



**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)  
FNHA Public Health Response  
Community Situation Report  
September 28, 2020**

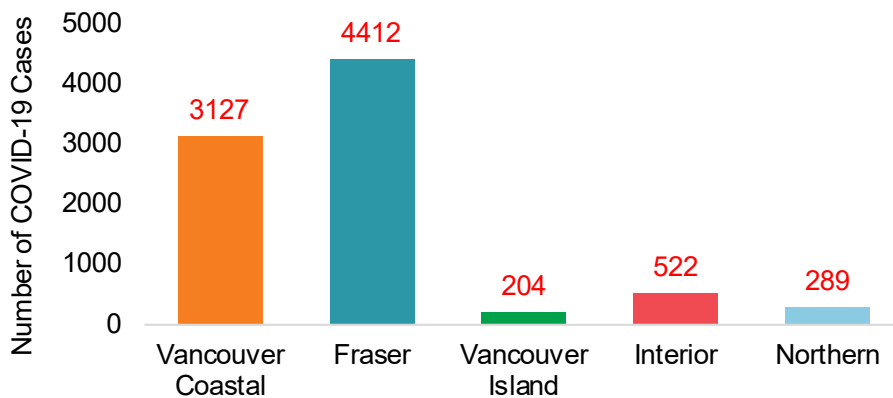
**Note: Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.**

**COVID-19 Updates**

**Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of September 25, 2020 at 3:00pm:**

There have been a total of 8,641 confirmed cases in BC, and 230 deaths. As of September 25, there were 1,349 active cases in the province, 62 people were hospitalized and of those, 19 people were in ICU. There are 3,533 people under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 7,036 (81.4%) patients have fully recovered.

Regional breakdown of total number of COVID-19 cases in BC



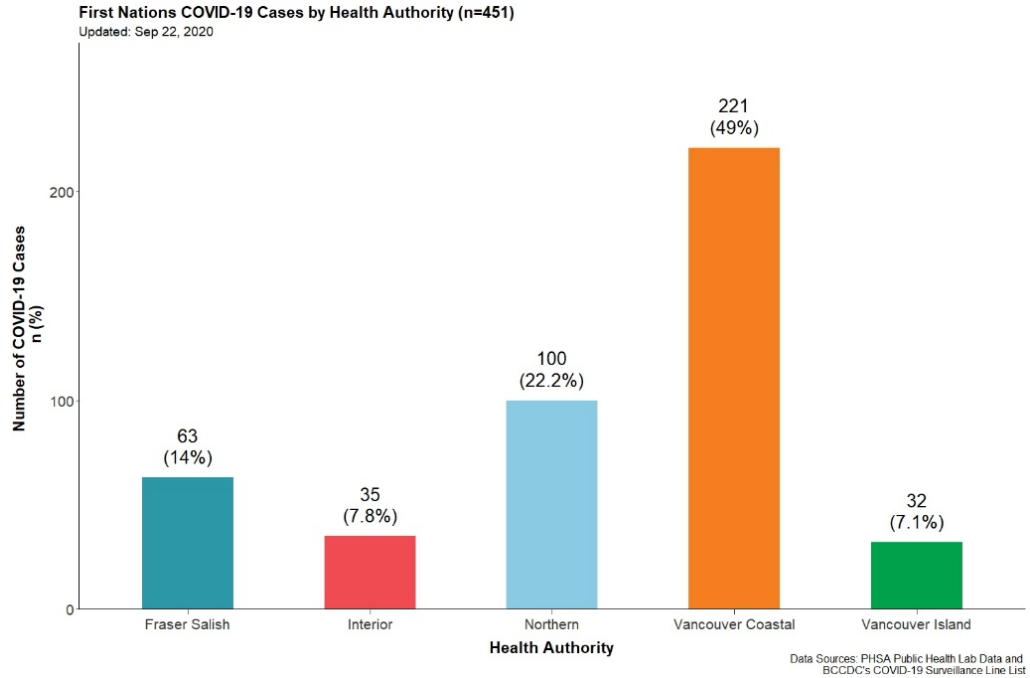
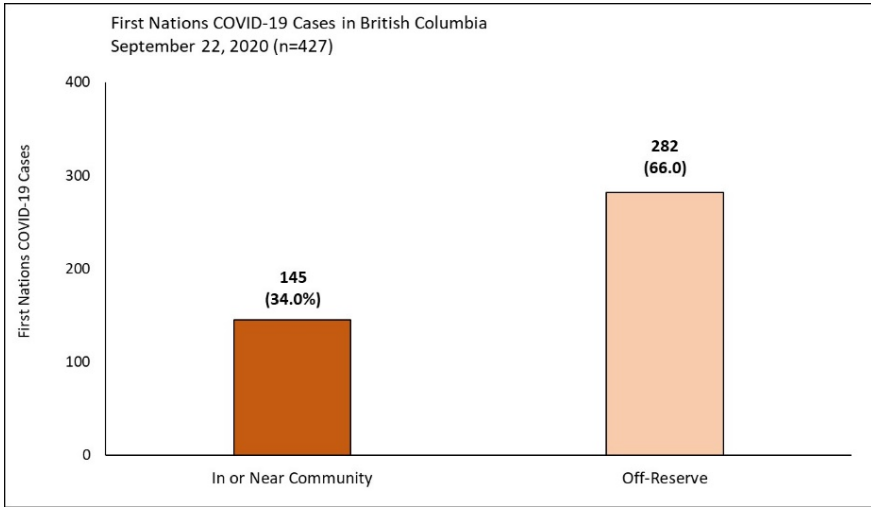
**Active Outbreaks:**

- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 10 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 4 outbreaks
- Community outbreaks:
  - Tla'amin: As of September 22, there were 18 active cases in or near community in Tla'amin.
  - Nak'azdli Whut'en: As of September 22, there were 13 active cases in or near community.
  - Witset: Data are being processed.
  - There are currently 33 active cases in Vancouver Centre North which contains the Downtown East Side.

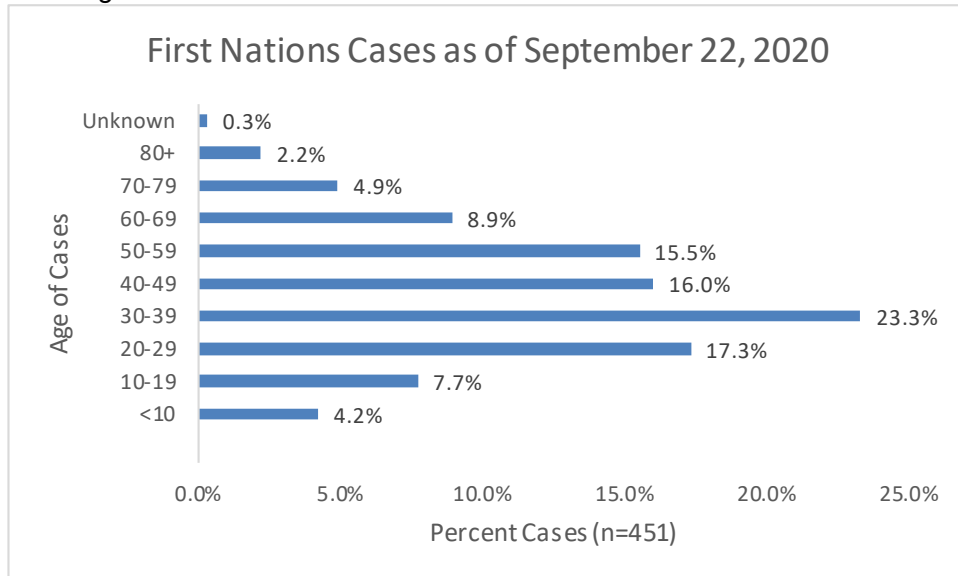
**First Nations COVID-19 Cases:**

The total number of First Nations COVID-19 lab confirmed cases **451** and **185 active cases** in BC, 49 of the active cases were in or near community as of **September 22, 2020**. Most of the lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 among First Nations in BC have now recovered. There have been a total of **49 (11%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020.

**Note:** Analyses for In or Near Community only includes lab confirmed cases, **10** additional epi-linked cases, and 1 additional case tested outside of BC are included in the cases by Health Authority.



The majority (**68.5%**) of cases among First Nations have occurred in those under age 50.

