



# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

FNHA Public Health Response

August 23, 2021

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

Starting July 5, 2021, due to falling COVID-19 cases, Situation Reports will be updated and published once every week.

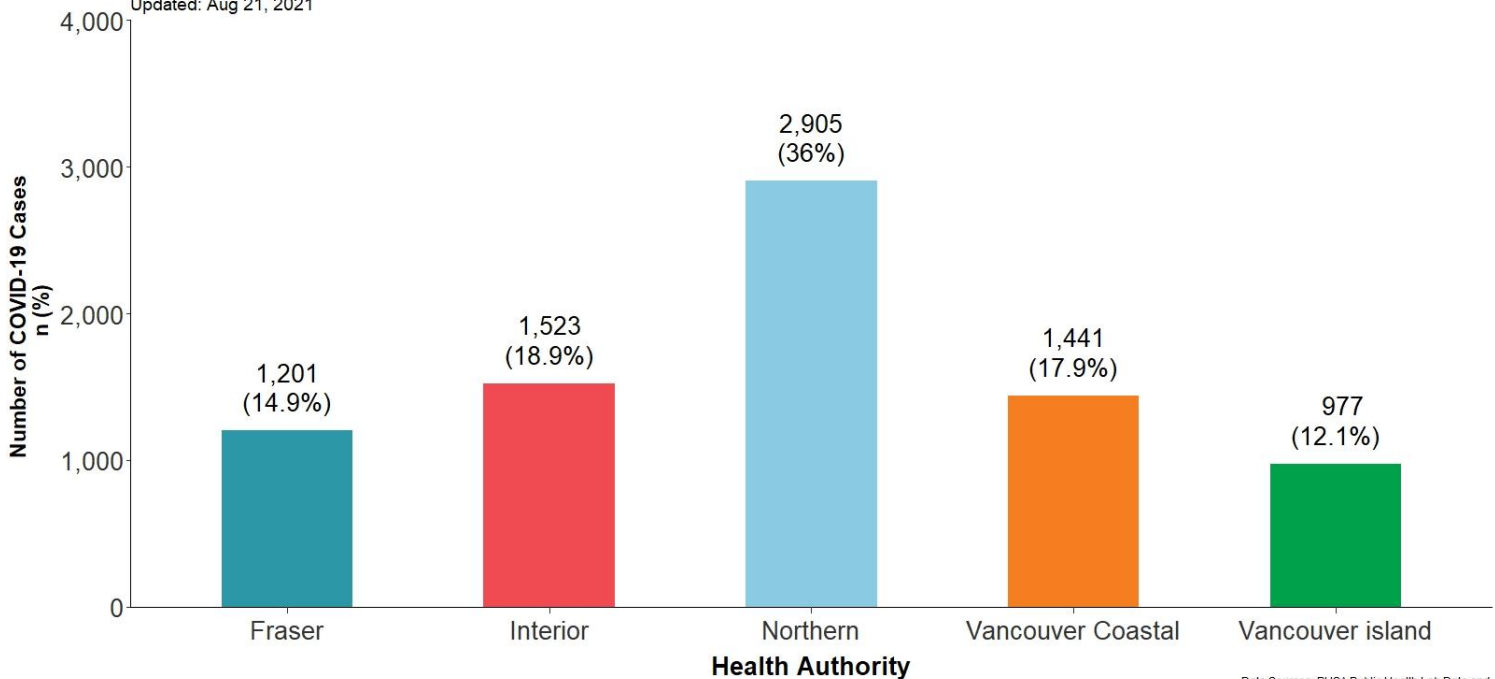
## COVID-19 Updates

### First Nations Cases in BC – As of August 21, 2021

- There have been a total of 8,066 First Nations COVID-19 cases (7,877 lab diagnosed cases and 189 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 281 cases among First Nations people in BC since the last published report.
- Out of the total 8,066 cases, 3,375 (41.8%) are in or near community; 4,522 (56.1%) are off reserve. As geographical information is not available, information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 169 (2.1%) cases.
- There are total 332 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in British Columbia. There are 122 active COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.
- Sadly, there have been total 141 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. Three additional deaths are reported since the last published report.
- There have been a total 852 (10.6%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these 367 hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and 483 off reserve. Information on in or near community/ off reserve is not available for 2 cases.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=8,047)

Updated: Aug 21, 2021



Data Sources: PHSA Public Health Lab Data and BCCDC's COVID-19 Surveillance Line List

