Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) FNHA Public Health Response Community Situation Report
February 18, 2021

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

COVID-19 Updates

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of February 17, 2021 at 3:18pm
Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 74,710 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,317 deaths from COVID-19. There are 4,150 active cases in the province, 232 people are hospitalized and, of those, 63 people are in intensive care (ICU). 7,238 people are under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 69,167 (93%) people have fully recovered.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Area</th>
<th>Number of COVID-19 Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Coastal</td>
<td>17,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser</td>
<td>44,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island</td>
<td>2,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>7,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>4,135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Outbreaks (as of February 17, 2021)
- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 12 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 16, 2021, more than 17,800 First Nations individuals have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 1,200 people have also received a second dose. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as vaccines administered by the Regional Health Authorities outside of communities.
- As of February 17, a total of 176,015 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC, 26,030 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 15, 2021
• Total 4,656 First Nations COVID-19 cases (4,539 lab diagnosed cases and 117 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 140 cases since February 16, 2021 report.
• Geographical information (In or near community/ off reserve) is available for 4,568 cases. Of these 4,568 cases, 2,091 (45.8%) cases are in or near community and 2,477 (54.2%) are off reserve.
• 438 active First Nations COVID-19 cases, 165 (37.7%) of the active cases are in or near community and 268 (61.2%) are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 5 active cases.
• Sadly, there have been total 70 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. 2 additional deaths are reported after February 16, 2021 report.
• There have been a total 489 (10.9%) 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 260 off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 1 case.

Regional Active cases and Testing data as of February 15, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Authority</th>
<th>Active First Nations COVID-19 Cases*</th>
<th>Total persons tested**</th>
<th>Cumulative Percentage Positivity (%)</th>
<th>Testing Rate (Total tests per 100,000 First Nation Population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraser Salish</td>
<td>663 (14.3%)</td>
<td>7,125</td>
<td>6.45%</td>
<td>41,417.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>839 (18.1%)</td>
<td>7,404</td>
<td>8.77%</td>
<td>30,348.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>1622 (34.9%)</td>
<td>8,729</td>
<td>13.86%</td>
<td>29,192.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Coastal</td>
<td>872 (18.8%)</td>
<td>7,142</td>
<td>7.91%</td>
<td>48,640.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island</td>
<td>651 (14%)</td>
<td>7,109</td>
<td>7.21%</td>
<td>26,413.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total N (%)</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>37,536</td>
<td>8.98%</td>
<td>33,501.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total number of cases (n=4,656) includes five 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=4,647) reported as BC residents.

**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 27 people are tested Negative.
First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community*

In or near community analysis is not available for 5 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 February 15, 2021, there were 165 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 8.98% as of February 15, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 2,867.8 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 1,418.0 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 15, 2021 (Week-7, 2021*) (n=4,656)

Episode date is now defined as dates 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 then report date).

Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (up to February 12, 2021) and PHSA’s public health lab data (up to February 15, 2021).

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. The incidence per 100,000 are represented by the dotted line. Regions are represented by following coloured bars in the diagram: Fraser-Dark blue, Interior-Red, Northern-Light Blue, Vancouver Coastal-Orange, and Vancouver Island-Green.

On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of February 17, 2021, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:

- 19,361 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 1,350 active cases
- 898 hospitalizations
- 17,803 recovered cases
- 208 deaths

Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 2,091
- Alberta: 5,621
- Saskatchewan: 5,275
- Manitoba: 5,039
- Ontario: 769
- Quebec: 556
- Atlantic: 10

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (February 11, 2021):

- Access Restrictions: 140 (-1)
- Band Offices Inaccessible: 88 (-3)
- Security Checkpoints: 71 (+2)
- State of Local Emergency: 78 (-2)
- EOC Activations: 114 (+1)

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](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](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](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](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?**
- 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:**
• 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, CDPHP office of the Chief Nursing Officer https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/immunizations-keep-adults-healthy-too
• Poster: Physical Distancing Do’s and Don’ts https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Physical-Distancing-Dos-and-Donts-Poster.pdf

Protective Factors:
• 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 Megan Metz draws on Haisla culture to support youth mental health and wellness https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-wellness-champion-megan-metz-draws--
on-haisla-culture-to-support-youth-mental-health-and-wellness

- 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-mxdikk-l-k/](https://firstnationshealthauthority.createsend1.com/t/i-l-mxdikk-l-k/)

**FNHA Videos:**

- COVID-19 Update [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJsgaTfP3IQ&feature=emb_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJsgaTfP3IQ&feature=emb_title) (Dr. McDonald, Jan.21/21)
- Using Compassion to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCFoMg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCFoMg) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 17)
- The Overall Wellness Impact of COVID-19 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L48JSAtoHwk&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L48JSAtoHwk&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)
- Responding to Overdose with Compassion [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYWFzc8oiY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYWFzc8oiY&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)
- Mental Health and COVID-19 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOXZtv0HFw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOXZtv0HFw&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)
- How Has COVID-19 Affected People Who Use Substances? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCFoMg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCFoMg) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4)
- Stay Connected [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJHcdX0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJHcdX0&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4)