Purpose

The purpose of this information note is to provide a daily situational overview of the FNHA COVID-19 response activities that are being carried out by the Public Health Response Team and supporting executive leadership.

Background

On March 17, 2020, British Columbia’s (BC) Provincial Health Officer (PHO) declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 18, 2020, BC’s Public Safety Minister also declared a provincial state of emergency, in an effort to allow the government to support the PHO and Ministry of Health in their response. The details on the Provincial and Public Health Emergencies/Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of July 17, 2020 at 4:30pm

There are 3,198 confirmed cases in BC, and a total of 189 deaths. Of these, 28 cases were confirmed as of July 17th. The regional breakdown is as follows:

- Vancouver Coastal: 1,032
- Fraser: 1,676
- Vancouver Island: 136
- Interior: 235
- Northern: 68

As of July 17th, there were 207 active cases in the province. Currently, 18 people are hospitalized and of those, 2 people are in ICU. Of the total number of cases, 2,802 (87.6%) patients have fully recovered.

Active Outbreaks

- Long term care/assisted living centres/acute care units: 3 outbreaks
- Community outbreaks: 1 active

First Nations COVID-19 Cases

The total number of First Nations COVID-19 lab confirmed cases 89 in BC as of July 18 2020. Most of the lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 among First Nations in BC have now recovered and there are currently fewer than 5 active cases across the province.

Note:
Analyses for In or Near Community only includes lab confirmed cases, 3 additional epi-linked cases, and 1 additional case tested outside of BC are included in the cases by Health Authority.
Note:
The majority of cases in both Fraser Salish and Vancouver Island Regions can be traced to specific outbreaks.

On First Nations reserves in provinces, as of July 10, 2020, ISC is aware of:
- 343 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 30 hospitalizations
- 289 recovered cases
- 6 deaths

Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 42
- Alberta: 122
- Saskatchewan: 85
- Ontario: 59
- Quebec: 35

First Nations Community Statistics from ISC (July 16th, 2020):

Band Office Closure – 145 (3 updates)
- 564 Kwantlen First Nation (f. Langley)
- 568 Sq’ewlets (f. Scowlitz)
- 610 Kwadacha (f. Fort Ware)

Band Office Reopening (6 updates)
- 530 Witset (f. Moricetown)
- 561 Xa’xtsa (f. Douglas)
- 589 Yale First Nation
- 609 Tsay Keh Dene (f. Ingenika, Finlay River)
- 631 Namgis First Nation (f. Nlipkish)
- 632 Tlatlasikwala

TC Office Closure 16 (0 update)
TC Office Reopening (0 update)

State of Local Emergency Declared – 63 (1 updates)
- 584 Cheam

State of Local Emergency Rescinded (0 update)

EOC Activations – 115

EOC Closed (0 update)

Localized Flooding – 15 (0 update)

Community Closure – 114 (4 updates)
- 561 Xa’xtsa (f. Douglas)
- 564 Kwantlen First Nation (f. Langley)
- 589 Yale First Nation
- 603 Tobacco Plains

**Community Closure Over (2 updates)**
- 530 Witset (f. Moricetown)
- 631 Namgis First Nation (f. Nlakpish)

**FNHA Response:**

- FNHA is on Week 17 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 re-emerging of the opioid overdoses and starting 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.
- The implementation of the First Nations Virtual Psychiatry and Addictions Medicine program is currently underway with an anticipated soft launching on August 5, 2020.
- FNHA continues to maintain operations team availability to respond to Isolation requests through the week-ends 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, and July 17

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

- Working with Federal and Provincial partners to obtain PPE for health care staff and first responders in all communities:
  - The 1st Provincial delivery of PPE was received on March 27 and was shipped to Regional Offices on March 28.
  - The 2nd Provincial delivery of PPE was received on April 3 and shipped out to Regional Offices for April 6th week delivery. The 3rd Provincial delivery of PPE was received April 7th and sent out to Regional Offices on April 8th.
  - A Federal and 4th Provincial shipment of PPE arrived in Vancouver on April 15th and sent out to Regional Offices on April 20th.
  - 5th PPE order from Province received week of April 20 and shipped to the Regional offices on April 27th.
  - 6th PPE order from Province received April 29th will be repackaged and shipped to the Regional offices for Monday May 4th.
  - 7th Provincial PPE ordered and arrived in Regions May 8th
  - 8th Provincial PPE ordered and arrived in Regions May 19th.
  - 9th Provincial PPE ordered and was sent to Regions on May 26th.
  - 10th order of PPE arrived May 27 and was sent to Regions during the week of June 1st.
  - 11th order of PPE shipped directly from Provincial Health Services Authority to Regional offices of June 8th.
  - 12th order of PPE ordered and shipped the week of June 15th.
  - 13th order of PPE ordered and shipped the week of June 22-26 to the regions
  - June 29-July 3 – no shipments and inventory conducted in each region
  - 14th order of PPE has been ordered and shipped the week of July 6 – 10 to the regions
  - 15th order of PP has been ordered and shipped the week July 13-17 to the regions
  - Week of July 21 to 24 – the regions have sufficient stock for this week.
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). See Appendix “A” for full list of COVID Resources.

**New Resources:**
APPENDIX “A”
COVID-19 – What You Need to Know

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:
• 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](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authorities-tell-commons-committee-they-need-more-ppe)
• International Nurses’ Day: tips to celebrate nurses in your community. [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/international-nurses-day-tips-to-celebrate-nurses-in-your-community](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/international-nurses-day-tips-to-celebrate-nurses-in-your-community)


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


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=qVALaZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2EQtOr_6pZFu8jJ0wX

Article and Fact Sheet: Homemade Face Masks  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/homemade-face-masks


Mental Health and Holistic Wellness


• Good Medicine: Let this be a season for First Nations youth and Elders to learn from each other.  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-let-this-be-a-season-for-first-nations-youth-and-elders-to-learn-from-each-other
• Father’s Day this year will look a little different from previous years, since we are all still physical distancing and being cautious.  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fathers-day-this-year-will-look-a-little-different-from-previous-years-since-we-are-still-physically-distancing-and-being-cautious
• Leadership Opportunity for BC First Nations Youth  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/leadership-opportunity-for-bc-first-nations-youth
• Good Medicine: Laughter! We all need some laughs right now.  https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-laughter-we-all-need-some-laughs-right-now
• 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-and-events/news/good-medicine-show-us-your-homemade-handmade-face-masks
• 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


• Video: Interview with Dr. Nel Wieman, FNHA Senior Medical Officer, focusing on mental wellness and COVID-19. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yd8ZNmF7ek&list=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQ1Or_6pzFu8jOwX&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yd8ZNmF7ek&list=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQ1Or_6pzFu8jOwX&index=2)


• Article: Good Medicine: Keeping Active at Home [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-keeping-active-at-home](https://www.fnha.ca/about_news/good-medicine-keeping-active-at-home)


• 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/remember-that-food-is-medicine)

Harm Reduction:


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](https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority)

Podcasts feature:


• Richard Jock, Interim CEO | Topics: FNHA moves to Level 3 state of readiness | “What happens to communities happens to us” | First batch of personal protective equipment delivered to communities;

• Dr. Evan Adams, Chief Medical Officer | Topics: Why you won’t be learning who has COVID 19 in your community – and why that doesn’t matter | The role and value of testing | Physical distancing;

• Dr. Nel Wieman, Senior Medical Officer | Topics: Act like you already have the virus | Prevention tips | Cultural events | Mental health | Resources accessible at home | Coping exercise;

• Dr. Shannon McDonald, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Sonia Isaac-Mann, VP, Programs and Services | Topics: Latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak | Taking care of your family and community members | Finding trustworthy and up-to-date information;

• April MacNaughton, Director, Health Protection | Topics: COVID-19 and community emergency plans.

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)