



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

COVID-19: BC First Nations Community Guide for Additional Supports Needed

1. FUNDING AND OTHER SUPPORTS FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

On March 11, 2020, the Government of Canada announced more than \$1 billion dollars for enhanced public health measures to ensure the health and safety of Canadians.

To support the immediate response to the outbreak, this funding includes \$100 million to support federal public health measures such as enhanced surveillance, increased testing at the National Microbiology Laboratory, and ongoing support for preparedness in First Nations and Inuit communities.

As such the FNHA will be supporting communities to identify their associated COVID-19 costs. The mechanism for funding is still being determined. FNHA will support First Nations to access resources as needed including through the following methods:

- Coordinate service delivery and supports on behalf of communities
- Purchasing activity to procure items needed for COVID-19 response as collectively we have purchasing power with medical equipment suppliers through the provincial process

2. HOW CAN BC FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

It is important for all communities to be prepared by updating their pandemic plans. Communities will be able access additional resources in order to:

- Respond to critical requirements to activate their pandemic plans including items such as:
 - E-health and connectivity requirements
 - Incremental funding required for continuity of service delivery funded through contribution agreements
 - Reimbursement of costs incurred related to COVID-19 response
 - Other requests for COVID-19 related funding
- Support an effective allocation of the scarce public health and primary health care capacity to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Align with scientific evidence as determined by a medical officer of health.
- Be deployed in the short-term to address immediate needs.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-related primary health care activities, and possible transfer of individuals with respiratory symptoms can be requested from FNHA if they are not accessible through regular procurement channels, or provincial channels (please see Annex A for PPE request form and process). We recognize that each community's needs are different, and we will work with our system partners to ensure that the personal protective equipment needs are met, while facilitating fair and timely distribution of supplies across communities and the health system.

Recognizing the urgency of PPE needs it is important to note that PPE request forms may come in separately from requests for other expenses listed below.

Submit to: COVID19needs@fnha.ca

Communities should ensure that they track all expenses specific to their COVID-19 response. Please keep a list of planned or incurred expenses that include information related to:

- Cost (with receipt or invoice);
- Item required or purchased;
- Brief description of item and the essential function it has for your community to be able to operationalize your plan; to support your community in reducing the spread of COVID-19; and/or to respond to cases in your community.

See Annex B for a template to identify and/or track associated needs and costs planned or incurred by your community due to COVID-19.

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Eligible expenses will include:

- Community or service provider level infection prevention and control (soap, sanitizers, disinfectants, personal clinical supplies, community training, etc.);
- Medical Transportation: Travel (air, ground and water) / Meals and accommodations (note high-risk individuals eligible for private ground transportation, such as taxi, and private accommodations, such as hotel);
- Emergency Transportation - Additional escorts – Travel (air, ground and water) meals and accommodations (note high-risk individuals eligible for private ground transportation, such as taxi, and private accommodations, such as hotel);
- Health human resources surge capacity – primary care nurses and public health nurses needed to address outbreaks in communities, or other health providers such as paramedics and community workers;
- Mental health services to support communities, particularly when they are facing affected individuals;
- Adaptation of community space for surge capacity access to medical care or for self-isolation, quarantine and/or other related purposes;
- Storage costs of supplies; and
- Other types of expenses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Note that other additional non-health related expenses may be covered through the Emergency Management Assistance Program administered by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). COVID-19 related enquiries can be directed to aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca or 604-209-9709. The ISC BC Region, Emergency Management Duty Officer can also be reached at bcaandc.do@canada.ca

ANNEX A: Personal Protective Equipment Request Process and Form

Please submit to: COVID19needs@fnha.ca

Process and Considerations for obtaining additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for BC First Nations Communities