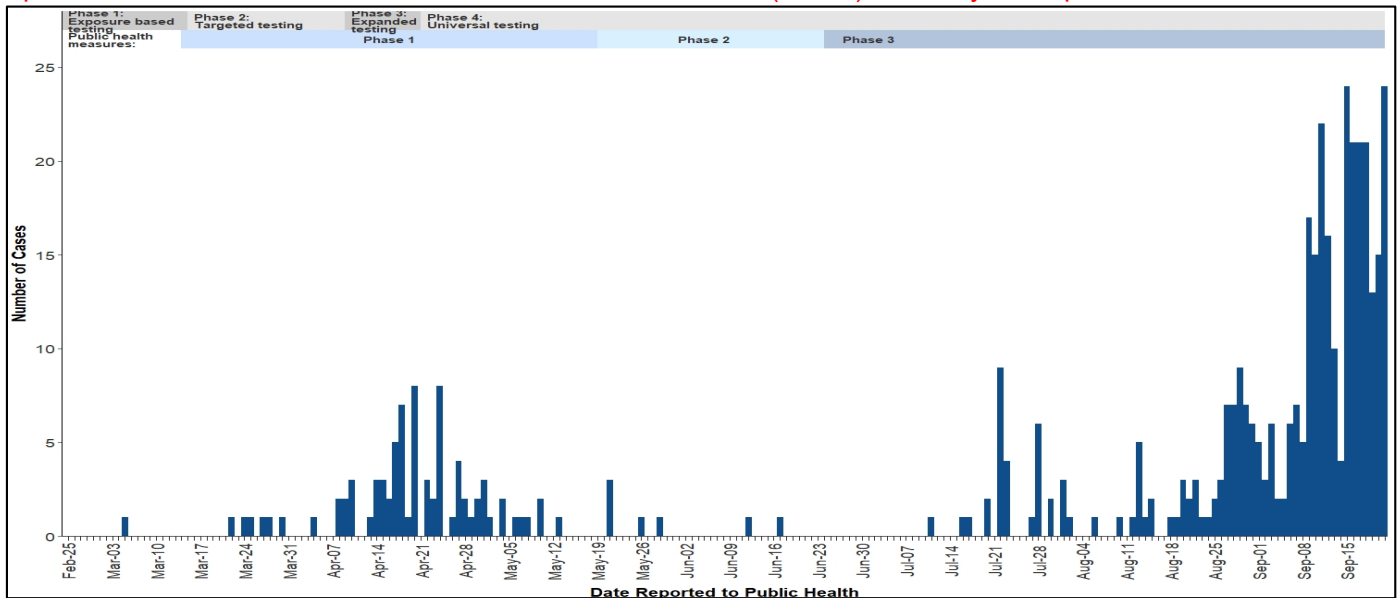


Active cases by Health Authority:

- 29 in Fraser Salish
- 15 in Interior
- 28 in Northern
- 114 in Vancouver Coastal
- Less than 5 on Vancouver Island

The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was 3.03% as of September 22, 2020. The rate of positive cases was 278 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 163 per 100,000 people. Until recently the rate for First Nations has been similar to other residents, this has only changed with the increase in cases in recent weeks.

**Epidemic curve for lab confirmed First Nations COVID-19 cases (n=445), February 25-September 22, 2020**



The epidemic curve shows the number of lab confirmed cases reported each day throughout the epidemic. Despite small outbreaks early in the pandemic, relatively few cases were reported on a daily basis, with periods spanning days or weeks where zero new cases were reported. Since approximately August 18 there has been an increasing number of daily cases with no days where zero new cases were reported.

Total tests completed as of September 22, 2020:

- 13,649 in all BC
  - 2,240 in Fraser Salish
  - 2,2364 in Interior
  - 2,557 on Vancouver Island
  - 3,131 in Norther
  - 3,333 in Vancouver Coastal

**On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of September 23, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:**

- 631 confirmed positive COVID-19
  - 121 active cases
  - 52 hospitalizations
  - 499 recovered cases
  - 11 deaths
- Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 137
  - Alberta: 274
  - Saskatchewan: 96
  - Manitoba: 8
  - Ontario: 69
  - Quebec: 47

**First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (September 17, 2020):**

- Band Office Closure – 145 (3 updates)
  - 590 Bridge River
  - 689 Little Shuswap Lake
  - 690 Neskonlith
- Band Office Reopening – (0 updates)
- Tribal Council Office Closure – 16 (0 updates)
- Community Closure – 113 (1 update)
  - 539 Nuxalk Nation (f. Bella Coola)
- Community Closure Over – (0 update)
- State of Local Emergency Declared – 65 (1 update)
  - 554 Tla'amin Nation (f. Sliammon)
- State of Local Emergency Rescinded – (0 update)
- EOC Activations – 120 (0 update)
- EOC Closed – (0 update)

## FNHA Response

- FNHA is on Week 26 of Level 3 Emergency Response, which means that FNHA spends 80% on COVID-19 and 20% on FNHA operations.
- Compounding the COVID-19 response is the increase in overdose deaths and re-emergence of flooding and forest fires that are affecting our First Nations communities.

### Working with Partners:

- Maintaining communications and regular telephone updates with the Regional Health Authorities, Emergency Management of BC, Ministry of Health, First Nations Leadership Council, and Indigenous Services Canada.
- FNHA continues to work with its partners, and First Nations communities to identify needs and develop plans 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.

### Working with First Nations:

- Continues to maintain essential services to support First Nations communities during this pandemic.
- Supporting First Nations communities in refreshing their Pandemic Plans, and provide COVID-19 resources for medical transportation, isolation and quarantine.
- “*First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day*” is up and running in all five regions, which is to close this gap by providing virtual access of physicians to First Nations communities.
- The First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service launched on August 25, 2020.
- **Distributed guidelines for eligible COVID-19 items for BC First Nations Communities, including details on reimbursement specific to Community COVID-19 Public Health Check-points, on September 25, 2020. (See updated COVID-19 Community Support Guide in FNHA Resources section below).**
- FNHA continues to maintain operations team availability to respond to Isolation requests through the weekends during business hours.
- Site selection, training and deployment of Point of Care Testing for COVID-19 is underway.
- Supporting First Nations communities with the re-opening of their health centres.
- FNHA and First Nations Leadership calls on March 26, April 9, April 23, May 7, May 27 and June 4.
- FNHA and First Nations Health Directors calls on April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15 and May 29.
- FNHA and First Nations Leadership and Health Directors calls on June 18, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, August 20 and September 17.

### 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.
- **PPE orders are received and shipped to all Regional Offices weekly basis.**
- **First Nations communities requiring personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 emergency can send their requests to the FNHA at the following email: [COVID19needs@fnha.ca](mailto:COVID19needs@fnha.ca). Please refer to 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>**

## FNHA Resources

The FNHA website has been updated and has been divided into three sections: Community Leaders, Health Professionals and Public. <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus>.

The COVID-19 Community Support Guide includes guidelines for eligible COVID-19 items for BC First Nations Communities: <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-BC-First-Nations-Community-Guide-for-Additional-Supports-Needed.pdf>.

**See Appendix “A” for full list of COVID Resources.**

## APPENDIX “A” COVID-19 – What You Need to Know

### FNHA APP:

<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-launches-mobile-app>. FNHA is here for you when you need us, putting helpful information directly into your hands. You can download the FNHA Mobile App today from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. View the Frequently Asked Questions to find out more, or visit [fnha.ca/app](https://www.fnha.ca/app).

### What are the symptoms?

- Self-Assessment Tool: Are you worried about your symptoms? Visit the Self-Assessment Tool from the BC Provincial Government. <https://bc.thrive.health/>

### Better health through promotion protection and prevention. <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Includes: COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, COVID-19 for the Public, COVID-19 data, COVID-19 exposures, COVID-19 for health professionals,

