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

COVID-19 Updates

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of January 27, 2021 at 3:05pm
Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 65,719 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,172 deaths from COVID-19. There are 4,299 active cases in the province, 303 people are hospitalized and, of those, 74 people are in intensive care (ICU). 6,520 people are under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 58,778 (89%) people have fully recovered.

The regional breakdown, since the beginning of the pandemic, is as follows:

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

Active Outbreaks (as of January 27, 2021)
- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 28 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 26, 2021, more than 11,800 First Nations individuals have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of January 27, a total of 124,365 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC.

***A geographic distribution of COVID-19 by Local Health Area can be found here.
First Nations Cases in BC
As of January 25, 2021

• Total 3,604 First Nations COVID-19 cases (3,501 lab diagnosed cases and 103 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 264 cases since January 25, 2021 report.

• Geographical information (In or near community/ off reserve) is available for 3,529 cases. Of these 3,529 cases, 1,627 (46.1%) cases are in or near community and 1,902 (53.9%) are off reserve.

• 831 active First Nations COVID-19 cases, 446 (53.7%) of the active cases are in or near community and 375 (41.0%) are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 10 cases.

• Sadly, there have been total 42 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. This is an increase of 6 since January 25, 2021 report.

• There have been a total 418 (11.8%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these 194 hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and 223 off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 1 case.

*Total number of cases (n=3,604) includes two 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=3,598) reported as BC residents.

Regional Active cases and Testing data as of January 25, 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>103</td>
<td>6,647</td>
<td>6.13%</td>
<td>37,297.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>6,502</td>
<td>7.11%</td>
<td>25,916.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>7,907</td>
<td>12.11%</td>
<td>25,910.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Coastal</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6,788</td>
<td>7.57%</td>
<td>44,542.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>6,325</td>
<td>5.62%</td>
<td>22,948.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>831*</td>
<td>34,195**</td>
<td>7.86%</td>
<td>29,706.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total number of active cases (n=831) includes two COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon and one case reported as “Out of BC – Alberta” resident.

**Geographical Information (RHAs) for 26 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available and these 26 people are tested Negative.
First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or Near Community*

As of January 25, 2021, there were 446 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.

The majority (72.4%) 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 7.86% as of January 25, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 2,219.9 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 1,255.1 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 25, 2021 (Week-4, 2021*) (n=3,604)

Episodes date is now defined as dates of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. When those dates are not available, earliest laboratory 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 (updated up to January 25, 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 color 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 colored 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 January 27, 2021, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:

- **15,989** confirmed positive COVID-19
- **3,068** active cases
- **744** hospitalizations
- **12,770** recovered cases
- **151** deaths

Case numbers per region:

- **British Columbia**: 1,627
- **Alberta**: 4,988
- **Saskatchewan**: 4,097
- **Manitoba**: 4,251
- **Ontario**: 508
- **Quebec**: 508
- **Atlantic**: 10

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 43 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
- 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.
• 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=PLDKOxTJMukCL2KEQTo_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 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]
• Honouring our Elders Today and Every Day. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/honouring-our-elders-today-and-every-day]
• Staying strong during 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]
• Staying connected if your loved one is hospitalized due to COVID-19. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-connected-if-your-loved-one-is-hospitalized-due-to-covid-19]
• Young Wisdom on Mental Health and Wellness. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/young-wisdom-on-mental-health-and-wellness]
• Ten Tips for Sleeping Well During Troubled Times. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/ten-tips-for-sleeping-well-during-troubled-times]
Resource List: Mental Health and Cultural Supports Available During the COVID-19 Pandemic [1]  
Fact Sheet: Providing Activities for Children during a time of Crisis [2]  
Article: Impacts of the Pandemic on Mental Health and Wellness [3]  
Article: Good Medicine: Keeping Active at Home [4]  
Article: How to Host a Virtual Social Gathering during the Pandemic [5]  
Article: Remember that Food is Medicine [6]  
Harm Reduction:

Article: Sober(er) for October: Getting Past Withdrawal. [6]  
Article: Practising Harm Reduction during COVID-19 [8]  
Fact Sheet (BC Centre for Disease Control): COVID-19 Harm Reduction and Overdose Response [9]  
FNHA Videos:

Using Compassion to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction [10]  
Responding to Overdose with Compassion [12]  
Mental Health and COVID-19 [13]  
How has COVID-19 affected people who use substances? [14]  
Additional Resources:

For information for Community Leaders, including regular Situation Report updates and funding guides, visit: COVID-19 Information for Community Leaders [15]  
FNHA COVID-19 Community Support Guide: [16]