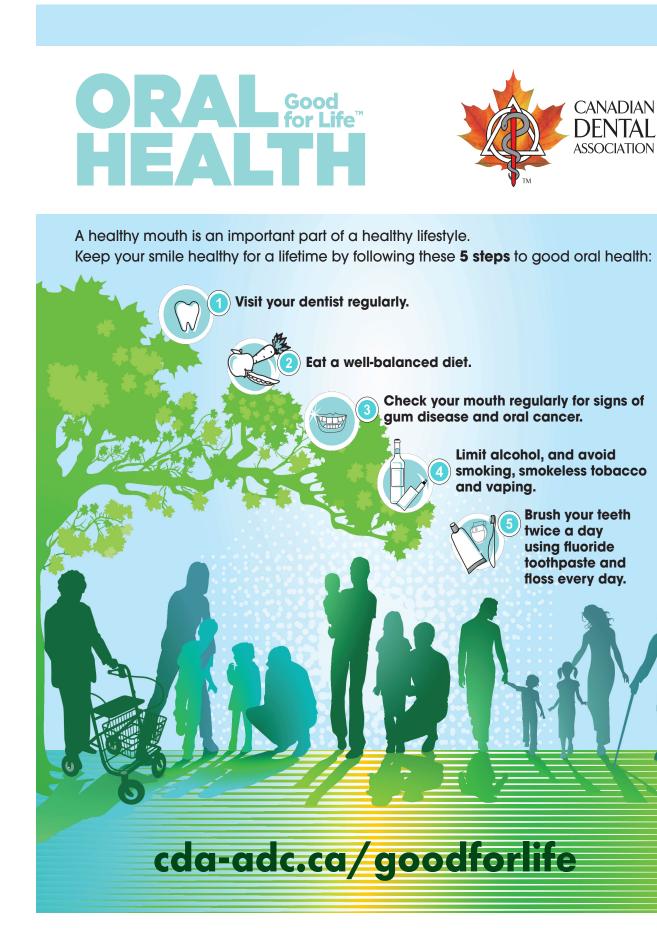


National Immunization Awareness Week

April 21-30, 2025

Protect your future. Get immunized.





WORK SAFE BC

WorkSafe Bulletin

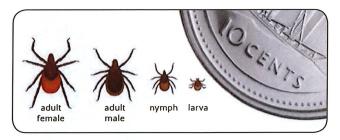
Protecting yourself from ticks

What are ticks?

Ticks are tiny bugs, which are related to mites, spiders and scorpions. Ticks feed on the blood of animals and require blood meals at certain times in their development cycle. Feeding can last from hours to days depending on the type of tick.



Western blacklegged tick (Photo courtesy of Dr. A. Loftis, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Tick life cycle

(Image adapted from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Ticks may carry bacteria, parasites, or viruses. Lyme disease is an example of a tick-borne illness.

Where are ticks found?

Ticks live in tall grass and wooded areas. Ticks are usually active in the months of April through October, and peak in the summer months of June through August. The time of year when ticks are active may vary with the geographic region and climate.

Populations of infected ticks are established in parts of B.C., including Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, the Lower Mainland and the Interior.

Am I at risk of being bitten by a tick?

If you work outdoors in areas where it's wooded or there is tall grass, you may be exposed to tick-borne diseases spread from bites of infected ticks. Workers in the following occupations are especially at risk:

- Construction
- Landscaping
- Forestry
- Brush clearing
- Land surveying
- Farming
- Railroad work
- Oil field work
- Utility line work
- · Park or wildlife management
- Other outdoor work

What should I do if a tick bites me?

The most important thing is to make sure that you remove all of the tick, including the mouth parts that are buried in your skin. Also, do not squeeze the body of the tick when you are removing it. This can force its stomach contents into the wound and increase the chance of infection.