1. Community determines a need for additional PPE to support additional primary health care activities, and possible transfer of individuals with respiratory symptoms, during COVID-19.
2. Community approaches regular supplier or additional identified suppliers (see below). If additional supply can be obtained from suppliers, please order directly from them, and refer to direction from FNHA/ISC on reimbursement of COVID-19 related expenses.
3. If supplies cannot be obtained, please complete request below and send to COVID19needs@fnha.ca
4. Supplies should be ordered to meet the NEEDS for 1-2 WEEKS.
5. FNHA will receive the request from the community and connect with requester if needed to clarify supply request, according to parameters below.
 - a. If the request is from a facility that does not provide primary care, FNHA will follow up to determine if the facility provides an essential service (such as first response services, and/or patient transfer) and will assist in calculating PPE.
 - b. Region simultaneously submits request to the province, Supplies will be distributed weekly to Communities based on requests received and supplies provided.
6. There are worldwide shortages in the supply chain, and while best efforts will be made to provide all PPE requested, there may be situations in which all PPE requested cannot be immediately delivered.

Information Required for Request:

Community Name:	Shipping Address
Health Facility Name(s):	
Community Population:	
Name:	
Email:	
Phone number:	
Number of FTE of staff providing primary care/ first responder services:	
RN ___	MD ___
LPN ___	NP ___
First Responders ___	RNc ___
Level of health services provided by the organization making the request:	
Primary Care	
Public Health	
Other (describe)	
Is your community reviewing possible health centre closures?	
If yes, what are being considered essential services?	

Confirmation:			
Requester has read and agrees to store PPE in accordance to the PPE storage guidelines (attached). This includes ensuring storage is locked and controlled to prevent unauthorized use <input type="checkbox"/>			
Requester has reviewed the Adapted WHO rational use of PPE Guidelines (attached) and confirms that procedures are in place to support staff to use PPE in accordance with these <input type="checkbox"/>			
Requester confirms that staff who will providing aerosolising procedures/ using N95 masks are fit-tested, per WorksafeBC regulations (*within last 2 years*) <input type="checkbox"/>			
ORDER SUPPLIES FOR 1-2 WEEKS NEEDS			
N95 masks only used for staff performing aerosolising procedures (see below)			
Item	# of units/ pairs requested	Item	# of units/ pairs requested
Gowns – Small/ Medium		Face Shields	
Gowns – Large (Universal)		Procedure Masks	
Gowns – X-Large		N95 Respirator Model 1860	
Gowns – XX-Large		N95 Respirator Model 1860S	
Pairs of Gloves – Small		N95 Respirator Model 1870+ Aura	
Pairs of Gloves – Medium		Alcohol Based Hand Rub	
Pairs of Gloves – Large			
Pairs of Gloves – X-Large			

*List of Aerosol generating procedures:

Autopsies involving respiratory tissues
CPR with Bag valve mask ventilation
Bronchoscopy and bronchoalveolar lavage
Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP)
Intubation and extubation procedures
Nasopharyngeal aspirates, washes, and scoping*
Nebulized therapy
Open airway suctioning
Sputum Induction

Additional Suppliers who may have PPE supplies:

1. Bowers Medical is supporting Doctor's offices in BC for N95, masks (non-priMED) and other PPE. contact information is: TracyStoroshenko@bowersmedical.com and brittanyb@bowersmedical.com
2. The Stevens Company already supports much of the medical clinic business. Stevens contact information is: jordan.ortillan@stevens.ca
3. Medline has a division that deals exclusively with primary care (Physician's offices). They are working through the PPE supply challenges with their customer base. Please contact Brian Lieffers, Western Region Sales Director at (236) 330-6396 or blieffers@medimart.com