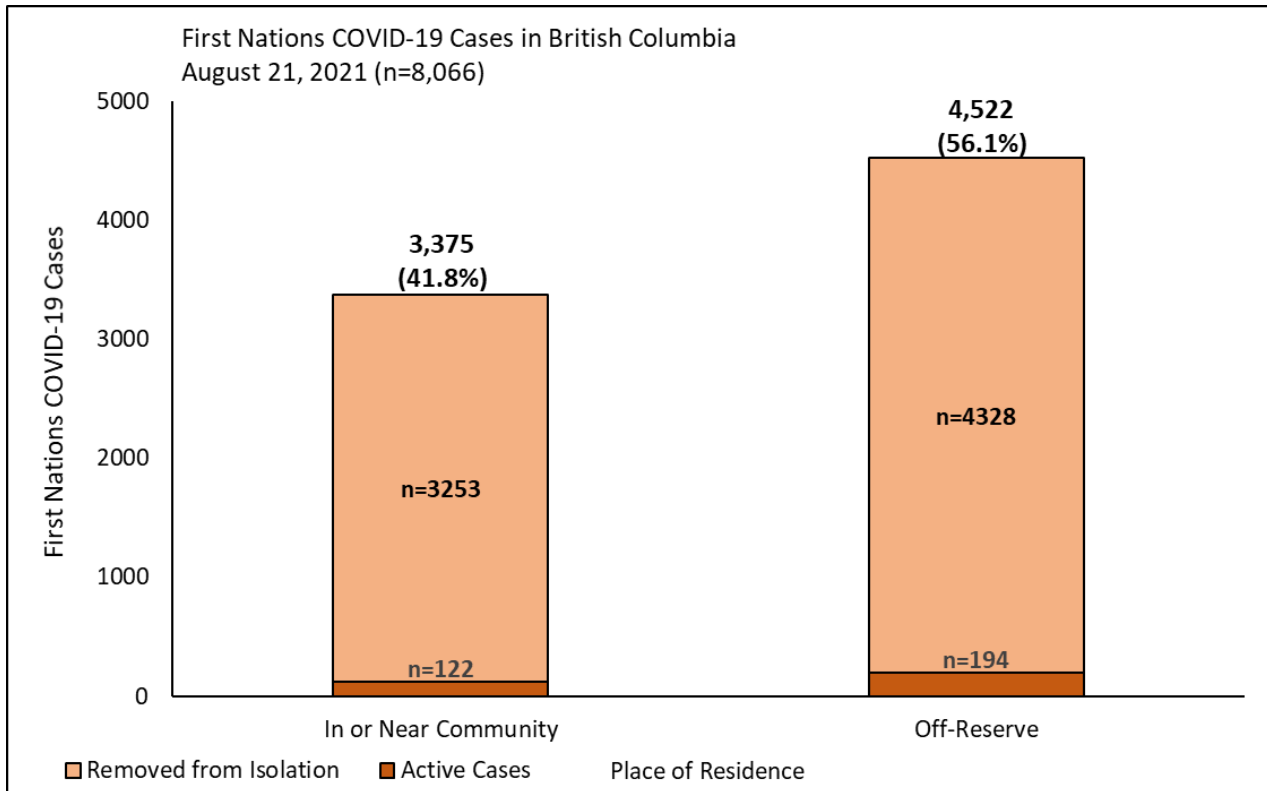
\*Total number of cases (n=8,066) includes one (1) case reported as "Out of Canada" resident, twelve (12) cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents, one (1) case reported as "Out Of BC – Ontario", one (1) case reported as "Out Of BC – Quebec, one (1) case reported as "Out Of Canada - Country other", and three (3) case reported as "Out of BC – Saskatchewan" resident. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=8,047) reported as BC residents.

**Regional Active cases and Testing data as of August 21, 2021**

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 cases <sup>a</sup>	50	138	55	51	33	332
Total persons tested <sup>b</sup>	10,322	10,673	11,984	9,078	9,569	51,654
Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to August 7, 2021)	6.8%	9.4%	16.4%	8.9%	7.0%	9.8%
Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (August 8 to August 14, 2021)	9.5%	20.0%	23.8%	20.8%	7.4%	16.4%
Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)	72,379.8	51,167.0	43,605.4	72,087.3	40,029.1	52,972.8

<sup>a</sup> Algorithm to define people who are removed from isolation is updated on February 5, 2021 to reflect change adopted by PHSA. Updated algorithm assigns cases who are lost to follow up and whose surveillance date (reported date and if not available then result date) >=20 days before the line list case dataset date to "removed from isolation." Four cases are reported as "Out Of BC – Alberta" and one case is reported as "Out Of BC - Saskatchewan,"