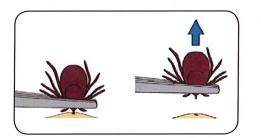


Adult female tick after and before a blood meal (Photo courtesy of Dr. M. Morshed, BC Centre for Disease Control)

If you have been bitten, inform your supervisor. Keep track of any signs and symptoms that may indicate an infection following a tick bite.

How do I remove a tick properly?

- Use tweezers or forceps to gently get hold of the tick as close to the skin as possible. Don't touch the tick with your hands.
- Without squeezing the tick, steadily lift it straight off the skin. Avoid jerking it out. Try to make sure that all of the tick is removed.



(Image courtesy of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- Once the tick has been removed, clean the bite area with soap and water, then disinfect the wound with antiseptic cream.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.

Where can I submit my tick?

Individuals are encouraged to submit ticks they find on themselves to their provincial tick surveillance program.

Ticks should be placed in a small crushproof bottle (for example, a pill bottle) with a piece of slightly damp paper towel to help keep the tick alive. Firmly tape the lid shut.

Seal the bottle in a plastic bag, put it in a cardboard box, and send the package to the following address:

BC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory Parasitology Section 655 West 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4

Be sure to label the container with the shipping date, the name and address of the person bitten, what part of the body was bitten, and what part of the province the tick probably came from. Also include the name and address of your family physician.

What are the signs and symptoms of tick-borne infections?

Symptoms can include, but are not limited to,

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle and joint pains
- Fatigue
- Skin rash
- Swollen lymph nodes

Tick-borne infections are more effectively treated if diagnosed early in the course of illness.



"Bull's eye rash" caused by a tick bite (Image courtesy of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

How can I protect myself from tick bites?

- Wear light coloured clothing, tuck your top into your pants, and tuck your pants into your boots or socks.
- Use insect repellent that contains 20–30 percent DEET.
- Take a shower as soon as you can after working outdoors.
- Look for ticks on your body. Ticks are often found on the legs, thighs, back, arms, underarms, groin, behind the ears, and above the hairline.

What can I do to stop the spread of ticks?

You can decrease tick populations by:

- Removing leaf litter
- Removing, mowing, and cutting back tall grass and brush
- Discouraging deer activity

For more information

BC Centre for Disease Control (Lyme Disease Fact Sheet):

http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/ 9F45908D-959A-442D-BB50-39897C53EF51/0/ Lyme20110908.pdf

The Public Health Agency of Canada (Lyme Disease):

http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseasesconditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/ lyme/index-eng.php

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Ticks):

http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/

Make your home safe for care workers

Why your home needs to be safe for care workers

Under the Workers Compensation Act, all workers have the right to a safe workplace. It's up to you to ensure that your home is a safe and healthy place where your care workers can assist you to remain at home.

This information can help you prepare your home for every visit by care workers. Making your home safe for your care workers can help ensure your safety too.

Top causes of care worker injuries

- · Helping clients move
- Falls
- Aggressive behaviour

Make sure your home is ready each time your care workers visit

Outside your home

- Keep the driveway, sidewalks, entrances, stairs, and ramps well lit and free of ice, snow, moss, or clutter.
- Make sure stairs have handrails.
- Provide parking as close to your home as possible.

Inside your home

- Ensure that floors are not slippery. Remove area rugs that may pose a slipping or tripping hazard.
- Keep hallways, stairs, and other walking areas clear of clutter.
- Make sure your care workers can walk around three sides of your bed.

Smoking, alcohol, and drugs

- Don't smoke for at least one hour before, and during, the visit.
- Do not drink alcohol or use street drugs before or during the visit. The use of such substances is prohibited.

Pets

 Keep pets away from where care is being provided (preferably locked in a separate room).





Page 1 of 2

Make your home safe for care workers

SafeCare BC

WORK SAFE BC

Family and visitors

• Let your care workers know if there is anyone else in your home.

Needles

- Activate the safety features on any needle that you use.
- Dispose of used needles in a puncture-resistant container.

