Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) FNHA Public Health Response Community Situation Report
January 21, 2021

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

**COVID-19 Updates**

**Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of January 20, 2021 at 3:25pm**

There have been a total of 62,412 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,104 deaths. The regional breakdown, since the beginning of the pandemic, is as follows:

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

As of January 20, there were 4,345 active cases in the province, 320 people were hospitalized, and of those, 66 people were in ICU. There are 6,905 people under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 55,564 (89%) patients have fully recovered.

**Active Outbreaks** (as of January 19, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 47 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 10 outbreaks

**Vaccine Distribution**

- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination and the first doses arrived December 29th. As of January 19th, 2021, more than 8000 First Nations individuals have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of January 20, 98,125 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in B.C

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

- Total 3,145 First Nations COVID-19 cases (3,055 lab diagnosed cases and 90 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 384 cases since January 18, 2021 report.
- Geographical information (In or near community/ off reserve) is available for 3,074 cases. Of these 3,074 cases, 1,377 (44.8%) cases are in or near community and 1,697 (55.2%) are off reserve.
- 810 active First Nations COVID-19 cases, 467 (57.7%) of the active cases are in or near community and 329 (40.6%) are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 14 cases.
- Sadly, there have been total 35 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. This is an increase of 3 since January 18, 2021 report.
- There have been a total 367 (12.0%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these 162 hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community, 204 off reserve and 1 unknown.

*Total number of cases (n=3,145) includes two COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon, one case reported as "Out of Canada" resident and four cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=3,138) reported as BC residents.

Regional Active cases and Testing data as of January 19, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional 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>93</td>
<td>6,391</td>
<td>5.72%</td>
<td>35,189.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>6,110</td>
<td>5.85%</td>
<td>24,084.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>7,577</td>
<td>11.45%</td>
<td>24,551.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Coastal</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>6,630</td>
<td>7.53%</td>
<td>42,914.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>6,109</td>
<td>4.81%</td>
<td>21,958.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total N (%)</td>
<td>810*</td>
<td>32,842**</td>
<td>7.26%</td>
<td>28,180.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total number of active cases (n=810) includes two COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon and four cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents.
**Geographical Information (RHAs) for 25 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available and these 25 people are tested Negative.
First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or Near Community*

*In or near Community analysis is not available for 14 active cases.
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 January 19, 2021, there were 467 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.

The majority (72.6%) 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 7.26% as of January 19, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 1,937.1 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 1,196.8 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) – January 19, 2021 (Week-3, 2021*) (n=3,145)

On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of January 20, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:

- 14,200 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 5,409 active cases
- 597 hospitalizations
- 8,667 recovered cases
- 124 deaths

Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 1,377
- Alberta: 4,602
- Saskatchewan: 3,582
- Manitoba: 3,722
- Ontario: 434
- Quebec: 475
- Atlantic: 8

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (January 14, 2021):

Access Restrictions – 131 (+2)
Band Offices Inaccessible – 89

Security Checkpoints – 53 (+5)
State of Local Emergency – 86 (+5)
EOC Activations – 111 (-1)
**FNHA Response**

- FNHA is on Week 42 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](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)

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
- 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
• 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=PLDKOxTJMukCL2KEqToR6pzFu8jJOwX
• 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
• The First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service: https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-substance-use-and-psychiatry-service
• Welcome to the FNHA 30x30 Active Challenge! https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/welcome-to-the-fnha-30x30-active-challenge
• Staying strong through tough times with the “medicine of resilience”. https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-strong-during-tough-times-with-the-medicine-of-resilience
• Good Medicine: Show us your homemade / handmade face masks! https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-


• 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


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

Harm Reduction:


• Article: This Month, Let’s be “Sober(er) October”. https://firstnationshealthauthority.createsend1.com/t/i-l-mxdikk-l-h/


FNHA Videos:


• Using Compassion to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCl0mg (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 17, 3.40 mins)

• The Overall Wellness Impact of COVID-19. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4JSATkHwk&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11, 3.56 mins)
• Responding to Overdose with Compassion  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYWFzc8oikY&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11, 31 seconds)

• Mental Health and COVID-19  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lOXZtv0HFw&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11, 44 seconds)

• How has COVID-19 affected people who use substances?  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCiOmg  
  (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 3.49 mins)

• Stay Connected  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJHcdX0&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 30 seconds)

• Keep Your Bubble Small  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7NFeuwx0uc&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Shannon McDonald, August 28, 1.31 mins)

• An Update on COVID-19  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58CjhT6fOU&feature=youtu.be  (Dr. Shannon McDonald, August 28, 1.54 mins)

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.


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