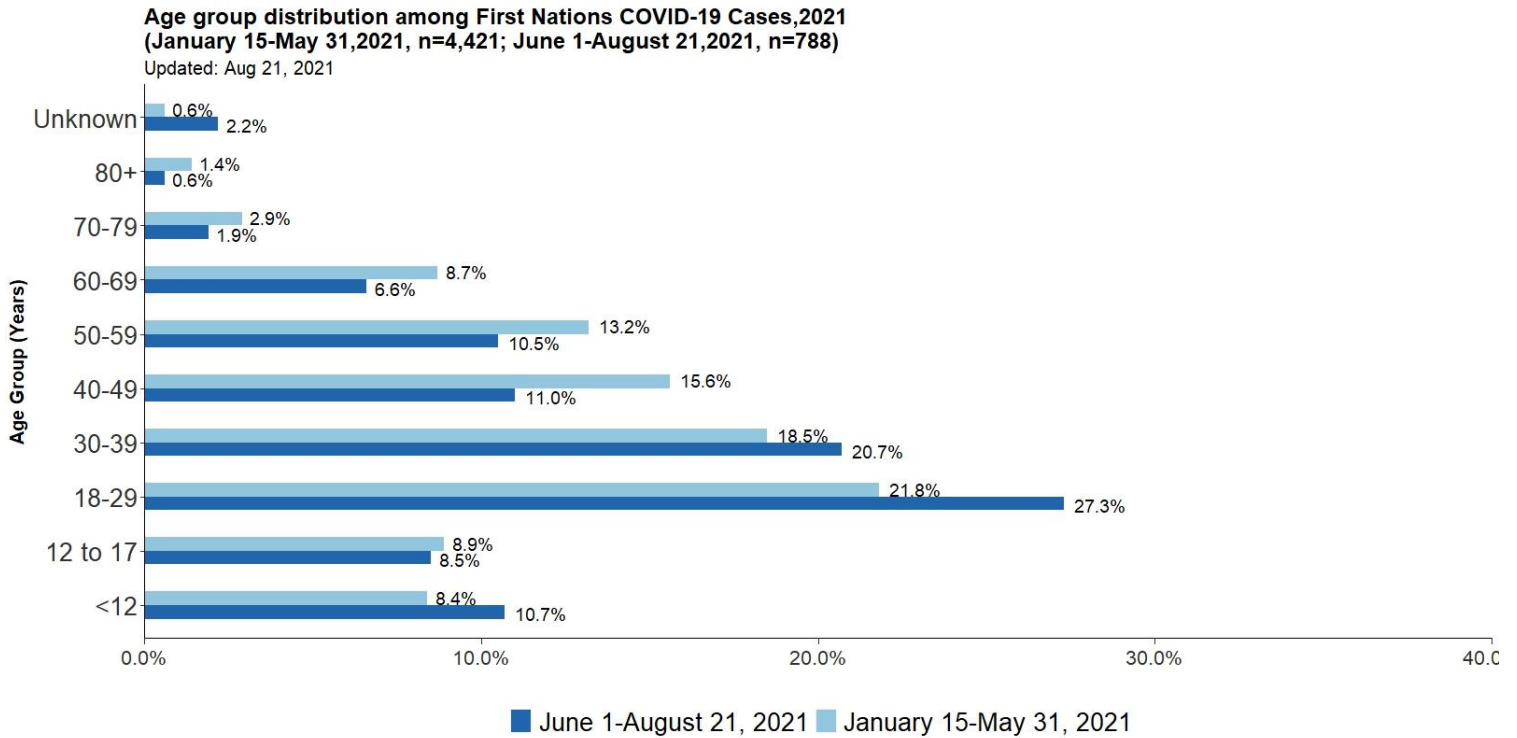
<sup>b</sup> Geographical Information (RHAs) for 28 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available. They are included in total number of First Nations people tested in BC.



\* Total number of cases (n=8,066) includes 169 cases without information on LHA of residence and "In or Near Community" analysis. Information about in or near community analysis is not available for sixteen (16) active case.

