Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) 
COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT 
FNHA Public Health Response 

September 20, 2021 
Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

COVID-19 Updates

First Nations Cases in BC – As of September 17, 2021

- There have been a total of 9,861 First Nations COVID-19 cases (9,661 lab diagnosed cases and 200 epi-linked cases). This is an increase of 446 cases among First Nations people in BC since the last published report.
- Out of the total 9,861 cases, 4,053 (41.1%) are in or near community; 5,828 (58.6%) are off reserve. As geographical information is not available, information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 226 (2.3%) cases.
- There are total 649 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in British Columbia. There are 237 active COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.
- Sadly, there have been total 148 COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. Two additional deaths are reported since the last published report.
- There have been a total 1,013 (10.3%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these 420 hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and 589 off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 4 cases.

*Total number of cases (n=9,861) includes one (1) case reported as “Out of Canada” resident, sixteen (16) cases reported as “Out of BC – Alberta” residents, two (2) case reported as “Out Of BC – Ontario”, one (1) case reported as “Out Of BC – Quebec, one (1) case reported as “Out Of Canada - Country other”, and four (4) cases reported as “Out of BC – Saskatchewan” resident. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=9,836) reported as BC residents.
### Regional Active cases and Testing data as of September 17, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active First Nations COVID-19 cases</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></td>
<td>87</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total persons tested</td>
<td>11,041</td>
<td>11,744</td>
<td>12,925</td>
<td>9,599</td>
<td>10,080</td>
<td>55,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to September 17, 2021)</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (September 11 to September 17, 2021)</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)</td>
<td>80,078.5</td>
<td>58,351.5</td>
<td>48,079.7</td>
<td>77,933.4</td>
<td>42,991.0</td>
<td>58,366.0</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 Geographical Information (RHaRs) for 29 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.

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**First Nations COVID-19 Cases in British Columbia September 17, 2021 (n=9,861)**

- **4,053 (41.1%)** Active Cases in or Near Community
- **5,582 (56.7%)** Active Cases Off-Reserve

- **n=3,816** (n=237 Removed from Isolation, n=3,579 Active Cases)
- **n=5,198** (n=384 Active Cases)

*Total number of cases (n=9,861) includes 226 cases without information on LHA of residence and “In or Near Community” analysis. Information about in or near community analysis is not available for twenty-eight (28) active cases.

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 September 17, 2021, there were 237 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in or near community.
There is an increase in the proportion of COVID-19 cases among <17 years old and 18-39 years old from June 1 to September 17, 2021 compared to cases reported between from January 15 to May 31, 2021.

The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was 10.78% as of September 17, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 6,073.8 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 3,423.4 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) – September 17, 2021 (Week-37, 2021*) (n=9,861)

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*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.
Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (up to September 17, 2021) and PHSA’s public health lab data (up to September 17, 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 in the diagram as: Fraser – Dark blue, Interior – Red, Northern – Light Blue, Vancouver Coastal – Orange, and Vancouver Island – Green.

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Health Authority
Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1=99,797, dose 2=83,034) 12+ years, up to September 17, 2021

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Age Group
Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1=100,487, dose 2=83,443), 12+ years, up to September 17, 2021

* Age group information was not available for 441 clients for dose 1 and 239 clients for dose 2
** These analyses were only possible for Status and Status eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations
Vaccine Distribution

- As of September 17, 2021, more than 109,100 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 9,700 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 90,400 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 7,000 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 September 17, 74.8% of 18 and older, and 73.3% of 12 and older, status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of September 17, 86.5% (4,008,076) of eligible people 12 and older in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 78.9% (3,659,495) have received their second dose.

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of September 17, 2021, 3 p.m.

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 177,954 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,888 deaths from COVID-19.
- There are 6,031 active cases, 298 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 136 people are in intensive care.
- Of the total number of cases, 169,653 (95.3%) people have fully recovered.

Active Outbreaks (as of September 17, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living: 17 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 3 outbreak

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (September 16, 2021):

Access Restrictions: 135 (same)
Band Offices Inaccessible: 83 (+1)

Security Checkpoints: 69 (-1)
State of Local Emergency: 59 (-1)
EOC Activations: 120 (-1)
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.
- 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.
For more latest news visit https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events

**FNHA Response**

**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 Communicable Disease Emergencies Plans
- FNHA continues to maintain operational availability to respond to COVID-19 support requests over the weekends and during public holidays; at those times, Health Benefits isolation accommodation support and regional on-call support is available
- 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 has worked closely with First Nations communities and other health partners to support vaccine distribution and planning and to prioritize available doses for all communities
- As of March 31, all First Nations adults living on all 203 reserves in BC had access to a first dose of vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer), based on a “whole community” approach
- Second dose clinics in First Nations communities are also now completed; however, FNHA continues to support communities’ vaccination clinics, as needed, and is working to supply vaccine doses to local health units so that communities can order them as part of their established ordering pathways

**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