

### NEWS

#### B.C. adds \$10.5 million for overdose prevention work and harm reduction supplies

The B.C. government is increasing funding for overdose prevention. An additional \$10.5 million will be provided to accelerate the response to an increasingly toxic illicit drug supply due to COVID-19. Some of these funds will also support **safer smoking supplies** for a six month period starting later this fall (this includes glass stems, bubble pipes, and foils) to be distributed through BCCDC's provincial harm reduction program. **Please maintain your usual practices with regards to inhalation supply distribution at this time.** More information to come soon from BCCDC and the IH Harm Reduction Program!

#### Alerts on the rise



Due to the increasingly toxic and unpredictable drug supply the Harm Reduction team and key stakeholders have issued a high number of Drug Checking and/or Overdose Alerts since mid-June. IH issued alerts can be viewed [here](#) - follow @InteriorHealth on Facebook and/or Twitter to see alerts when they are issued.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Drug checking alerts are influenced by the availability of drug checking services in the community – communities without alerts should not assume their drug supply is “safer”. The entire province has been under an alert for most of the summer. Please continue to encourage the folks who use your services to take measures to reduce the risk.

#### What to do if you think an alert is needed?

For Community Partners: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/Partners/HarmReduction/Pages/ODprevention.aspx>

For IH staff: <http://insidenet.interiorhealth.ca/projects/clinicalproj/overdose/Pages/default.aspx>

### CALL TO ACTION! TAKE THE PLEDGE End the use of stigmatizing language

Addiction Matters Kamloops (AMK) has partnered with Interior Health, to launch the “Every Word Matters” pledge and campaign to end the use of stigmatizing language.

With a focus on using person-first and wellness-oriented language anyone can participate and make a difference to individuals and families impacted by substance use.

Visit <https://www.addictionmatters.ca/> to take the pledge.

Every word matters. We took the pledge because...



Consider sharing the pledge with your team, networks or on social media or even challenge another team! Selfie card and posters are also available on the [website](#).

*The IH Harm Reduction Team took the pledge! Has your team?*

### EDUCATION

#### Collecting race-based data to address HIV, Hepatitis C and other health inequities

This [CATIE webinar](#) is in partnership with the Alliance for Healthier Communities.

Anti-racism movements around the world have put increased focus on disparities experienced by Black, Indigenous and people of colour. Furthermore, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated health inequities and disparities in racialized communities.

This webinar will discuss the path forward and tangible next steps for race-based data collection and how they can address health disparities experienced by racialized groups, including African, Caribbean and Black Canadians, Indigenous people, immigrants and newcomers.

Register [here](#).

## RESOURCES

### NEW - BCCDC COVID-19 Language Guide

This [language guide](#) aims to make COVID-19 content more inclusive and prevent stigmatization of individuals and groups who are often inadvertently excluded from health advice because they are not properly identified or defined. Also useful outside of the COVID-19 context.

Sections include:

- Racial, Ethnic and Cultural Identities
- Sex, Gender, Sexual Identities, Pronouns and Gender Inclusivity
- And More!

### COVID-19 IH Resources to Support Vulnerable Populations

If you work with vulnerable populations you might want to bookmark this page. Guidelines for housing and shelter providers, information on testing and resources for your clients on staying safe, harm reduction in the context of COVID-19 and more.

<https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/information-for-communities/>



### Find IH Harm Reduction info online any-time!

#### For Community Partners

Harm Reduction Partners Page:

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/Partners/HarmReduction/Pages/default.aspx>

#### For Interior Health Staff

InsideNet Harm Reduction Toolkit:

<http://insidenet.interiorhealth.ca/Clinical/General/Pages/HarmReductionToolkit.aspx>

### NEW - Sharps Resources

#### Sharps Toolkit:

The updated [Sharps Toolkit](#) promotes a collaborative approach to dealing with the issue of improperly discarded sharps in the community. The toolkit contains practical resources that are also available separately for downloading. Please share as needed with clients, local government, community partners and members of the public.

Poster/Info Sheets:

- [Sharps Dos and Don'ts](#)
- [What to do if you find a needle](#)
- [How to safely dispose of needles](#)

Articles/FAQ

- [Needle Distribution Programs – Why are they important?](#) Answers to the most common questions about needle distribution in simple, easy to understand language.
- [Talking to children about needles \(updated\)](#) Includes tips for parents, teachers, childcare workers about how to talk to kids about what to do if they find a needle and also how to respond to the questions that may follow without spreading misinformation or stigma.

#### Sharps drop off and retrieval services

A list of sharps drop off and retrieval services has been added to the IH sharps [webpage](#) – this includes links to municipal government sharps disposal container maps and information on sharps pick-up services by community. If you have a service to add please let us know!

[harmreduction.coordinator@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:harmreduction.coordinator@interiorhealth.ca)

#### Video

A new [video](#) that shows the steps community members can take to safely pick up and dispose of sharps found in the community.

Questions, comments, have a great harm reduction initiative you want to share? Get in touch! We would LOVE to hear from you. Email us! [harmreduction.coordinator@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:harmreduction.coordinator@interiorhealth.ca)