



**For Immediate Release | January 22, 2021**

## **Interior Health update on COVID-19 cluster in Williams Lake area**

WILLIAMS LAKE – Interior Health has identified an additional 53 cases of COVID-19 linked to a community cluster in the Williams Lake area (Cariboo Chilcotin [local health area](#)). The cluster was first declared on Jan. 20.

Since Jan. 1, a total of 268 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in this region and 165 cases are currently active.

Most of the transmission occurred at recent social events and gatherings.

Everyone is reminded that socialization must be limited to immediate household bubbles. Please do not invite friends or extended family to your residence for a visit or gathering.

The outbreak at Cariboo Memorial Hospital is 11 cases among staff. No patients have been affected and the public is reminded the hospital is safe to visit for appointments or emergency care. Please continue with any scheduled procedures. COVID-19 self-isolation is not required after visiting the hospital.

It is important to follow public health guidance such as physical distancing, washing your hands regularly and wearing a mask.

Interior Health is thankful for the ongoing support of local First Nations Chiefs, elected officials, and community leaders as we support the community together.

IH will release regular updates on this community cluster on Tuesdays and Fridays and in addition, everyone is encouraged to monitor the [BCCDC website](#) for ongoing COVID-19 data.

Everyone in all communities should remain vigilant in following COVID-19 precautions:

- Keep to your household bubbles and avoid social gatherings.
- Stay home when you are sick and get tested if you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Practise physical distancing
- Wear a mask.
- Wash your hands often
- Avoid all non-essential travel

### Booking a COVID-19 test:

Online: You can book an appointment online through the COVID-19 Test Booking Form:  
<https://interiorhealthcovid.secureform.ca/index.php>

By phone: Call the COVID-19 Test Booking Line at 1-877-740-7747 for assistance with booking your test.