Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT
FNHA Public Health Response
June 28, 2021

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

COVID-19 Updates

First Nations Cases in BC
As of June 23, 2021

• There have been a total of 7,473 First Nations COVID-19 cases (7,288 lab diagnosed cases and 185 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 9 cases since the last published report.

• Out of the total 7,473 cases, 3,147 (42.1%) are in or near community; 4,178 (55.9%) are off reserve. As geographical information is not available, information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 148 (2.0%) cases.

• There are 79 active First Nations COVID-19 cases; 8 (10.1%) of the active cases are in or near community and 69 (87.3%) are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 2 active case.

• Sadly, there have been total 134 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. No additional deaths are reported since the last published report.

• There have been a total 804 (10.8%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these 357 hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and 445 off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 2 cases.

*Total number of cases (n=7,473) includes thirty-four (34) COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon, one (1) case reported as “Out of Canada” resident, seven (7) cases reported as “Out of BC – Alberta” residents and one (1) case reported as “Out of BC – Saskatchewan” resident. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=7,430) reported as BC residents.
### Regional Active cases and Testing data as of June 23, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fraser Salish</th>
<th>Interior</th>
<th>Northern</th>
<th>Vancouver Coastal</th>
<th>Vancouver Island</th>
<th>Total N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active First Nations COVID-19 cases&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total persons tested&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>9,699</td>
<td>9,740</td>
<td>11,536</td>
<td>8,853</td>
<td>9,237</td>
<td>49,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to June 16, 2021)</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (June 10 to June 16, 2021)</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)</td>
<td>65,626.2</td>
<td>45,010.6</td>
<td>41,270.7</td>
<td>68,468.0</td>
<td>38,015.3</td>
<td>49,038.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>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 data (reported date and if not available then result date) >=20 days before the line list case dataset date to “removed from isolation.” Total active cases include 34 cases reported as “Out of BC – Yukon” residents and 1 case reported as “Out of BC – Saskatchewan” resident.

<sup>b</sup>Geographical Information (RHAs) for 31 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available. They are included in total number of First Nations people tested in BC.

* Active case counts are suppressed as counts are less than 5.
** Active case counts are more than 5 but they are suppressed to prevent inadvertent identification of active cases in Northern region.

### First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community*

- **First Nations COVID-19 Cases in British Columbia June 23, 2021 (n=7,473)**
  - In or Near Community: 3,147 (42.1%) **n=3139**
  - Off-Reserve: 4,178 (55.9%) **n=4109**

* In or near community analysis is not available for two (2) active case. Total number of cases (n=7,473) includes 148 cases without information on LHA of residence and “In or Near Community” analysis.

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 June 23, 2021, there were 8 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in or near community.
The majority (73.1%) 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 9.80% as of June 23, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 4,602.9 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 2,848.6 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) – June 23, 2021 (Week-25, 2021*) (n=7,473)

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* Episode date is now defined as date 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, report date is used.
Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (up to June 22, 2021) and PHSA’s public health lab data (up to June 23, 2021). This epidemiological curve represents the weekly cases reported among First Nations in 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.

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination, by Health Authority
Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1=84,469, dose 2=50,608) 12+ years, up to June 24, 2021

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination, by Age Group
Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, Dose 1=84,964, Dose 2=50,899), 12+ years, up to Jun 24, 2021
Vaccine Distribution

- As of June 23, 2021, more than 96,300 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 5,700 individuals ages 12-17 who are First Nations people (and some non-First Nations people living in or near First Nations communities) have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of these individuals, more than 59,800 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 150 First Nations individuals 12-17 years old have received two doses. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as outside of communities by regional health authorities.
- As of June 23, 64.8% of all status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC age 18 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of June 25, a total of 4,703,549 doses of vaccine have been administered in BC, of which 1,167,117 are second doses. 76.2% of eligible people in BC (12+) have received one dose.

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of June 25, 2021, 3 p.m.

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 147,418 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,749 deaths from COVID-19.
- There are 1,096 active cases, 108 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 37 people are in intensive care.
- Of the total number of cases, 144,554 (98%) people have fully recovered.

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (June 24, 2021):

Access Restrictions: 136 (-1)  
Band Offices Inaccessible: 82 (-3)

Security Checkpoints: 69 (same)  
State of Local Emergency: 49 (same)  
EOC Activations: 111 (same)
FNHA Resources and Supports

Information for BC First Nations Individuals
Visit: https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/public to find out more including
- COVID-19 vaccine
- Self-isolation
- Testing and symptoms
- Medical support including Virtual Doctor of the Day Service
- Mental health and cultural supports

Information for Community Leaders
Visit: https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/community-leaders to find out more including
- COVID-19 vaccine
- Community situation reports
- Support and funding
- Health benefits

Resources for Health Professionals
Visit: https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/health-professionals to find out more including
- COVID-19 Management
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Infection Prevention & Control
- Nursing Practice

Latest News
- Two Doses Are the Number One Way to Beat COVID-19. June 24, 2021
- COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth 12 to 17. June 9, 2021
- Vaccines and Vigilance Key to Putting the Pandemic behind Us. June 2, 2021.
- COVID-19 Vaccinations Now Available to Youth Age 12 and Over. May 20, 2021
- Draw on Culture, Community and Resilience to Stay Safe Against COVID-19 Variants and Rising Cases. April 12.
- The Mental Health Pandemic within the COVID-19 Pandemic. April 8, 2021.
Working with First Nations

The FNHA is working in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure communities’ needs are met, including:

- Maintaining essential services to support First Nations communities during this pandemic.
- Providing COVID-19 funding resources and wrap around supports including for medical transportation, self-isolation and quarantine. See the FNHA Community Support Guide for more information. Support requests can be sent to COVID19needs@fnha.ca
- Supporting First Nations communities in refreshing their Pandemic Plans
- FNHA continues to maintain operations team availability to respond to COVID-19 support requests through the weekends during business hours.
- Launching virtual care services including First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day and First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service
- Site selection, training and deployment of Point of Care Testing for COVID-19 is underway.

Working with Partners

The FNHA is continuing to work with our provincial and federal partners towards aligning response efforts in support of First Nations communities and people living away from home across the province. This includes:

- Maintaining regular communication and updates with Regional Health Authorities, Emergency Management of BC, Ministry of Health, First Nations Leadership Council, and Indigenous Services Canada to proactively identify needs and address issues Supporting planning 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 where safe and appropriate.

Vaccinations

- The FNHA is working hard with our partners and First Nations communities to support vaccine distribution and planning and to prioritize available doses for First Nations communities
- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination with the first doses having arrived on December 29, 2020.

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.
- First Nations communities requiring personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 emergency can send their requests to COVID19needs@fnha.ca.