Guns and other weapons

 Tell your care workers if you have guns or other weapons in your home. Make sure all weapons are stored safely.

Treat your care workers with respect

Sometimes you may not agree with your care workers. It is not acceptable to yell or swear at, threaten, hit, or grab your care workers. If your care workers feel threatened or unsafe, they will leave your home and call the care agency.

Your care workers have a limited amount of time to provide a given service. Any additional work you want done must be approved by the care agency.

Help care workers avoid strain injuries

Your care workers are more likely to be injured if you need help with toileting, bathing, dressing, or getting in and out of bed or a chair.

You may need to get equipment and/or clothing that will help care workers assist you without hurting you or themselves. Your health care team will tell you more about what is required.

Examples of equipment

- A hospital bed
- · An overhead lift for the bed
- Grab bars in the bathroom
- A raised toilet seat
- A bath transfer bench and/or a hand-held shower head



Examples of adaptive clothing

- Back-opening nightgowns, shirts, and dresses
- Side-opening pants

For more information

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, contact your care agency. The agency may have additional requirements not outlined in this leaflet. If so, the agency will review them with you. If you have concerns with your care workers or the services provided, contact the agency.

If you have questions about your responsibilities for your care workers' health and safety, call the WorkSafeBC Prevention Information Line at 1.888.621.7233.

WORK SAFE BC

Make your home safe for care workers



Did You Know?

The theme of the competition is wild and free in our community

How it works:

Q'wemtsin Health Society is having a photo competition!



Share your favourite photo of you and your Family Celebrating life in our Secwepemc communities. If your photo is selected to be featured in our monthly newsletter you will win an Instax Mini Camera! Have your photo in by : June 30, 2025! For your chance to win!



For more information contact QHS at 250.314.6732

Photo submissions sent via email to: alexis@qwemtsin.org





Sharps Disposal Do's and Don'ts

Do's...

Do...Place used needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container or in another hard sided container with a lid (and label "Household sharps do not recycle or throw in trash")



Do...Keep all needles and other sharps and sharps disposal containers out of reach of children and pets.



Do...Teach children not to pick up needles and to tell an adult if they find one.



Do...Pick up improperly discarded sharps with latex gloves, tweezers or tongs with the tip pointing away from you.



Do...Dispose of sharps in a community drop box, harm reduction agency, pharmacy (when available) or Interior Health public health centre, mental health and substance use, or primary care site.



Do...Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after disposal.

Do...Contact a sharps retrieval and disposal service in your community if you are uncomfortable picking up sharps yourself.

Do...Visit Interior Health's Safe Needle Disposal webpage for more information.

Don'ts...

- 🗙 Dor
 - Do not put sharps in the garbage.
 - Do not put sharps in the recycling bin.
 - C Do not put sharps in the toilet or down the drain.



- Do not toss sharps on the ground.
- Do not try to remove or break off the tip of a needle or re-cap it if used by another person.

DISPOSING OF NEEDLES SAFELY

If you find a discarded needle in a public place, you can call your local Public Health Unit to find out about collection options.

Or follow these steps to safely dispose of the needle:



- Find a rigid plastic container with a secure lid (e.g. a pop bottle or liquid laundry bottle)
- Remove the lid and place the container on the ground beside the needle
- Do not break or recap the needle



- 3
- Use latex gloves or tongs, if available

• Pick up the needle by the centre

of the barrel

- Always point the sharp end of the needle down and away from you
- Do not hold the container in your hand
- Put the needle in the container sharp-end first and secure the lid



Safely dispose of the container at your local pharmacy, Public Health Unit or Harm Reduction site





• Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water



What to do if you have been poked or scratched by a needle?

- Don't panic. The risk of infection is low. There are no reports of HIV infection following a needle stick injury in the community.
- Wash the affected area with soap and water. Do not squeeze.
- Seek medical attention immediately.

?

Who to call if you don't want to pick it up?

Call your local Public Health Unit to find out about collection options:

Attention!

QHS will no longer be receiving or giving sharps containers



FIRST NATIONS AND THE TOXIC DRUG POISONING CRISIS IN BC

INTERIOR | JANUARY - JUNE 2024

Harm reduction efforts are saving lives but drug toxicity continues at record high levels affecting First Nations families and communities across BC.

The data presented here is specific to the Interior Region.



First Nations Health Authority Health through wellness This data includes only Status First Nations people and their status-eligible descendants. Additionally, our data is limited to biological sex at birth, which may misidentify two-spirit, transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and gender diverse people. Surveillance data is dynamic and subject to change with new information and historical corrections.

The FNHA gratefully acknowledges the health partners that make this data available: BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Coroners Service, BC Emergency Health Services, and the BC Ministry of Health.

You may find this information distressing. Cultural support is available at Tsow Tun Le Lum Society. Call 1-888-403-3123 (toll-free) or visit www.tsowtunlelum.org

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Pressure Cooker Shredded Beef Lettuce Cups



Directions

1. Combine carrots, red peppers and onion in a 6-qt. pressure cooker. Top with roast. In a small bowl combine pineapple, soy sauce, brown sugar, vinegar, garlic and pepper; pour over roast. Lock lid; close pressure-release valve. Adjust to pressure-cook on high for 40 minutes. Let pressure release naturally. Press cancel. Remove roast from pressure cooker. Cool slightly; shred roast with 2 forks.

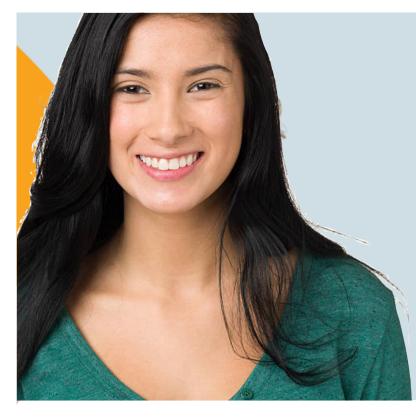
2. Skim fat from cooking juices; return juices and vegetables to pressure cooker. In a small bowl, mix cornstarch and water until smooth; stir into pressure cooker. Select saute setting and adjust for low heat. Simmer, stirring constantly, until thickened, 1-2 minutes. Return beef to pressure cooker; heat through.

3. Serve in lettuce leaves. If desired, sprinkle with green onions.

Nutrition Facts 3 lettuce cups: 270 calories, 11g fat (4g saturated fat), 74mg cholesterol, 641mg sodium, 17g carbohydrate (10g sugars, 2g fiber), 24g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 3 lean meat, 1 starch.

Ingredients

- 3 medium carrots, chopped
- 2 medium sweet red peppers, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 boneless beef chuck roast (2 pounds)
- 1 can (8 ounces) unsweetened crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1/2 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons water
- 24 Bibb or Boston lettuce leaves
- Sliced green onions, optional



If Not You, Who? If Not Now, When?

Advance Care Planning Day – April 16, 2025

ACP Day occurs every year on April 16. On this day, ACP Canada encourages everyone in Canada to plan for their future healthcare needs.

Who would you trust to make your health and personal care decisions? How would they know what you want?

Planning for your future healthcare needs is important. Who would you trust to express your healthcare decisions if you couldn't? Do they know what really matters to you—your values, wishes, and priorities?

Advance care planning helps you prepare for the unexpected by clearly documenting your preferences and sharing them with the people you trust. It's a way to ensure your voice is heard and your care reflects your choices, no matter what the future holds.



If Not You, Who? If Not Now, When?