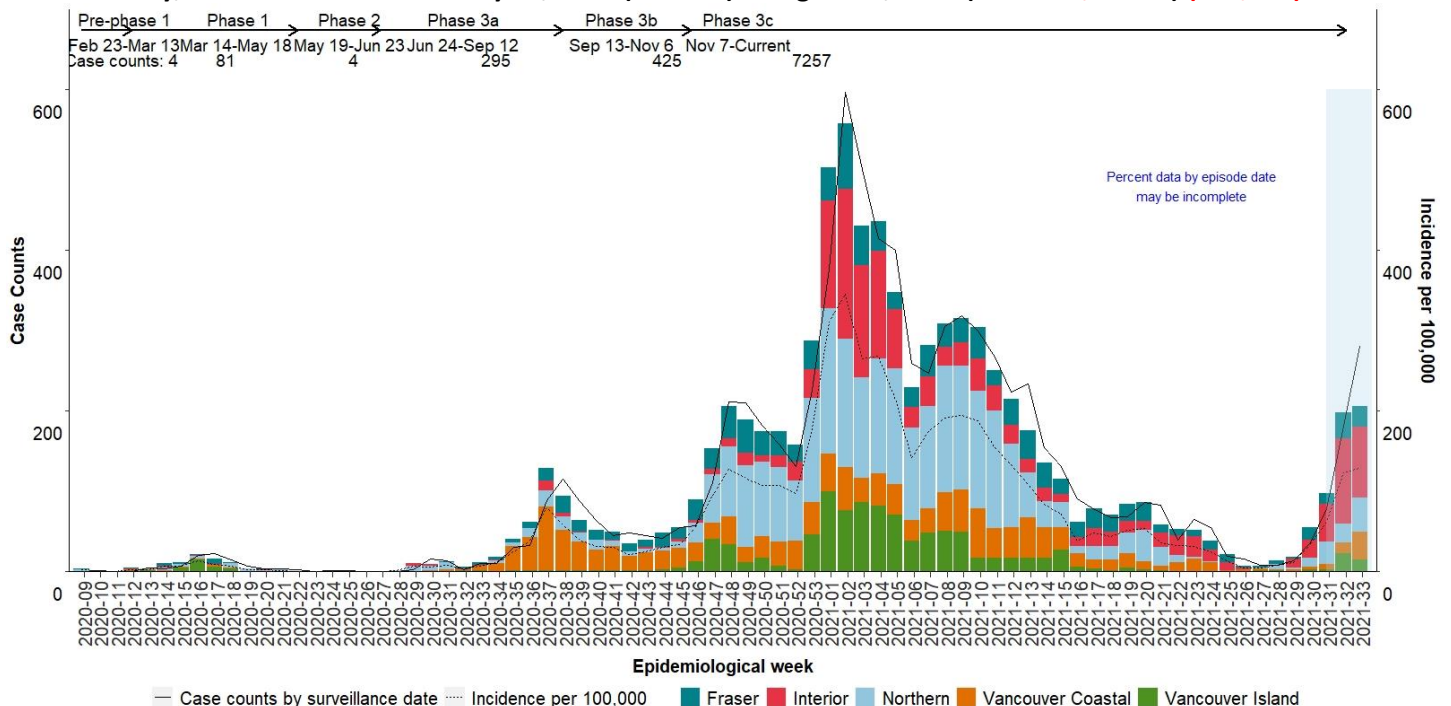
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of August 21, 2021, there were 122 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in or near community.**

There is an increase in the proportion of COVID-19 cases among < 12 years old and 18-39 years old from June 1 to August 21, 2021 compared to cases reported between from January 15 to May 31, 2021.



The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was **9.78%** as of **August 21, 2021**. The rate of positive cases was **4,968.2 per 100,000** people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was **3,072.3** per 100,000 people.

**Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episode date (coloured bar),<sup>a</sup> surveillance date (line) and health authority, British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – August 21, 2021 (Week-33, 2021\*) (n=8,066)**

