Purpose

The purpose of this information note is to provide a daily situational overview of the FNHA COVID-19 response activities that are being carried out by the Public Health Response Team and supporting executive leadership.

Background

On March 17, 2020, British Columbia’s (BC) Provincial Health Officer (PHO) declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 18, 2020, BC’s Public Safety Minister also declared a provincial state of emergency, in an effort to allow the government to support the PHO and Ministry of Health in their response. The details on the Provincial and Public Health Emergencies/Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of August 7, 2020 at 3:00pm

There are 3,641 confirmed cases in BC, and a total of 195 deaths. Of these, 50 cases and 1 death were confirmed as of July 31st. The regional breakdown is as follows:

- Fraser: 2,069
- Vancouver Coastal: 1,167
- Interior: 389
- Vancouver Island: 147
- Northern: 93

As of August 7th, there were 386 active cases in the province, 11 people were hospitalized and of those, 4 people were in ICU. Of the total number of cases, 3,353 (85.2%) patients have fully recovered.

Active Outbreaks

- Long term care/assisted living centres/acute care units: 5 outbreaks

Community outbreaks:

- Haida Gwaii: 24 confirmed cases have been recorded in Haida Gwaii, of these 2 new cases were confirmed as of Friday, August 7. Of these, 5 cases were considered active; no individuals were hospitalized or in ICU; 21 individuals have fully recovered; and, 13 individuals are in isolation.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases:

The total number of First Nations COVID-19 lab confirmed cases 121 in BC as of August 11, 2020. Most of the lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 among First Nations in BC have now recovered.

Note:

Analyses for In or Near Community only includes lab confirmed cases, 3 additional epi-linked cases, and 1 additional case tested outside of BC are included in the cases by Health Authority.
On First Nations reserves in provinces, as of **August 12th, 2020**, ISC is aware of:

- 425 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 34 hospitalizations
- 395 recovered cases
- 6 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 68
- Alberta: 160
- Saskatchewan: 92
- Ontario: 64
- Quebec: 41

**First Nations Community Statistics** from ISC (**August 13th, 2020**):

- **Band Office Closure** – 142
- **Band Office Reopening** (2 updates)
  - 539 Nuxalk Nation (f. Bella Coola)
  - 690 Neskonlith

- **TC Office Closure** - 16

- **State of Local Emergency Declared** – 64 (0 update)
- **State of Local Emergency Rescinded** (1 update)
  - 539 Nuxalk Nation (f. Bella Coola)

- **EOC Activations** – 120 (0 update)
- **EOC Closed** (1 update)
  - 690 Neskonlith

- **Community Closure** – 112 (1 update)
  - 581 Seabird Island
- **Community Closure Over** (1 update)
  - 539 Nuxalk Nation (f. Bella Coola)

- **Localized Flooding** – 17 (5 updates)
  - Removed 597 Penticton, 596 Osoyoos and 722 Ulkatcho
  - 543 Fort Nelson (summer rain event, not technically freshet)
  - 579 Leq’a:mel (evacuation alerts only)
FNHA Response:

- FNHA is on Week 19 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 re-emerging of the opioid overdoses and starting of flooding and forest fires that are affecting our First Nations communities.

Working with Partners:

- 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 implementation of the First Nations Virtual Psychiatry and Addictions Medicine program is currently underway with an anticipated soft launching on August 5, 2020.
- FNHA continues to maintain operations team availability to respond to Isolation requests through the week-ends 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 and July 30

