



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
FNHA Public Health Response
Community Situation Report
September 21, 2020**

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

Purpose

The purpose of this information note is to provide a weekly 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 **September 18, 2020 at 3:00pm**

There have been a total of 7,842 confirmed cases in BC, and 223 deaths. Of these, 139 new cases and 3 deaths were reported on September 18. The regional breakdown, since the beginning of the pandemic, is as follows:

- Vancouver Coastal: 2,817
- Fraser: 4,007
- Vancouver Island: 196
- Interior: 492
- Northern: 244

As of September 18, there were 1,803 active cases in the province, 59 people were hospitalized and of those, 20 people were in ICU. There are 3,075 people under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 5,797 (73.9%) patients have fully recovered.

Active Outbreaks

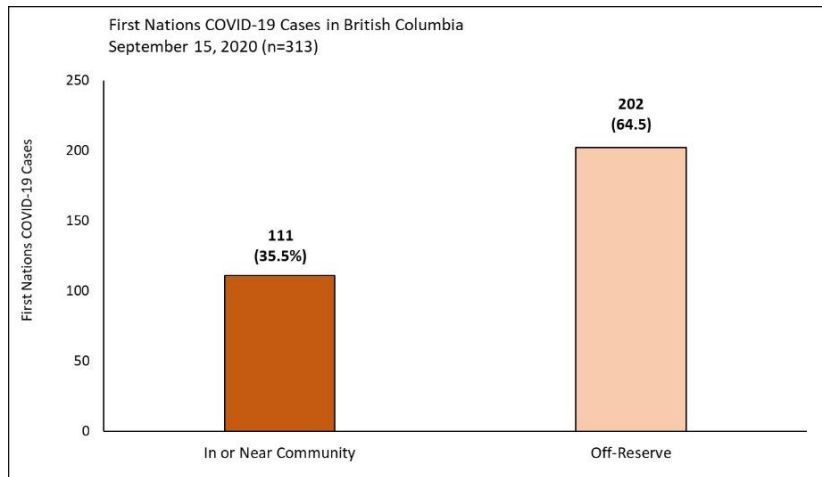
- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 10 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 5 outbreaks
- Community outbreaks:
 - Squamish Nation: As of September 15, there were 5 active cases among Squamish Nation members living in the Vancouver Coastal region.
 - Tla'amin: As of September 15, there were 15 active cases in or near community in Tla'amin.
 - Nisga'a Nations: Update pending. Data still being processed.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases:

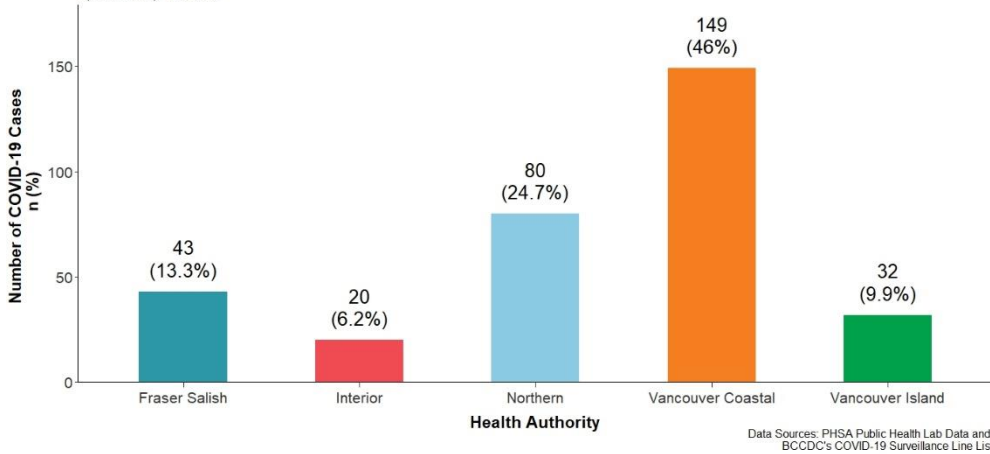
The total number of First Nations COVID-19 lab confirmed cases 313 and 135 active cases in BC as of September 15, 2020. Most of the lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 among First Nations in BC have now recovered. There have been a total of 38 (12.5%) First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020.