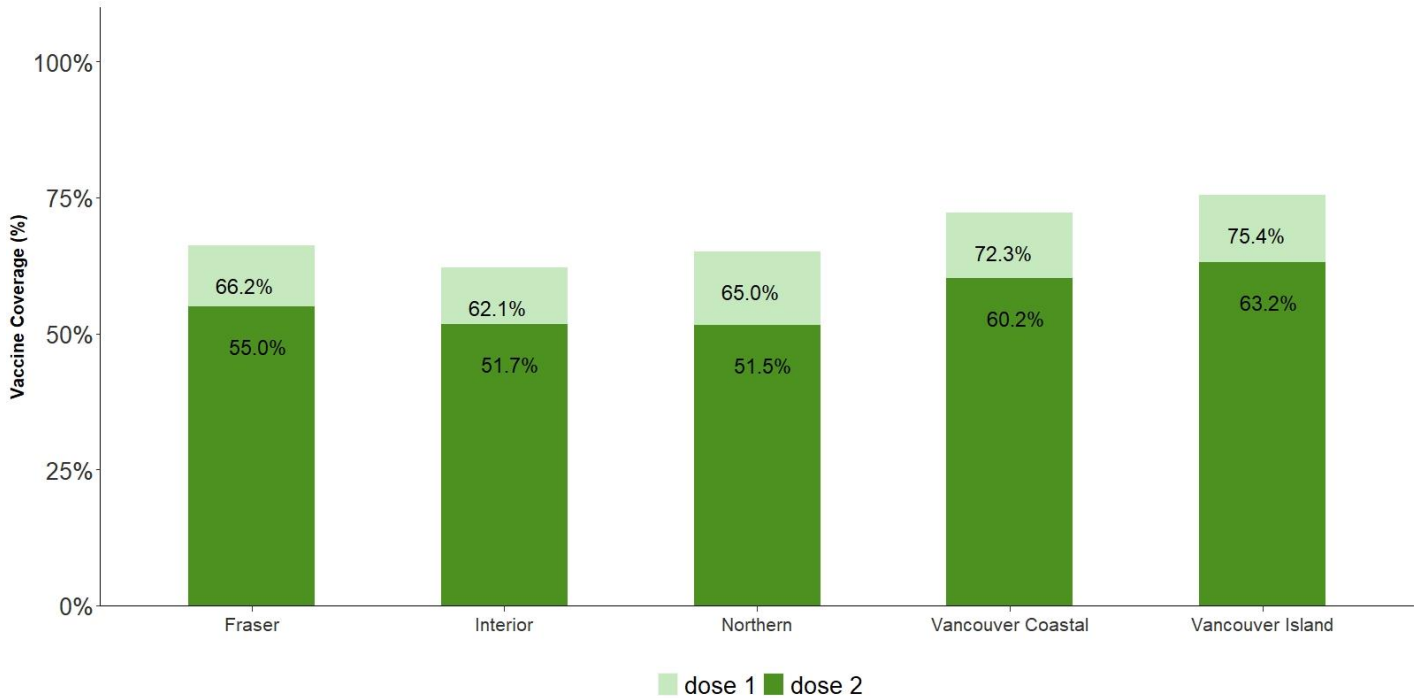


<sup>a</sup> Episode date is now defined as date of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. When those dates are not available, earliest lab date (collection date or result date) is used, and if unavailable, surveillance date is used. Report date used previously is now replaced with surveillance date (laboratory result date); if unavailable, report date is used.

<sup>b</sup> Data source: BCCDC's line list data received from RHAs (up to August 20, 2021) and PHSA's public health lab data (up to August 21, 2021). This epidemiological curve represents the weekly cases reported among First Nations in BC. The proportion of cases within each region is colour coded and the case counts each day are represented by the solid black line. The incidence per 100,000 are represented by the dotted line. Regions are represented in the diagram as: Fraser – Dark blue, Interior – Red, Northern – Light Blue, Vancouver Coastal – Orange, and Vancouver Island – Green.