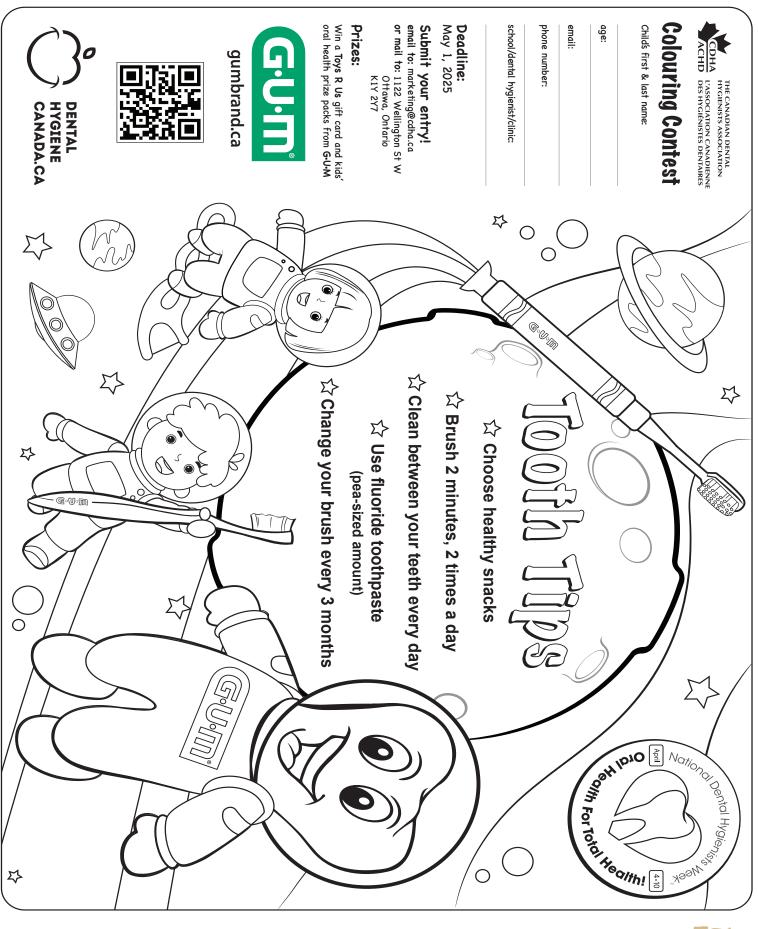
No one else can truly express your values, wishes, and priorities for your healthcare. Waiting too long to have these conversations or document your preferences could leave critical decisions in the hands of others who may not fully understand what matters most to you.

For ACP Day 2025, take the time to plan and share your wishes, take control of your future care, and relieve those close to you of the stress and uncertainty of making difficult choices on your behalf.

Advance care planning is for everyone – young, old, healthy or facing health challenges – and the best time to start is today.

Use the QR Code to Access More Information







Indigenous Student Bursary

To support our graduating Indigenous students, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) has partnered with HuFriedyGroup to launch the Indigenous Student Bursary.

Canada's colonial policies and practices had a devastating impact on Indigenous peoples. As Canadians acknowledge that truth and continue their reconciliation journey, CDHA is joining many organizations in leading efforts to support Indigenous peoples and the ongoing work of establishing mutually respectful relationships. Our bursary initiative is Indigenous-led and guided by Indigenous cultures, values, and voices.

Help support Indigenous students - purchase a limited-edition HuFriedy Scaler

HuFriedy EverEdge 204S Sickle Scaler - **\$87 (plus applicable taxes)**

If you are not a CDHA member, please contact John Corner at <u>jcorner@cdha.ca</u> or at 1-800-267-5235 ext 138 for quick and easy processing of your purchase.

100% of the profits will go towards funding this bursary.

What is the Indigenous Student Bursary?

The bursary will provide financial support to Indigenous students in the final year of their dental hygiene program graduating in 2023, 2024 and 2025. To fund this bursary, CDHA is offering its The Indigenous Student Bursary was instrumental in my transition into the dental hygiene profession. It helped cover my registration fees, allowing me to focus on kickstarting my career without the added financial stress. I am deeply grateful for this support and excited for what lies ahead!

members the opportunity to purchase a limited-edition HuFriedy EverEdge 204S sickle scaler with orange signature grips.