Setting	Target Personnel to Patient	Activity	Personal Protective Equipment required
Community Health Centers or Home care workers	Healthcare workers	Physical examination of patient with respiratory symptoms	Procedure mask Isolation Gown Nitrile Gloves Disposable eye protection
	Healthcare workers	Physical examination of patient without respiratory symptoms	PPE according to point of care risk assessment (PCRA) and routine precautions (i.e. gloves, isolation gowns)
	Healthcare workers	Aerosol-generating procedures performed on confirmed or presumptive positive COVID-19 patients.	N95 medical mask Isolation Gown Nitrile Gloves Disposable eye protection
	Patients with respiratory symptoms	Any	Provide procedure mask if tolerated
	Patients without respiratory symptoms	Any	No PPE required
	Patient support	Entering the room of COVID-19 patients.	Procedure mask
	Cleaners	After and between consultations with patients with respiratory symptoms	Nitrile Gloves Disposable eye protection Heavy duty gloves Eye protection (if risk of splash from contaminated material or chemicals) ⁱ Boots or closed work shoes
	Receptionist	Preliminary screening not involving direct contact	Maintain spatial distance of at least 2 meters
	Patients with respiratory symptoms	Any	Maintain spatial distance of at least 2 meters. Provide patient with procedure mask if tolerated by patient
	Patients without respiratory symptoms	Any	No PPE required
First Responders	First Responders to patient with respiratory symptoms	Procedure mask Isolation Gown Nitrile Gloves Disposable eye protection	
Patient Transportation			

	Driver with no direct contact with Patient but in the same compartment	Procedure mask
	Patient being transported with Respiratory symptoms/ suspected/ confirmed COVID-19	Procedure mask

^a In addition to using the appropriate PPE, frequent hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene should always be performed. PPE should be discarded in an appropriate waste container after use, and hand hygiene should be performed before putting on and after taking off PPE

^b The number of visitors should be restricted. If visitors must enter a COVID-19 patient's room, they should be provided with clear instruction about how to put on and remove PPE and about performing hand hygiene before putting on and after removing PPE; this should be supervised by healthcare worker.



Storage of Personal Protective Equipment

The storage area must be secured to ensure good stewardship of resources and prevent access by unauthorized persons. The storage area must be protected from damage by the elements. It must be neat, clean and free from fire hazards, dampness, rodents and insects.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies must be stored in ideal storage conditions which include:

- Controlled temperature in the range of 15° to 30° C;
- Relative humidity between 30% and 50%;
- Equipment must be stored at least 15 cm (6 inches) off the floor;
- Equipment must not be piled closer than 3ft. (91 cm or 36 inches) to any heat source;
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers should be kept away from fire or flame, including electrical outlets.

NOTE

Recommended temperatures could vary if no temperature sensitive material is stored (e.g., gowns, face shields).

Special Requirements for Consideration:

- The building and all service components must be kept in good operating conditions to maintain satisfactory storage conditions;
- The storage area must be inspected periodically for any evidence of leakage, ground seepage, insect or rodent infestation, unauthorized removal of supplies and deterioration of any of the supplies;
- The storage area must be secured by lock and key. Security measures must be taken for windows, if any. The key must be kept in the possession of authorized personnel only;
- Rotate supplies, based on expiry dates, on a routine basis to prevent unnecessary wastage.

ANNEX B: TEMPLATE TO IDENTIFY HEALTH NEEDS FOR COVID-19

Please submit to: COVID19needs@fnha.ca

COVID-19 Template for Additional Supports Needed

Name of Community or Health Service Organization (list communities served): _____

Community lead/contact (including email and phone number): _____

Date of Submission: _____

Estimates/Invoices/Receipts Attached for items and/or services purchased (please list below and attach photocopies of invoices with your funding request) or submit a table of funding estimates

- Invoice/receipt 1...
- Invoice/receipt 2...
- Invoice/receipt 3...

Template example

Item/service Purchased	Date of purchase	Cost of purchase	Reason for Request
Additional bed linens	March 16, 2020	\$100.00	Additional bed linens to support infection prevention control measures in communities where self-isolation of members occurring in separate facility from house
Cell phone	March 15, 2020	\$75.00	Cell phone required for additional public health nurses staffed in community

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