Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
FNHA Public Health Response
Community Situation Report
June 16th, 2020

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

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 June 16, 2020 at 3:00pm
There are 2756 confirmed cases in BC, and a total of 168 deaths. Of these, 11 cases and 0 deaths were confirmed as of June 16th. The regional breakdown is as follows:

- Vancouver Coastal: 940
- Fraser: 1,426
- Vancouver Island: 130
- Interior: 195
- Northern: 65

As of June 16th, there are 172 active cases in the province. Currently, 11 people are hospitalized and of those, 5 people are in ICU. Of the total number of cases, 2,416 (88%) patients have fully recovered.

Active Outbreaks

- 1 new outbreak at the Maple Hill Long Term Care Facility at the Langley Memorial Hospital
- Long term care/assisted living centres/acute care units: 5 outbreaks
- Community outbreaks: 6

First Nations COVID-19 Cases
The total number of First Nations COVID-19 lab confirmed cases 86 in BC as of June 13, 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 June 15, ISC is aware of:
- 247 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 22 hospitalizations
- 208 recovered cases
- 6 deaths

First Nations Community Statistics from ISC (updated Tuesday, June 16, 2020):

| Band Office Closure | 154 (0 update) |
| TC Office Closure | 16 (0 update) |
| State of Local Emergency Declared | 61 (0 update) |
| State of Local Emergency Rescinded | 1 (update) |
| EOC Activations – 111 (7 updates) |
- Esk’etemc (f. Esketemc) (f. Alkali Lake)
- Heiltsuk (f. Bella Bella)
- Saulteau First Nations
- Xat’sull First Nation (f. Soda Creek)
- Tl’ésqox (f. Toosey)
- Wuikinuxv Nation (f. Oweekeno/ Wuikinuxv Nation)
- Xeni Gwet’in First Nations Government (f. Nemaiah Valley)

EOC Closed (0 update)

Community Closure – 108 (0 update)

FNHA Response:
- FNHA is on Week 12 of Level 3 Emergency Response, which means that FNHA spends 80% on COVID-19 and 20% on FNHA operations.
- FNHA will 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.

Working with Federal and Provincial partners to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (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 order and arrived in Regions May 8th
- 8th Provincial PPE order and arrived in Regions May 19th.
- 9th Provincial PPE order 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 last week.
- Since the beginning of June, 2 shipments of the Community Safety COVID-19 Supplies (CSCS) have gone out and, the regions received both PPE and CSCS at the same time.

FNHA is working on access to point of care testing, self-isolation and quarantine options with our Federal, Provincial Government partners and the Canadian Red Cross to support First Nations communities and urban settings.

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.

With the announcement of the Rural, Remote and Indigenous Framework, the FNHA will be working with its partners, and First Nations communities to identify needs and develop plans at both the regional and community level.

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.

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.

The Business Resumption Planning Guide was posted to the FNHA Website. https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Services-Resumption-Planning-Guide.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. See Appendix “A” for full list of COVID Resources.

**New Resources:**


- 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
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:
- 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)
• Release: FNHA/FNHC/FNHDA Advise Against All Gatherings to Prevent COVID-19 Spreading
• 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.
• 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=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQ10r_6p2Fu6jOWX
• 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
• Poster: “Please do not enter our home for the protection of the people who live here.”

Mental Health and Holistic Wellness
• Good Medicine: First Nations “ninjas” are doing good deeds for homebound community members.
• 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-somelaughs-right-now
• Accessing contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted infection counselling and services during COVID-19.
• First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day Service Provides Culturally-Safe Primary Care for First Nations People in BC.
• Good Medicine: Reclaiming Food Sovereignty and Security with a Gardening Program for First Nations Families.
• 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_CL2KEQfOr_6pzFu8jJOwX&index=2


• Article: Good Medicine: Keeping Active at Home https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/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

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

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](https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/community-leaders)