### Public Health Notices:

- COVID-19 Alert – Northwest BC. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-alert-northwest-bc>
- Expanded Prior Approval Coverage for Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/expanded-prior-approval-coverage-for-indian-residential-school-resolution-health-support-program>
- FNHA, FNHC, FNHDA Issue Statement Supporting Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond’s Investigation into Systemic Racism. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-fnhc-fnhda-issue-statement-supporting-mary-ellen-turpel-lafonds-investigation-into-systemic-racism>
- COVID-19 Pandemic Sparks Surge in Overdose Deaths this Year. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-pandemic-sparks-surge-in-overdose-deaths-this-year>
- Phase Three Means More Reopening, Ongoing Caution. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/phase-three-means-more-reopening-ongoing-caution>
- Widespread Racism Requires System-Wide Response: First Nations Health Authority <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/widespread-racism-requires-system-wide-response-first-nations-health-authority>
- Update on COVID-19 Testing Protocols. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/update-on-covid-19-testing-protocols>
- Safety First: Let’s protect our children from ingesting hand sanitizer. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/safety-first-lets-protect-our-children-from-ingesting-hand-sanitizer>
- First Nations Health Authorities Tell Commons Committee They Need More PPE, <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authorities-tell-commons-committee-they-need-more-ppe>
- First Nations Health Authority and Canadian Red Cross Announce Partnership for Disaster Response. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authority-and-canadian-red-cross-announce-partnership-for-disaster-response>
- First Nations Health Authority Issues Guidance on Notification of COVID-19 Cases. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authority-issues-guidance-on-notification-of-covid-19-cases>
- COVID-19 Guide to Medical Transportation Benefits for Self-Isolation. <https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/health-benefits-news/covid-19-guide-to-medical-transportation-benefits-for-self-isolation>
- Public health processes and the role of communities during COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/public-health-processes-and-the-role-of-communities-during-covid-19>
- First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day. <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-doctor-of-the-day>
- Article: Need to see a doctor? Introducing the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/need-to-see-a-doctor-introducing-the-first-nations-virtual-doctor-of-the-day>
- Fact Sheet: Introducing the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-First-Nations-Virtual-Doctor-of-the-Day-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- Article: When staying home is not safe: Domestic violence may increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-staying-home-is-not-safe>
- Article: COVID-19 - Smoking and Vaping: What’s the Risk? <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-smoking-and-vaping-whats-the-risk>
- Article and Workbook: Advance Care Planning for First Nations People <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/your-care-your-choices>

## Protective Factors:

- FNHA ships over 150,000 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across the province. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-ships-over-150-000-pieces-of-personal-protective-equipment-across-the-province>
- When You're in Recovery and a Pandemic Hits. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-youre-in-recovery-and-a-pandemic-hits>
- Video: Interview with Dr. Evan Adams, FNHA Chief Medical Officer on protecting you, your loved ones and community from COVID-19. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVLYraZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMukCL2KEQtOr\\_6pzFu8jJOWX](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVLYraZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMukCL2KEQtOr_6pzFu8jJOWX)
- Article and Fact Sheet: Homemade Face Masks <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/homemade-face-masks>
- Poster: Physical Distancing Do's and Don'ts <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Physical-Distancing-Dos-and-Donts-Poster.pdf>
- Poster: Prevent COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) by Cleaning your Phone <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Prevent-COVID-19-by-Cleaning-Your-Phone.pdf>
- Poster: How Physical Distancing Works <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-How-Physical-Distancing-Works-Poster.pdf>
- Poster: "Please do not enter our home for the protection of the people who live here." <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Do-Not-Enter-Home-Sign.pdf>