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Working with Federal and Provincial partners to obtain PPE for health care staff and first responders in all communities:
  - The 1st Provincial delivery of PPE was received on March 27 and was shipped to Regional Offices on March 28.
  - The 2nd Provincial delivery of PPE was received on April 3 and shipped out to Regional Offices for April 6th week delivery. The 3rd Provincial delivery of PPE was received April 7th and sent out to Regional Offices on April 8th.
  - A Federal and 4th Provincial shipment of PPE arrived in Vancouver on April 15th and sent out to Regional Offices on April 20th.
  - 5th PPE order from Province received week of April 20 and shipped to the Regional offices on April 27th.
  - 6th PPE order from Province received April 29th will be repackaged and shipped to the Regional offices for Monday May 4th.
  - 7th Provincial PPE ordered and arrived in Regions May 8th and 8th Provincial PPE ordered and arrived in Regions May 19th.
  - 9th Provincial PPE ordered and was sent to Regions on May 26th.
  - 10th order of PPE arrived May 27 and was sent to Regions during the week of June 1st.
  - 11th order of PPE shipped directly from Provincial Health Services Authority to Regional offices of June 8th.
  - 12th order of PPE ordered and shipped the week of June 15th.
  - 13th order of PPE ordered and shipped the week of June 22-26 to the regions
  - June 29-July 3 – no shipments and inventory conducted in each region
  - 14th order of PPE has been ordered and shipped the week of July 6 – 10 to the regions
  - 15th order of PPE has been ordered and shipped the week July 13-17 to the regions
  - Weeks of July 20 to 31, the regions have sufficient stock for this week. PPE and Community Services COVID Supplies were shipped to Haidi Gwaii.
  - Week of August 3 – 7 PPE was received from PHSA and sent to the Regions.
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](https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus). See Appendix “A” for full list of COVID Resources. No New Resources.
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/](https://bc.thrive.health/)

Public Health Notices:
• 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](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authorities-tell-commons-committee-they-need-more-ppe)
• International Nurses’ Day: tips to celebrate nurses in your community. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/international-nurses-day-tips-to-celebrate-nurses-in-your-community](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/international-nurses-day-tips-to-celebrate-nurses-in-your-community)
• First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day. [https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-doctor-of-the-day]
• 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 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]
• 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=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQtOr_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]

Mental Health and Holistic Wellness
• Good Medicine: Wellness Champion Brenna Miller Helps Sto:Lo Youth Connect with their Strengths. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-breanna-miller-helps-youth-connect-with-their-strengths]
• Good Medicine: Wellness Champion Brenna Miller Helps Sto:Lo Youth Connect with their Strengths. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-breanna-miller-helps-youth-connect-with-their-strengths]
• BC First Nations Celebrate Culture and Wellness Online. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/bc-first-nations-celebrate-culture-and-wellness-online]
• Staying Strong & Healthy during this time: Join the “Tobacco Timeout Challenge”.  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-strong-and-healthy-during-this-time-join-the-tobacco-timeout-challenge
• Good Medicine: Let this be a season for First Nations youth and Elders to learn from each other.  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-let-this-be-a-season-for-first-nations-youth-and-elders-to-learn-from-each-other
• Father’s Day this year will look a little different from previous years, since we are all still physical distancing and being cautious.  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fathers-day-this-year-will-look-a-little-different-from-previous-years-since-we-are-still-physically-distancing-and-being-cautious
• Leadership Opportunity for BC First Nations Youth  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/leadership-opportunity-for-bc-first-nations-youth
• Good Medicine: Laughter! We all need some laughs right now.  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-laughter-we-all-need-some-laughs-right-now
• 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
• 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


• Video: Interview with Dr. Nel Wieman, FNHA Senior Medical Officer, focusing on mental wellness and COVID-19. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yd8ZNmF7ek&list=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQIOr_6pzFu8jOwX&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yd8ZNmF7ek&list=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQIOr_6pzFu8jOwX&index=2)


• Article: Remember that Food is Medicine [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/remember-that-food-is-medicine](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/remember-that-food-is-medicine)

Harm Reduction:


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](https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority)


- Richard Jock, Interim CEO | Topics: FNHA moves to Level 3 state of readiness | “What happens to communities happens to us” | First batch of personal protective equipment delivered to communities;

- Dr. Evan Adams, Chief Medical Officer | Topics: Why you won’t be learning who has COVID 19 in your community – and why that doesn’t matter | The role and value of testing | Physical distancing;

- Dr. Nel Wieman, Senior Medical Officer | Topics: Act like you already have the virus | Prevention tips | Cultural events | Mental health | Resources accessible at home | Coping exercise;

- Dr. Shannon McDonald, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Sonia Isaac-Mann, VP, Programs and Services | Topics: Latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak | Taking care of your family and community members | Finding trustworthy and up-to-date information;

- April MacNaughton, Director, Health Protection | Topics: COVID-19 and community emergency plans.

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](https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/community-leaders)