Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) FNHA Public Health Response Community Situation Report
December 31, 2020

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

COVID-19 Updates

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of December 30, 2020 at 5:15pm
There have been a total of 51,300 confirmed cases in BC, and 893 deaths. The regional breakdown, since the beginning of the pandemic, is as follows:

- Vancouver Coastal: 12,030
- Fraser: 32,471
- Vancouver Island: 917
- Interior: 3,806
- Northern: 1,974

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

As of December 30, there were 7,551 active cases in the province, 379 people were hospitalized, and of those, 77 people were in ICU. There are 9,320 people under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 41,681 (81%) patients have fully recovered.

Active Outbreaks:
- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 57 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 9 outbreaks

***A geographic distribution of COVID-19 by Local Health Area can be found here.***
First Nations COVID-19 Cases:
As of December 29, 2020, the total number of First Nations COVID-19 cases are 1,924. Out of these 1,924 cases, there are 1,867 lab diagnosed cases and 57 epi-linked cases. There are 411 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in BC, 182 of the active cases were in or near community as of December 29, 2020. As of December 29, 2020, 80.8% of the total COVID-19 cases among First Nations in BC have now recovered. Sadly, there have been total 24 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. There have been a total 213 (11.6%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. As of December 29, 2020, 43 (2.3%) First Nations cases are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19.

Regional Active cases and Testing data as of December 29, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Authority</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>77</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>411*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total persons tested</td>
<td>5,740</td>
<td>4,981</td>
<td>6,692</td>
<td>6,062</td>
<td>5,254</td>
<td>28,752**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Percentage Positivity* (%)</td>
<td>4.84%</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>8.47%</td>
<td>7.05%</td>
<td>2.66%</td>
<td>5.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Rate (Total tests per 100,000 First Nation Population)</td>
<td>30,558.7</td>
<td>19,210.4</td>
<td>21,046.2</td>
<td>38,332.5</td>
<td>18,428.7</td>
<td>24,070.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total number of cases (n=1,924) includes two COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=1,922) reported as BC residents.

**Geographical Information (RHAs) for 23 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available and these 23 people are tested Negative.
In or near Community analysis is not available for 1 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 December 29, 2020, there were 182 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.

The majority (71.8%) of cases among First Nations have occurred in those under age 50.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases as of December 29, 2020 (n=1,924)
The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was 5.33% as of December 29, 2020. The rate of positive cases was 1185.1 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 1005.6 per 100,000 people.

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episodic date (coloured bar)\(^a\), report date line) and health authority, British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – December 24, 2020 (Week-52\(^*\)) (n=1,754\(^*\))

\(^a\)Information about episode date is missing for two COVID-19 cases and epidemic curve includes 1,752 cases only.

\(^b\)Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (updated up to December 24, 2020).

This epidemiological curve represents the weekly cases reported among First Nations in the province of BC. The proportion of cases within each region is colour coded and the case counts each day are represented by the solid black line. Regions are represented by following coloured bars in the diagram: Fraser-Dark blue, Interior-Red, Northern-Light Blue, Vancouver Coastal-Orange, Vancouver Island-Green.

**On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of December 30, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:**

- 8,493 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 3,039 active cases
- 398 hospitalizations
- 5,373 recovered cases
- 81 deaths

**First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (December 10, 2020):**

- Band Office Closure – 145 (7 update)
- Band Office Reopening – (8 update)
- Tribal Council Office Closure – 17 (1 updates)
- Tribal Council Office Re-opening – (0 updates)
- Community Closure – 125 (17 updates)
- Community Closure Over – (19 update)

Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 635
- Alberta: 2,512
- Saskatchewan: 2,224
- Manitoba: 2,646
- Ontario: 238
- Quebec: 235
- Atlantic: 3
FNHA Response

- FNHA is on Week 39 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:
- 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.
- 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. 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 FNHA has published an updated Communicable Disease Emergency Response (CDER) plan template – a living document that is user friendly, easy to follow and adaptable to each community’s needs and strengths. https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/fnha-communicable-disease-emergency-response-plan.docx

FNHA’s Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE) team is available to support communities, including support updating/creating a Communicable Disease Emergency Response (CDER) plan, scenario/exercise discussions and full scale planning exercises. The CDE Management team can be reached via email: cdmgmt@fnha.ca.
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.

What are the symptoms?


Public Health Notices:
• Immunizations Keep Adults Healthy Too! A message from Dr. Helena Swinkels, Office of the Chief Medical Officer and Marion Guenther, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Immunizations, CDPPH office of the Chief Nursing Officer. https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/immunizations-keep-adults-healthy-too
• 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:
- 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=PLDKOtTMuk_CL2KEQ0r_6pzFu8JJoWx
- Article and Fact Sheet: Homemade Face Masks https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/homemade-face-masks

Mental Health and Holistic Wellness
• Article: Good Medicine: Keeping Active at Home [link]
• Article: How to Host a Virtual Social Gathering during the Pandemic [link]
• Article: Remember that Food is Medicine [link]

Harm Reduction:
• Article: Sober(er) for October: Getting Past Withdrawal. [link]
• Article: This Month, Let’s be “Sober(er) October”. [link]
• Article: Practising Harm Reduction during COVID-19 [link]
• Fact Sheet (BC Centre for Disease Control): COVID-19 Harm Reduction and Overdose Response [link]

FNHA Videos:
• Immunity for Your Community: The Flu Shot. [link]
• Using Compassion to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction [link]
• The Overall Wellness Impact of COVID-19 [link]
• Responding to Overdose with Compassion [link]
• Mental Health and COVID-19 [link]
• How has COVID-19 affected people who use substances? [link]
• Keep Your Bubble Small [link]
• An Update on COVID-19 [link]

Podcasts:
• We have recorded a number of podcasts to help raise awareness of various pandemic topics. Listen to the podcasts at [link]
• Rick Milone and Sonia Isaac-Mann COVID-19 Podcast. [link]
• Guidance for Community Restart. [link]