### First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Health Authority

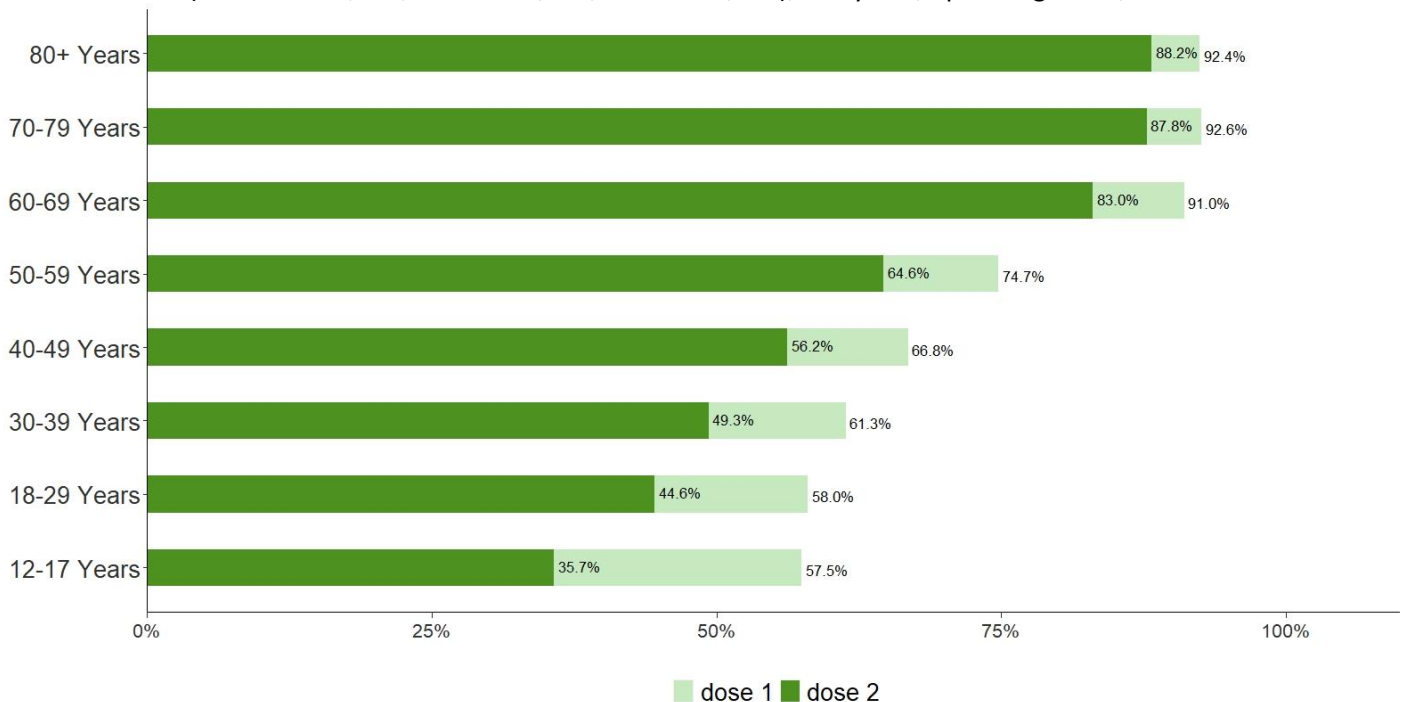
Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1=92,814, dose 2=76,460) 12+ years, up to August 21, 2021



\* HA information was not available for 996 clients for dose 1 and 538 clients for dose 2  
 \*\*These analyses were only possible for Status and Status eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations

### First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Age Group

Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1=93,421, dose 2=76,812), 12+ years, up to August 21, 2021



\* Age group information was not available for 389 clients for dose 1 and 186 clients for dose 2  
 \*\* These analyses were only possible for Status and Status eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations

## Vaccine Distribution

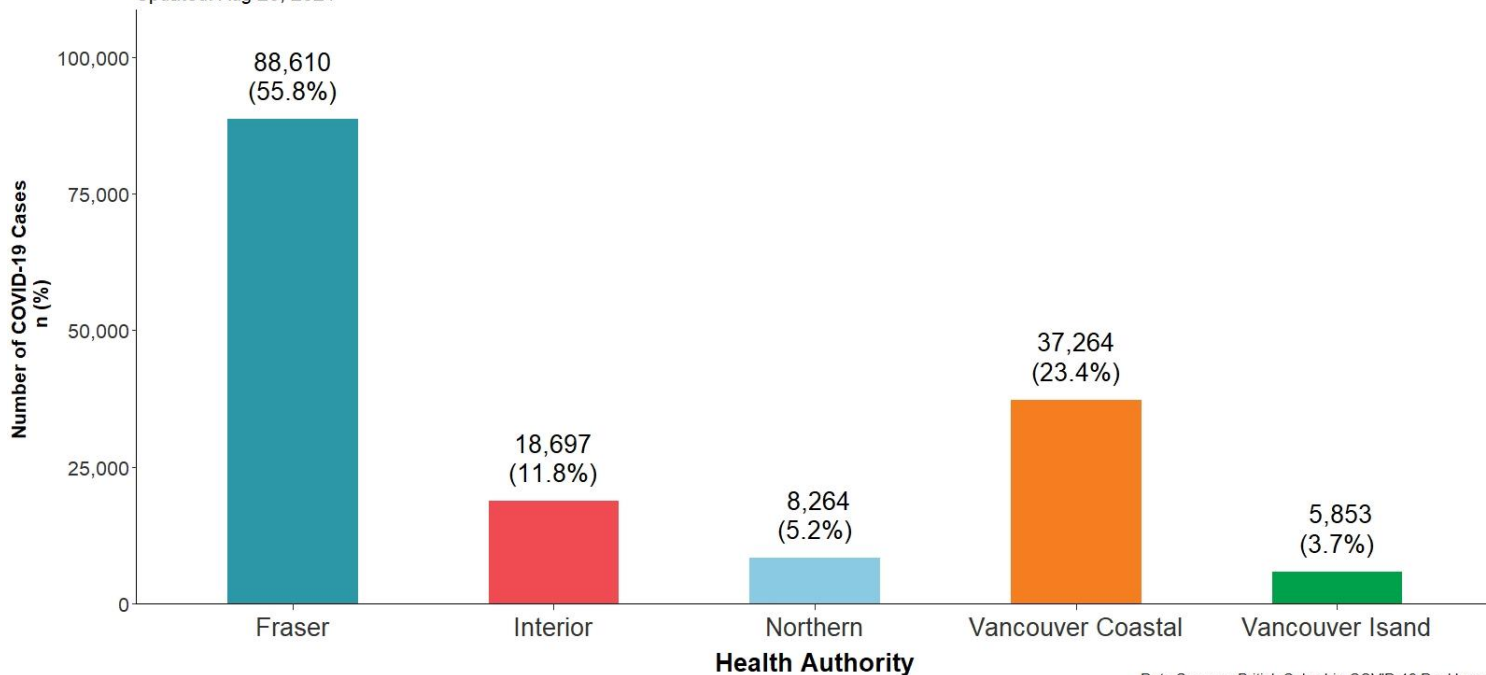
- As of August 21, 2021, more than 103,300 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 8,200 individuals ages 12-17 who are First Nations people (and some non-First Nations people living in or near First Nations communities) have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of these individuals, more than 85,300 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 5,200 First Nations individuals 12-17 years old have received two doses. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as outside of communities by regional health authorities.
- As of August 21, 70.2% of all status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC age 18 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- As of August 20, 83.0% (3,846,528) of eligible people 12 and older in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 74.3% (3,442,163) have received their second dose

## Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of August 20, 2021, 3:50 p.m.

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 158,919 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,785 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 6,345 active cases, 129 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 59 people are in intensive care
- Of the total number of cases, 150,657 (94.8%) people have fully recovered

### Regional Breakdown of Total Number of COVID-19 Cases in BC (n=158,688)

Updated: Aug 20, 2021



Data Sources: British Columbia COVID-19 Dashboard

\*Total number of cases (n=158,919) include 231 cases reported as "Out of Canada" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=158,688) reported as BC residents.

## Active Outbreaks (as of August 20, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living: **11** outbreaks
- Acute care units: **0** outbreak

\* A geographic distribution of COVID-19 by Local Health Area can be found [here](#).

\* A weekly update on Variants of Concern can be found [here](#).

## First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (August 19, 2021):

Access Restrictions: 135 (same)

Security Checkpoints: **70 (+1)**

Band Offices Inaccessible: **82 (+2)**

State of Local Emergency: 63 (same)

EOC Activations: **121 (+6)**

## FNHA Resources and Supports

### **Information for BC First Nations Individuals**

Visit: <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/public> to find out more including

- COVID-19 vaccine
- Self-isolation
- Testing and symptoms
- Medical support including Virtual Doctor of the Day Service
- Mental health and cultural supports

### **Information for Community Leaders**

Visit: <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/community-leaders> to find out more including

- COVID-19 vaccine
- Community situation reports
- Support and funding
- Health benefits

### **Resources for Health Professionals**

Visit: <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/health-professionals> to find out more including

- COVID-19 Management
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Infection Prevention & Control
- Nursing Practice