## Mental Health and Holistic Wellness

- The First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service: <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-substance-use-and-psychiatry-service>
- Good Medicine: Wellness Champion Megan Metz draws on Haisla culture to support youth mental health and wellness <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-wellness-champion-megan-metz-draws-on-haisla-culture-to-support-youth-mental-health-and-wellness>
- FNHA Tackles BC's Dual Public Health Crises with Overdose Prevention Campaign and New Virtual Health Service. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-tackles-bcs-dual-public-health-crises-with-overdose-prevention-campaign-and-new-virtual-health-service>
- Welcome to the FNHA 30x30 Active Challenge! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/welcome-to-the-fnha-30x30-active-challenge>
- Honouring our Elders Today and Every Day. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/honouring-our-elders-today-and-every-day>
- Introducing the new Good Medicine page! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/introducing-the-new-good-medicine-page>
- Pandemic Side Effect: Media Spotlight on FNHA's Doctors. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/pandemic-side-effect-media-spotlight-on-fnhas-doctors>
- Accessing contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted infection counselling and services during COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/accessing-contraception-abortion-and-sexually-transmitted-infection-counselling-and-services-during-covid-19>
- First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day Service Provides Culturally-Safe Primary Care for First Nations People in BC. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-virtual-doctor-of-the-day-service-provides-culturally-safe-primary-care-for-first-nations-people-in-bc>
- Staying strong during tough times with the "medicine of resilience". <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-strong-during-tough-times-with-the-medicine-of-resilience>
- Taking care of our sexual health during the pandemic. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/taking-care-of-our-sexual-health-during-the-pandemic>
- Good Medicine: Show us your homemade / handmade face masks! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-show-us-your-homemade-handmade-face-masks>
- Staying connected if your loved one is hospitalized due to COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-connected-if-your-loved-one-is-hospitalized-due-to-covid-19>
- Practise Lateral Kindness to Help Reduce Stigma and Fear of COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/practise-lateral-kindness-to-help-reduce-stigma-and-fear-of-covid-19>
- The Power of Voice to Advance Culturally Safe Health Care for First Nations Communities. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/the-power-of-voice-to-advance-culturally-safe-health-care-for-first-nations-communities>
- Enjoy the hot weather safely while practising physical distancing! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/enjoy-the-hot-weather-safely-while-practising-physical-distancing>
- Should You Take Your Child to the Doctor During COVID-19? <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/should-you-take-your-child-to-the-doctor-during-covid-19>



- Your Health and Wellness Matter. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/your-health-and-wellness-matter>
- Head Start Programs Adapt in Laxgalts'ap and Gitanmaax. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/head-start-programs-adapt-in-laxgaltsap-and-gitanmaax>
- Young Wisdom on Mental Health and Wellness. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/young-wisdom-on-mental-health-and-wellness>
- Ten Tips for Sleeping Well During Troubled Times. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/ten-tips-for-sleeping-well-during-troubled-times>
- Resource List: Mental Health and Cultural Supports Available During the COVID-19 Pandemic <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Mental-Health-and-Cultural-Supports.pdf>
- Fact Sheet: Providing Activities for Children during a time of Crisis <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/providing-activities-for-children-during-a-time-of-crisis>
- Article: Impacts of the Pandemic on Mental Health and Wellness <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/impacts-of-the-pandemic-on-mental-health-and-wellness>
- Article: Good Medicine: Keeping Active at Home <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-keeping-active-at-home>
- Article: How to Host a Virtual Social Gathering during the Pandemic <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/how-to-host-a-virtual-social-gathering-during-the-pandemic-staying-connected-while-practising-physical-distancing>
- Article: Remember that Food is Medicine <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/remember-that-food-is-medicine>

#### **Harm Reduction:**

- Article: Practising Harm Reduction during COVID-19 <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/practising-harm-reduction-during-covid-19>
- Fact Sheet (BC Centre for Disease Control): COVID-19 Harm Reduction and Overdose Response <http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19-harm-reduction.pdf>

#### **FNHA Videos:**

- [How has COVID-19 affected people who use substances?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCfOmg) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCfOmg>
- (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 3.49 mins)  
[Stay Connected](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJHcdX0&feature=youtu.be) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJHcdX0&feature=youtu.be> (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 30 seconds)
- [Keep Your Bubble Small](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7NFeuxw0uc&feature=youtu.be) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7NFeuxw0uc&feature=youtu.be> (Dr. Shannon McDonald, August 28, 1.31 mins)  
[An Update on COVID-19](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58CjhzT6fOU&feature=youtu.be) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58CjhzT6fOU&feature=youtu.be> (Dr. Shannon McDonald, August 28, 1.54 mins)

#### **Podcasts:**

We have recorded a number of podcasts to help raise awareness of various pandemic topics. Listen to the podcasts at <https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority>

- Rick Milone and Sonia Isaac-Mann COVID-19 Podcast. <https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority/rick-milone-and-sonia-isaac-mann-covid-19-podcast>
- Guidance for Community Restart. <https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority/fnha-richard-jock-covid-19-update-podcast>

#### **Additional Resources:**

- For information for Community Leaders, including regular Situation Report updates and funding guides, visit: COVID-19 Information for Community Leaders <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/community-leaders>
- **FNHA COVID-19 Community Support Guide:** <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-BC-First-Nations-Community-Guide-for-Additional-Supports-Needed.pdf>.