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.

*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**

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

*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.”

*Geographical Information (RHA) 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.

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**First Nations COVID-19 Cases in British Columbia**

*August 21, 2021 (n=8,066)*

- **3,375 (41.8%)** In or Near Community
- **n=3253**
- **4,522 (56.1%)** Off-Reserve
- **n=4328**

*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), surveillance date (line) and health authority, British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – August 21, 2021 (Week-33, 2021*) (n=8,066)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Episode</th>
<th>Pre-phase</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3a</th>
<th>Phase 3b</th>
<th>Phase 3c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dates</td>
<td>Feb 23-Mar 13</td>
<td>Mar 14-May 16</td>
<td>May 17-Jun 23</td>
<td>Jun 24-Sep 12</td>
<td>Sep 13-Nov 9</td>
<td>Nov 10-Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case counts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>7257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.
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

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

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

- Fraser: 88,610 (55.8%)
- Interior: 18,697 (11.8%)
- Northern: 8,264 (5.2%)
- Vancouver Coastal: 37,264 (23.4%)
- Vancouver Island: 5,853 (3.7%)

*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)  
- Band Offices Inaccessible: 82 (+2)  
- Security Checkpoints: 70 (+1)  
- 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](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](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](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**
• Suicide: Responding and Keeping People Safe. March 10, 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.

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
- 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.