Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) FNHA Public Health Response Community Situation Report
February 16, 2021

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

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of February 12, 2021 at 4:35pm
Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 72,750 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,288 deaths from COVID-19. There are 4,347 active cases in the province, 226 people are hospitalized and, of those, 61 people are in intensive care (ICU). 7,035 people are under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 67,008 (92%) people have fully recovered.

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

Active Outbreaks (as of February 12, 2021)
- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 15 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 6 outbreaks

Vaccine Distribution
- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination and the first doses arrived on December 29. As of February 9, 2021, more than 16,200 First Nations individuals have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as vaccines administered by the Regional Health Authorities outside of communities.
- As of February 12, a total of 162,982 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC, 17,562 of which are second doses.

***A geographic distribution of COVID-19 by Local Health Area can be found here.***
First Nations Cases in BC
As of February 10, 2021

- Total 4,516 First Nations COVID-19 cases (4,401 lab diagnosed cases and 115 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 81 cases since February 10, 2021 report.
- Geographical information (In or near community/off reserve) is available for 4,428 cases. Of these 4,428 cases, 2,047 (46.2%) cases are in or near community and 2,381 (53.8%) are off reserve.
- 426 active First Nations COVID-19 cases, 185 (43.4%) of the active cases are in or near community and 232 (54.5%) are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 9 active cases.
- Sadly, there have been total 68 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. 3 additional deaths are reported after February 10, 2021 report.
- There have been a total 487 (11.1%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these 228 hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and 258 off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 1 case.

*Total number of cases (n=4,516) includes four COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon, one case reported as “Out of Canada” resident and three cases reported as “Out of BC – Alberta” residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=4,508) reported as BC residents.

Regional Active cases and Testing data as of February 10, 2021

<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>27</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total persons tested**</td>
<td>7013</td>
<td>7298</td>
<td>8571</td>
<td>7079</td>
<td>6988</td>
<td>36,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Percentage Positivity (%)</td>
<td>6.36%</td>
<td>8.71%</td>
<td>13.64%</td>
<td>7.90%</td>
<td>7.09%</td>
<td>8.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Rate (Total tests per 100,000 First Nation Population)</td>
<td>40551.9</td>
<td>29724.2</td>
<td>28592.4</td>
<td>47934.2</td>
<td>25801.3</td>
<td>32,839.6</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”. This change reflects in reduced case counts for active cases in today’s update.

**Geographical Information (RHAs) for 27 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available and these 28 people are tested Negative.
First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or Near Community*

*In or near Community analysis is not available for 9 active cases.

Note: Analyses for in or Near Community includes lab confirmed cases and epidemiological linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. As of February 10, 2021, there were 185 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.

The majority (72.1%) of cases among First Nations have occurred in those under age 50.

The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was 8.88% as of February 10, 2021.
The rate of positive cases was 2,781.6 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 1,380.6 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) – February 10, 2021 (Week-6, 2021*) (n=4,516)

On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of February 15, 2021, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:

- 19,068 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 1,484 active cases
- 871 hospitalizations
- 17,380 recovered cases
- 204 deaths

Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 2,047
- Alberta: 5,570
- Saskatchewan: 5,197
- Manitoba: 4,951
- Ontario: 737
- Quebec: 556
- Atlantic: 10

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (February 4, 2021):

- Access Restrictions – 141 (+3)
- Band Offices Inaccessible – 91 (+1)
- Security Checkpoints – 69 (-1)
- State of Local Emergency – 80 (-1)
- EOC Activations – 113 (same)

FNHA Response

- FNHA is on Week 46 of Level 3 Emergency Response, which means that FNHA spends 80% on COVID-19 and 20% on FNHA operations.
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.

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.

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

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:


• 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:

• FNHA Webinar: Substances & Stigma [https://firstnationshealthauthority.createsend1.com/t/i-l-mdkk-l-k](https://firstnationshealthauthority.createsend1.com/t/i-l-mdkk-l-k)


FNHA Videos:

• COVID-19 Update [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJsqaTIP3IQ&feature=emb_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJsqaTIP3IQ&feature=emb_title) (Dr. McDonald, Jan.21/21)

• Using Compassion to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCF0mg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCF0mg) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 17)

• The Overall Wellness Impact of COVID-19 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L48JSAt0Hwk&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L48JSAt0Hwk&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)

• Responding to Overdose with Compassion [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYWFzO8oiY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYWFzO8oiY&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)

• Mental Health and COVID-19 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOXZtv0gFw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOXZtv0gFw&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)

• How Has COVID-19 Affected People Who Use Substances? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCF0mg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCF0mg) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4)

• Stay Connected [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QrTWJHcdXO&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QrTWJHcdXO&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4)