### **Latest News**

- [The COVID-19 Delta Variant in BC: What You Need to Know](#). August 12, 2021.
- [FNHA Launches Youth Wellness and COVID-19 Social Media Contest](#). August 10, 2021.
- [Help! My Loved One Won't Get Vaccinated!](#) July 29, 2021.
- [BC Launches Drive to Get More People Vaccinated](#). July 28, 2021.
- [Inclusive Toolkit Provides Mental Health and Wellness Supports for COVID-19](#). July 21, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Numbers Add up to a Concern for First Nations Population](#). July 20, 2021.
- [Feeling Anxious about Getting Back to "Normal"? Navigating BC's Restart Plan](#). July 14, 2021.
- [Two Doses Are the Number One Way to Beat COVID-19](#). June 24, 2021
- [Vaccine Hot Topics: Myocarditis, Pericarditis and the COVID-19 Vaccines](#). June 16, 2021.
- [Travel Restrictions Lifted As BC Restart Plan Moves to Step 2](#). June 14, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth 12 to 17](#). June 9, 2021
- [Vaccines and Vigilance Key to Putting the Pandemic behind Us](#). June 2, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccinations Now Available to Youth Age 12 and Over](#). May 20, 2021
- [Second-Dose Vaccination Clinics Are Rolling Out: Can We Return to "Normal" Soon?](#) May 14, 2021.
- [Pregnant Women Prioritized for the COVID-19 Vaccination](#). May 11, 2021.
- [Joint Statement on Misleading COVID-19 Information](#). May 6, 2021.
- [The Second COVID-19 Vaccine Dose: Why We All Need to Get It, and What to Expect](#). May 5, 2021.
- [Vaccinated Mothers Can Transfer Antibodies to Their Babies to Protect Them from COVID-19](#). April 27, 2021.
- [BC Heightens Restrictions to Combat COVID-19 Spread](#). April 21, 2021.
- [Why We Must Keep Up Protective Measures Even after Getting Vaccinated](#). April 16, 2021.
- [Indigenous People Are a High Priority to Receive COVID-19 Vaccinations](#). April 15, 2021.
- [Draw on Culture, Community and Resilience to Stay Safe Against COVID-19 Variants and Rising Cases](#). April 12.
- [BC First Nations Are a High Priority to Receive COVID-19 Vaccines](#). April 9, 2021.
- [The Mental Health Pandemic within the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). April 8, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Now Open to All Indigenous People 18+](#). March 31, 2021.

- [First Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Complete in All BC First Nations Communities](#). March 31, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Testing](#). March 22, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellness](#). March 22, 2021.
- [Who Are You Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine for?](#) March 15, 2021.
- [Suicide: Responding and Keeping People Safe](#). March 10, 2021.
- [FNHA Podcast: Doctor Talks Vaccine Acceptance](#). March 10, 2021.
- [Evolving Vaccination Plans Is Science in Action: Dr. Bonnie Henry](#). March 10, 2021.
- [VaxChamps Share Their Reasons for Getting COVID-19 Vaccines](#). March 2, 2021.
- [Why We Need to Follow Public Health Guidelines Even after Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine](#). February 22, 2021.
- [Dr. Nadine Caron on COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#). February 19, 2021.
- [BC First Nations Communities Accepting Vaccines with Open Arms, Rolled-Up Sleeves](#). February 18, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellness](#). February 18, 2021.

For more latest news visit <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events>

## FNHA Response

### Working with First Nations

The FNHA is working in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure communities' needs are met, including:

- Maintaining essential services to support First Nations communities during this pandemic.
- Providing COVID-19 funding resources and wrap around supports including for medical transportation, self-isolation and quarantine. See the [FNHA Community Support Guide](#) for more information. Support requests can be sent to [COVID19needs@fnha.ca](mailto:COVID19needs@fnha.ca)
- Supporting First Nations communities in refreshing their Pandemic Plans
- FNHA continues to maintain operations team availability to respond to COVID-19 support requests through the weekends during business hours.
- Launching virtual care services including First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day and First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service
- Site selection, training and deployment of Point of Care Testing for COVID-19 is underway.

### Working with Partners

The FNHA is continuing to work with our provincial and federal partners towards aligning response efforts in support of First Nations communities and people living away from home across the province. This includes:

- Maintaining regular communication and updates with Regional Health Authorities, Emergency Management of BC, Ministry of Health, First Nations Leadership Council, and Indigenous Services Canada to proactively identify needs and address issues Supporting planning at both the provincial and regional level for the Rural, Remote and Indigenous Framework,
- FNHA is in discussions federally and provincially to support BC Restart including reopening of public buildings, and return to work and business operations for facilities where safe and appropriate.

### Vaccinations

- The FNHA is working hard with our partners and First Nations communities to support vaccine distribution and planning and to prioritize available doses for First Nations communities
- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination with the first doses having arrived on December 29, 2020.

### Personal Protective Equipment

- The FNHA continues to work with Federal and Provincial partners to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care staff and first responders in all communities.
- First Nations communities requiring personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 emergency can send their requests to [COVID19needs@fnha.ca](mailto:COVID19needs@fnha.ca).
- Additional details in the FNHA Guide: Accessing Personal Protective Equipment for First Nations Communities: <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Accessing-Personal-Protective-Equipment-for-First-Nations-Communities.pdf>