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

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

COVID-19 Updates

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of October 16, 2020 at 3:00pm:
There have been a total of 11,189 confirmed cases in BC, and 251 deaths. As of October 16, there were 1,513 active cases in the province, 72 people were hospitalized and of those, 26 people were in ICU. There are 3,713 people under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 9,387 (84%) patients have fully recovered.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of COVID-19 Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Coastal</td>
<td>4036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser</td>
<td>5884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Outbreaks:
- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 16 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 2 outbreaks
- Community outbreaks as of October 14, 2020:
  - Witset First Nation: There were less than 5 active cases in or near the Witset First Nation community. There have been a total of 14 First Nations COVID-19 cases diagnosed in or near the Witset First Nation community.
  - Skwah First Nation community (Chilliwack): There were less than 5 active cases in or near the Skwah First Nation community. There have been a total of 9 First Nations COVID-19 cases diagnosed in or near the Skwah First Nation community.
  - There were 28 First Nations COVID-19 active cases in Vancouver Centre North which contains the Downtown East Side.
First Nations COVID-19 Cases:
As of October 14, 2020, the total number of First Nations COVID-19 cases are 622. Out of these 622 cases, there are 592 lab diagnosed cases and 30 epi-linked cases. There are 93 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in BC, 5 of the active cases were in or near community as of October 14, 2020. Most of the lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 among First Nations in BC have now recovered. There have been a total of 83 (13.5%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Active cases and Testing data as of October 14, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Authority</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fraser Salish</td>
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<td>Interior</td>
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<td>Vancouver Island</td>
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<td>Northern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vancouver Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total N (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note: Analyses for In or Near Community includes lab confirmed cases and epidemiologically linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. As of October 14, 2020, there were 5 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.

The majority (70.0%) 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 3.22% as of October 14, 2020. The rate of positive cases was 383 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 210 per 100,000 people.
Epidemic curve for First Nations COVID-19 cases (n=577), February 25-October 14, 2020

The epidemic curve shows the number of COVID-19 cases reported each day throughout the epidemic. Despite small outbreaks early in the pandemic, relatively few cases were reported on a daily basis, with periods spanning days or weeks where zero new cases were reported. Since approximately August 18 there has been an increasing number of daily cases with no days where zero new cases were reported.

On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of October 16, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:

- 968 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 242 active cases
- 68 hospitalizations
- 713 recovered cases
- 13 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 173
- Alberta: 349
- Saskatchewan: 156
- Manitoba: 103
- Ontario: 124
- Quebec: 63

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (October 8, 2020):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band Office Closure</th>
<th>145 (1 update)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skwah</td>
<td>573 Skwah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reopening – 1 (1 update)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tla’amin</td>
<td>554 Tla’amin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Council Office Closure</td>
<td>16 (0 updates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Council Office Re-opening</td>
<td>(0 updates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Closure – 114 (0 updates)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Closure Over – (0 update)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

State of Local Emergency Declared – 65 (0 update)
State of Local Emergency Rescinded – 1 (1 update)
539 Nuxalk
EOC Activations – 120 (0 update)
EOC Closed – (0 update)

FNHA Response

- FNHA is on Week 29 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.

See Appendix “A” for full list of COVID Resources.
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 [https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-staying-home-is-not-safe](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-staying-home-is-not-safe)


Protective Factors:


• 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=qVLyrZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMUKCL2KEQtOr_6pzFu8J0wX](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVLyrZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMUKCL2KEQtOr_6pzFu8J0wX)


Mental Health and Holistic Wellness


• 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


• 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:


  • Article: This Month, Let’s be “Soberer” October”. https://firstnationshealthauthority.createsend1.com/t/i-l-mxdikk-l-h/


• FNHA Videos:


  • Using Compassion to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCfOmg (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 17, 3.40 mins)

  • The Overall Wellness Impact of COVID-19 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L48JSAtoHwk&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11, 3.56 mins)

  • Responding to Overdose with Compassion https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYWFZc80kY&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11, 31 seconds)

  • Mental Health and COVID-19 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lOXZif0HFw&feature=youtu.be (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11, 44 seconds)
• **How has COVID-19 affected people who use substances?** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCIofm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCIofm)
  (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 3.49 mins)

• **Stay Connected** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJdX0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJdX0&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 30 seconds)

• **Keep Your Bubble Small** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7NFeuxw0uc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7NFeuxw0uc&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Shannon McDonald, August 28, 1.31 mins)

• **An Update on COVID-19** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58CjhzT6fOU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58CjhzT6fOU&feature=youtu.be) (Dr. Shannon McDonald, August 28, 1.54 mins)

**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).


**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)