Student applications for the 2025 bursary will open September 1, 2025.

Use the QR Code to Access student application





Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Diet: The Foods You Can Eat



Individuals with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) can use nutrition and lifestyle strategies to help control and manage gut symptoms, improve quality of life, and optimize digestive health. It is common for people with IBS to experience gut symptoms after eating certain kinds of foods, and what may trigger symptoms in one person may not trigger symptoms in someone else. There are general strategies that can help everyone with IBS, and yet what works best for you will require an individualized approach.

Food is a powerful tool to have in your toolbox, and a registered dietitian can help guide and support you in creating a long-term strategy and plan that works for you and your lifestyle. This could include helping to foster a positive relationship with food, increasing confidence when making food choices at home and when out, encouraging nourishing foods that won't worsen gut symptoms, preventing unnecessary food restrictions, and managing potential food fears.

Nutrition and Lifestyle Strategies for IBS:

1. Enjoy meals at regular times, chew well, and eat slowly. You may find it easier to digest and tolerate smaller portions of food vs. larger portions.

2. Drink at least 8 cups (2 L) of fluid per day (e.g., water, herbal tea, broth) to stay hydrated.

3. Space fruit intake apart by 2-3 hours and stick to no more than one fruit portion per meal or snack.

4. Choose cooked vegetables more often than raw, as cooked vegetables are easier to digest.

5. Choose easier-to-digest proteins, such as eggs, chicken, turkey, fish, extra-firm tofu, and plain lactose-free greek yogurt. Lower-fat cooking methods, such as baking, roasting, steaming, boiling, and sautéing, can also help you avoid uncomfortable symptoms.

OHS AT SCS CAREER FAIR



foff:





Congratulations to the Lucky winner of our Waterpik doorprize!



ted in eer Fair role

- Shared smiles and laughter for the day
- Show cased and discussed roles at QHS
- Connected with students and community

Thank you Skeetchestn Community School for having us!





You can request to have our Newsletter sent directly to you!

Q'wemtsin Health Society staff are able to email a virtual copy or mail a hard copy of our newsletter to ensure that all of our community members have the opportunity to keep up to date with our services and valuable health related information.

How would you like to receive our newsletter, hard copy, or email?

Please let us know by calling QHS Front Desk at 250.314.6732 or by emailing qhs@qwemtsin.org





Qwemtsin HEALTH SOCIETY Ladies Day

Date: May 30, 2025 Delta Hotel, 540 Victoria St Time: 11am-2pm

Registration starts April 1st-May 15
Registration is required to attend
Open to Band members, Spouses and Community members

To register, contact Lindsie at QHS by calling 250.314.6732 or email at lindsie@qwemtsin.org

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April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		I DR. Craniosacral Therapy	2 Naturopath	3 Dietitian Foot Care	4	5	
6	7 DR. Craniosacral Therapy	8 DR. Craniosacral Therapy SIB	9 Naturopath	IO Dietitian Foot Care	11 Respiratory	12	
13	14 DR. Craniosacral Therapy SIB	15 DR. SIB Craniosacral Therapy	16 Naturopath	17 Dietitian Foot Care	18 Good Friday	19 1 /	
20 Easter Sunday	21 DR. Foot Care SIB	22 DR. Craniosacral Therapy	23 Naturopath SIB Dental	24 Foot Care	25	26	1111
27	28 DR. Craniosacral Therapy SIB Foot Care SIB	29	30 Dental				
							21

Primary Care Services

In Person	 Urgent Primary Care and Learning Centre (250)314-2256 – phones turn on at 10 am daily 311 Columbia Street Open 10 am – 10 pm Must phone to make an appointment, no walk-in's 					
	 Kinetic Energy Medical Clinic (250)828-6637 450 Lansdowne St Suite 206 https://www.kamloopskineticenergy.com/medical-doctor Patient Registration begins at 7 am Monday – Friday. Must phone and leave a message to be added to the daybook for that day -No Walk-Ins Will start with a Phone Call appointment and may include a Face-to-face appointment if needed Able to fill out Driver's Medical Forms 					
	 Kleo's Pharmacy (778)765-1444 90b-1967 Trans Canada Hwy E Walk in Medical Clinic available in the pharmacy, access to Virtual Doctor 					
*Only Skeetch/ Savona	 Ashcroft Urgent and Primary Care Centre (250)453-2211 Located in the Ashcroft Community Health Centre - 700 Ash-Cache Creek Hwy 					
Patients	 Open 7 days a week, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm 					
	 Open 7 days a week, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Pharmasave – Riverbend (236)421-4424 for nurse & to book appointment. Virtual Doctor (236)421-4263 					
Patients	 Pharmasave – Riverbend (236)421-4424 for nurse & to book appointment. 					

Virtual	 Northshore Pharmacy and Care Clinic (250)376-9991 <u>https://northshorepharmacy.ca/</u> Monday to Saturday 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, Sunday and Holidays 9:00 am – 10:00 am Virtual appointments in the pharmacy ***must be willing to switch to using their pharmacist***
	 Enhanced Care Clinic (Go to Doctors.ca) https://www.enhancedcare.ca/online-booking/ Location/Services, click "Virtual/Phone Appointment by Godoctor.ca" and location "British Columbia" virtual/phone appointments
	 FNHA Dr of the Day – 1-855-344-3800 1-855-344-3800 7 days a week, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm All First Nations and their families https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-doctor-of-the-day
	 TIA Virtual Health Clinic Book online: Tiahealth.com Virtual or Telephone appointments
	 Virtual Physicians at Health Link Call 811 HealthLink BC virtual physicians are available to 8-1-1 callers after assessment by one of our registered nurses. If the nurse determines that further medical assessment by a doctor would help you get the best advice on when and where you should seek care, they may refer you to your family doctor or nurse practitioner, a health provider in your community or one of our virtual physicians.
	 Rocket Doctor Virtual Services Book online: <u>https://rocketdoctor.ca/online-doctor-bc/</u> Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
	 VivaCare Telehealth Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 9:00 pm, Saturday – Sunday Book online: <u>https://vivacare.ca/telehealth-online-doctor/</u> Virtual or telehealth appointments available

Resource Numbers

Email.....info@fnha.ca

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Ambutance / Fire / Police. 911 T. Kemlops Detachment. 250-314-1800 Childmen Protective Services. 1-800-668-9868 Mainlops Digs Dylaw. 278-289-9708 Kids Helpine. 0.6666666 Kamlops Strup Detachment. 250-329-370 Kids Helpine. 0.6666666 Kamlops Strup Detachment. 250-377-500 First Nations emergancy services 250-377-7600 TRU Law Legal Clinic. .778-471-8400 Kamloops Urgent Response Team. 250-377-7600 TRU Law Legal Clinic. .778-471-8401 Kamloops RCMP. Victim Services. 250-377-7600 Narcotics Anonymous. .1-800-567-8911 Kamloops RCMP. Victim Services. 250-376-7800 Narcotics Anonymous. .1-800-414-0296 Victim Services. 250-376-7800 Narcotics Anonymous. .1-800-414-0296 Victim Services. 250-314-6732 Substance Information S Referral Service. .1-800-414-0296 Victim Services. 250-314-6732 Substance Information S Referral Service. .1-800-63-1441 Secwepenc Child and Family Services: 250-347-1296 Kamloops Kenetic Energy. .250-372-0179 Stas Seymonry Street. .250-374-1291	Emergency Assistance		Non-Emergancy Services
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