Note:

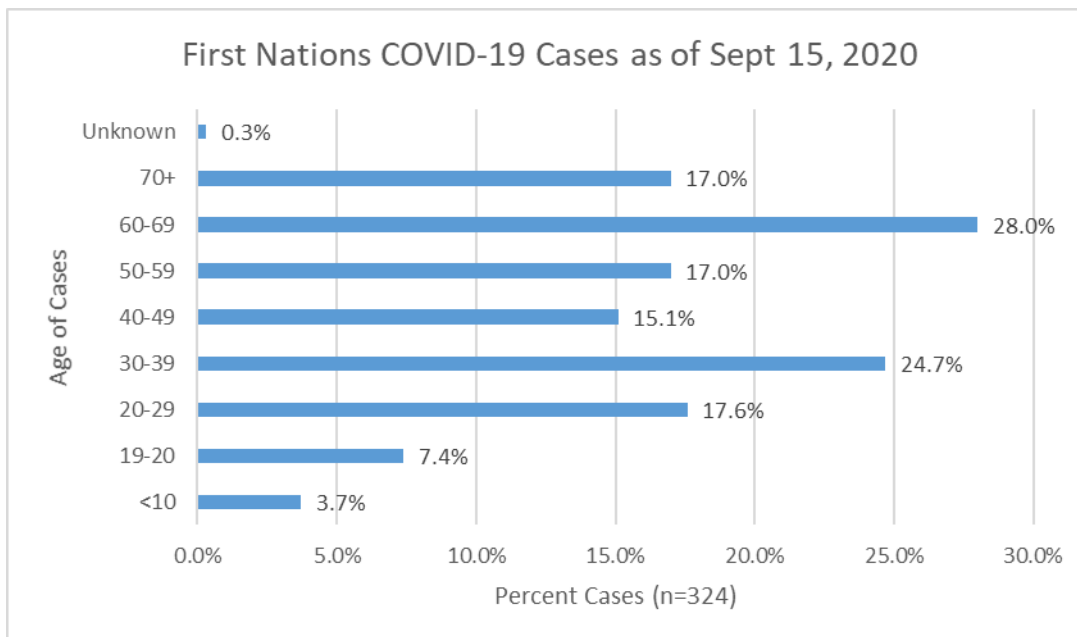
Analyses for In or Near Community only includes lab confirmed cases, 10 additional epi-linked cases, and 1 additional case tested outside of BC are included in the cases by Health Authority.



First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=324)
Updated: Sep 15, 2020



The majority (68.5%) 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 **2.56%** as of **September 15, 2020**. The rate of positive cases was **200 per 100,000** people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was **144** per 100,000 people. Until recently the rate for First Nations has been similar to other residents, this has only changed with the increase in cases in recent weeks.

Total tests completed:

- **12,447** in all BC
 - **2,038** in Fraser Salish
 - **2,133** in Interior
 - **2,401** on Vancouver Island
 - **2,864** in Norther
 - **3,033** in Vancouver Coastal

On First Nations reserves in provinces, as of **September 18, 2020**, ISC is aware of:

- **576** confirmed positive COVID-19
- **50** hospitalizations
- **480** recovered cases
- **10** deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: **110**
- Alberta: **251**
- Saskatchewan: **95**
- **Manitoba:** **8**
- Ontario: **66**
- Quebec: **46**

First Nations Community Statistics from ISC (September 17, 2020):

Band Office Closure – 145 (3 updates)

- **590** Bridge River
- **689** Little Shuswap Lake
- **690** Neskonlith

Band Office Reopening (0 updates)

Tribal Council Office Closure – 16 (0 updates)

State of Local Emergency Declared – 65 (1 update)

- **554** Tla'amin Nation (f. Sliammon)

State of Local Emergency Rescinded (0 update)

EOC Activations – 120 (0 update)

EOC Closed (0 update)

Community Closure – 113 (1 update)

- **539** Nuxalk Nation (f. Bella Coola)

Community Closure Over (0 update)

FNHA Response:

- FNHA is on Week **25** 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:

- Maintaining communications and regular telephone updates with the Regional Health Authorities, Emergency Management of BC, Ministry of Health, First Nations Leadership Council, and Indigenous Services Canada.
- 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.
- The First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service launched on August 25, 2020.
- 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 and August 20 and **September 17**.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Working with Federal and Provincial partners to obtain 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 7 and sent out to Regional Offices on April 8.
 - A Federal and 4th Provincial shipment of PPE arrived in Vancouver on April 15 and sent out to Regional Offices on April 20.
 - 5th PPE order from Province received week of April 20 and shipped to the Regional offices on April 27.
 - 6th PPE order from Province received April 29 will be repackaged and shipped to the Regional offices for Monday May 4.
 - 7th Provincial PPE ordered and arrived in Regions May 8 and 8th Provincial PPE ordered and arrived in Regions May 19.
 - 9th Provincial PPE ordered and was sent to Regions on May 26.
 - 10th order of PPE arrived May 27 and was sent to Regions during the week of June 1.
 - 11th order of PPE shipped directly from Provincial Health Services Authority to Regional offices of June 8.
 - 12th order of PPE ordered and shipped the week of June 15.
 - 13th order of PPE ordered and shipped the week of June 22-26 to the regions
 - June 29-July 3 – no shipments and inventory conducted in each region
 - 14th order of PPE has been ordered and shipped the week of July 6 – 10 to the regions
 - 15th order of PPE has been ordered and shipped the week July 13-17 to the regions
 - Weeks of July 20 to 31, the regions have sufficient stock for this week. PPE and Community Services COVID Supplies were shipped to Haida Gwaii.
 - Week of August 3 – 7 PPE was received from PHSA and sent to the Regions.
 - Week of August 17- 21 PPE was sent to all Regions.
 - Week of August 24 – 28 PPE was sent to all Regions
 - Week of August 31 – September 4 PPE was sent to all Regions
 - **Week of September 7 – 11 PPE was sent to all Regions.**
 - **Week of September 14 – 18 PPE was sent to all Regions.**

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](#).

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](https://www.fnha.ca/app).

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/>

Better health through promotion protection and prevention. <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Includes: COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, COVID-19 for the Public, COVID-19 data, COVID-19 exposures, COVID-19 for health professionals,

Public Health Notices:

- COVID-19 Alert – Northwest BC. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-alert-northwest-bc>
- Expanded Prior Approval Coverage for Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/expanded-prior-approval-coverage-for-indian-residential-school-resolution-health-support-program>
- FNHA, FNHC, FNHDA Issue Statement Supporting Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond’s Investigation into Systemic Racism. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-fnhc-fnhda-issue-statement-supporting-mary-ellen-turpel-lafonds-investigation-into-systemic-racism>
- COVID-19 Pandemic Sparks Surge in Overdose Deaths this Year. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-pandemic-sparks-surge-in-overdose-deaths-this-year>
- Phase Three Means More Reopening, Ongoing Caution. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/phase-three-means-more-reopening-ongoing-caution>
- Widespread Racism Requires System-Wide Response: First Nations Health Authority <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/widespread-racism-requires-system-wide-response-first-nations-health-authority>
- Update on COVID-19 Testing Protocols. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/update-on-covid-19-testing-protocols>
- Safety First: Let’s protect our children from ingesting hand sanitizer. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/safety-first-lets-protect-our-children-from-ingesting-hand-sanitizer>
- 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>
- First Nations Health Authority and Canadian Red Cross Announce Partnership for Disaster Response. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authority-and-canadian-red-cross-announce-partnership-for-disaster-response>
- First Nations Health Authority Issues Guidance on Notification of COVID-19 Cases. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authority-issues-guidance-on-notification-of-covid-19-cases>
- COVID-19 Guide to Medical Transportation Benefits for Self-Isolation. https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/health-benefits-news/covid-19-guide-to-medical-transportation-benefits-for-self-isolation?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Recovery%20During%20the%20Pandemic%20Medical%20Transportation%20Benefits%20for%20Self-Isolation%20Virtual%20Programming%20from%20Tso-w-Tun-Le-Lum%20Society%20and%20more&utm_content=Recovery%20During%20the%20Pandemic%20Medical%20Transportation%20Benefits%20for%20Self-Isolation%20Virtual%20Programming%20from%20Tso-w-Tun-Le-Lum%20Society%20and%20more+Version+A+CID_429071c2980b11af642f257ac41619c4&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20more%20about%20this%20program%20here
- Public health processes and the role of communities during COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/public-health-processes-and-the-role-of-communities-during-covid-19>
- First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day. <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-doctor-of-the-day>
- Article: Need to see a doctor? Introducing the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/need-to-see-a-doctor-introducing-the-first-nations-virtual-doctor-of-the-day>
- Fact Sheet: Introducing the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-First-Nations-Virtual-Doctor-of-the-Day-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- 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>
- Article: COVID-19 - Smoking and Vaping: What’s the Risk? <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-smoking-and-vaping-what-s-the-risk>

[19-smoking-and-vaping-whats-the-risk](#)

- 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. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-ships-over-150-000-pieces-of-personal-protective-equipment-across-the-province>
- When You're in Recovery and a Pandemic Hits. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-youre-in-recovery-and-a-pandemic-hits>
- 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_CL2KEQtOr_6pzFu8jJOWx
- 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: Prevent COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) by Cleaning your Phone <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Prevent-COVID-19-by-Cleaning-Your-Phone.pdf>
- Poster: How Physical Distancing Works <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-How-Physical-Distancing-Works-Poster.pdf>
- Poster: "Please do not enter our home for the protection of the people who live here." <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Do-Not-Enter-Home-Sign.pdf>

Mental Health and Holistic Wellness

- **The First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service:** <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-substance-use-and-psychiatry-service>
- Good Medicine: Wellness Champion Megan Metz draws on Haisla culture to support youth mental health and wellness <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-wellness-champion-megan-metz-draws-on-haisla-culture-to-support-youth-mental-health-and-wellness>
- FNHA Tackles BC's Dual Public Health Crises with Overdose Prevention Campaign and New Virtual Health Service. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-tackles-bcs-dual-public-health-crises-with-overdose-prevention-campaign-and-new-virtual-health-service>
- Welcome to the FNHA 30x30 Active Challenge! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/welcome-to-the-fnha-30x30-active-challenge>
- Honouring our Elders Today and Every Day. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/honouring-our-elders-today-and-every-day>
- Introducing the new Good Medicine page! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/introducing-the-new-good-medicine-page>
- Pandemic Side Effect: Media Spotlight on FNHA's Doctors. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/pandemic-side-effect-media-spotlight-on-fnhas-doctors>
- Accessing contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted infection counselling and services during COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/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. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-virtual-doctor-of-the-day-service-provides-culturally-safe-primary-care-for-first-nations-people-in-bc>
- Staying strong during tough times with the "medicine of resilience". <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-strong-during-tough-times-with-the-medicine-of-resilience>
- Taking care of our sexual health during the pandemic. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/taking-care-of-our-sexual-health-during-the-pandemic>
- 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>
- Staying connected if your loved one is hospitalized due to COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-connected-if-your-loved-one-is-hospitalized-due-to-covid-19>
- Practise Lateral Kindness to Help Reduce Stigma and Fear of COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/practise-lateral-kindness-to-help-reduce-stigma-and-fear-of-covid-19>
- The Power of Voice to Advance Culturally Safe Health Care for First Nations Communities. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/the-power-of-voice-to-advance-culturally-safe-health-care-for-first-nations-communities>
- 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](#)
- Should You Take Your Child to the Doctor During COVID-19? <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/should-you-take-your-child-to-the-doctor-during-covid-19>
- Your Health and Wellness Matter. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/your-health-and-wellness-matter>
- Head Start Programs Adapt in Laxgalts'ap and Gitanmaax. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/head-start-programs-adapt-in-laxgaltsap-and-gitanmaax>
- Young Wisdom on Mental Health and Wellness. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/young-wisdom-on-mental-health-and-wellness>
- Ten Tips for Sleeping Well During Troubled Times. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/ten-tips-for-sleeping-well-during-troubled-times>
- Resource List: Mental Health and Cultural Supports Available During the COVID-19 Pandemic <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Mental-Health-and-Cultural-Supports.pdf>
- Fact Sheet: Providing Activities for Children during a time of Crisis <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/providing-activities-for-children-during-a-time-of-crisis>
- Article: Impacts of the Pandemic on Mental Health and Wellness <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/impacts-of-the-pandemic-on-mental-health-and-wellness>
- Article: Good Medicine: Keeping Active at Home <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-keeping-active-at-home>
- Article: How to Host a Virtual Social Gathering during the Pandemic <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/how-to-host-a-virtual-social-gathering-during-the-pandemic-staying-connected-while-practising-physical-distancing>
- Article: Remember that Food is Medicine <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/remember-that-food-is-medicine>

Harm Reduction:

- Article: Practising Harm Reduction during COVID-19 <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/practising-harm-reduction-during-covid-19>
- Fact Sheet (BC Centre for Disease Control): COVID-19 Harm Reduction and Overdose Response <http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19-harm-reduction.pdf>

FNHA Videos:

- [How has COVID-19 affected people who use substances?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCfOmg) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCfOmg>
- (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 3.49 mins) [Stay Connected](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJHcdX0&feature=youtu.be) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWJHcdX0&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>

- Rick Milone and Sonia Isaac-Mann COVID-19 Podcast. <https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority/rick-milone-and-sonia-isaac-mann-covid-19-podcast>
- Guidance for Community Restart. <https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority/fnha-richard-jock-covid-19-update-podcast>

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>