Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT
FNHA Public Health Response
May 17, 2021

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

**COVID-19 Updates**

**First Nations Cases in BC**

As of **May 13, 2021**

- There have been a total of 7,078 First Nations COVID-19 cases (6,895 lab diagnosed cases and 183 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 19 cases since the last published report.

- The daily new case numbers among First Nations continues to fall; the proportion of provincial daily cases among First Nations is the lowest level since June 2020.

- Out of the total 7,078 cases, 3,020 (42.7%) are in or near community; 3,917 (55.3%) are off reserve. As geographical information is not available, information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 141 (2.0%) cases.

- There are 61 active First Nations COVID-19 cases; 19 (31.1%) of the active cases are in or near community and 41 (67.2%) are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 1 active case.

- Sadly, there have been total 126 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. 0 additional death is reported since the last published report.

- There have been a total 760 (10.7%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these 337 hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and 421 off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 2 cases.
Regional Active cases and Testing data as of May 13, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Area</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</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total persons tested</td>
<td>8,959</td>
<td>9,158</td>
<td>11,022</td>
<td>8,480</td>
<td>8,942</td>
<td>46,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to May 10, 2021)</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (May 7 to May 13, 2021)</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)</td>
<td>58,956.5</td>
<td>41,113.5</td>
<td>38,960.1</td>
<td>63,902.7</td>
<td>36,116.2</td>
<td>45,673.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a 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 date (reported date and if not available then result date) >=20 days before the line list case dataset date to “removed from isolation”.

b Due to a data source error, geographical Information (RHA) for 316 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. These results will be updated in the next situation report.

c Due to a data source error, geographical information is not available for 377 tests in today’s laboratory dataset. This has resulted in decrease in testing rate in Fraser Salish and Northern region. These results will be updated in the next situation report.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community*

* In or near community analysis is not available for 1 active case. Total number of cases (n=7,078) includes 141 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 May 13, 2021, there were 19 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in or near community.
The majority (72.9%) 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 9.98% as of May 13, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 4,359.6 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 2,662.5 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) – May 13, 2021 (Week-19, 2191*) (n=7,078)

__a 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.__

__b Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (up to May 13, 2021) and PHSA’s public health lab data (up to May 12, 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.

**Provincial COVID-19 Cases** – Updated as of: May 14, 2021 at 3 p.m.
- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 138,304 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,634 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 5,548 active cases, 387 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 141 people are in intensive care
- Of the total number of cases, 130,953 (95%) people have fully recovered

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**Reginal Breakdown of Total Number of COVID-19 Cases in BC (n=137,614)**

*Total number of cases (n=137,810) includes 196 cases reported as “Out of Canada” residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=137,614) reported as BC residents.*

**Active Outbreaks** (as of May 14, 2021)
- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living: 3 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 2 outbreaks

**Vaccine Distribution**
- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination and the first doses arrived on December 29. As of May 13, 2021, more than 86,000 individuals who are First Nations people (and some non-First Nations people living in or near First Nations communities) have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 13,900 First Nations people have received a second dose. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as those administered by Regional Health Authorities outside of communities.
- As of April 22, 2021, 50 per cent of all status and status-eligible BC First Nations people 18 years or older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of May 14, 2021, a total of 2,393,265 doses of vaccine have been administered in BC, of which 124,880 are second doses.

* A geographic distribution of COVID-19 by Local Health Area can be found [here.](#)
* A weekly update on Variants of Concern can be found [here.](#)
First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (May 13, 2021):

Access Restrictions: 135 (-4)
Band Offices Inaccessible: 85 (same)
Security Checkpoints: 68 (-2)
State of Local Emergency: 50*
EOC Activations: 110 (same)

*Number has been updated to reflect a change in the method of data collection.

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
- Draw on Culture, Community and Resilience to Stay Safe Against COVID-19 Variants and Rising Cases. April 12, 2021.
- The Mental Health Pandemic within the COVID-19 Pandemic. April 8, 2021.
- New Orders from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry Due to Rising Case Counts. March 29, 2021.
Working with First Nations

The FNHA is working in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure the needs of communities 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.
- 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 and 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.

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.
- Additional details in the FNHA Guide: Accessing Personal Protective Equipment for First Nations Communities: