Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
FNHA Public Health Response
Community Situation Report
September 28, 2020

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

COVID-19 Updates

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of September 25, 2020 at 3:00pm:
There have been a total of 8,641 confirmed cases in BC, and 230 deaths. As of September 25, there were 1,349 active cases in the province, 62 people were hospitalized and of those, 19 people were in ICU. There are 3,533 people under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 7,036 (81.4%) patients have fully recovered.

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

![Regional breakdown of COVID-19 cases](image)

Active Outbreaks:
- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 10 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 4 outbreaks
- Community outbreaks:
  - Tla’a’mín: As of September 22, there were 18 active cases in or near community in Tla’a’mín.
  - Nak’azdli Whu’ten: As of September 22, there were 13 active cases in or near community.
  - Witset: Data are being processed.
  - There are currently 33 active cases in Vancouver Centre North which contains the Downtown East Side.
First Nations COVID-19 Cases:
The total number of First Nations COVID-19 lab confirmed cases 451 and 185 active cases in BC, 49 of the active cases were in or near community as of September 22, 2020. Most of the lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 among First Nations in BC have now recovered. There have been a total of 49 (11%) 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.

The majority (68.5%) of cases among First Nations have occurred in those under age 50.

Active cases by Health Authority:
- 29 in Fraser Salish
- 15 in Interior
- 28 in Northern
- 114 in Vancouver Coastal
- Less than 5 on Vancouver Island
The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was 3.03% as of September 22, 2020. The rate of positive cases was 278 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 163 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.

Epidemic curve for lab confirmed First Nations COVID-19 cases (n=445), February 25-September 22, 2020

The epidemic curve shows the number of lab confirmed 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.

Total tests completed as of September 22, 2020:
- 13,649 in all BC
  - 2,240 in Fraser Salish
  - 2,2364 in Interior
  - 2,557 on Vancouver Island
  - 3,131 in Northern
  - 3,333 in Vancouver Coastal

On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of September 23, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:
- 631 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 121 active cases
- 52 hospitalizations
- 499 recovered cases
- 11 deaths

Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 137
- Alberta: 274
- Saskatchewan: 96
- Manitoba: 8
- Ontario: 69
- Quebec: 47

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (September 17, 2020):
- Band Office Closure – 145 (3 updates)
- 590 Bridge River
- 689 Little Shuswap Lake
- 690 Neskonlith
- 539 Nuxalk Nation (f. Bella Coola)
- Community Closure – 113 (1 update)
- Community Closure Over – (0 update)
- 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)
FNHA Response

- FNHA is on Week 26 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.


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:
- 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
**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=qVLYraZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMukCL2KEQtOr_6pzFu8jJOwX](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVLYraZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMukCL2KEQtOr_6pzFu8jJOwX)

**Mental Health and Holistic Wellness**

• 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:

FNHA Videos:
• How has COVID-19 affected people who use substances? 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 (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4, 30 seconds)
• Keep Your Bubble Small https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7NFeuwx0uc&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 (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

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