



# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

## FNHA Public Health Response

December 20, 2021

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

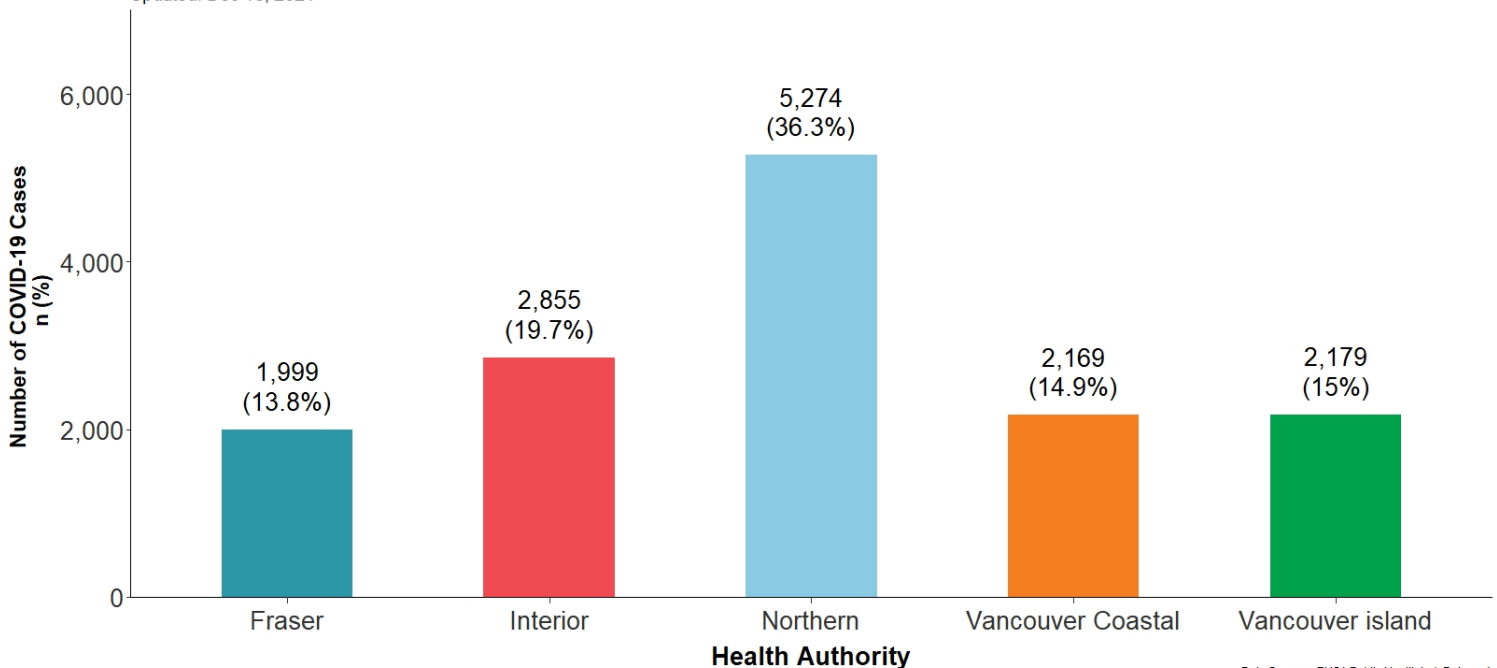
### COVID-19 Updates

#### First Nations Cases in BC – As of December 15, 2021

- There have been a total of **14,511** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**14,257** lab diagnosed cases and **254** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **129 cases among First Nations people in BC** since the last published report.
- Out of the **14,511** cases, **6,262 (43.2%)** are in or near community; **7,817(53.9%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **432 (3.0%)** cases.
- There are total **152** active First Nations COVID-19 cases in British Columbia. There are **79** active COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.
- Sadly, there have been a total of **222** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **One** additional death is reported since **the last published** report.
- There have been a total of **1,501 (10.3%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these, **662** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **828** off reserve. Information on in or near community/ off reserve is not available for **11** cases.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=14,476)

Updated: Dec 15, 2021



Data Sources: PHSA Public Health Lab Data and BCDC's COVID-19 Surveillance Line List

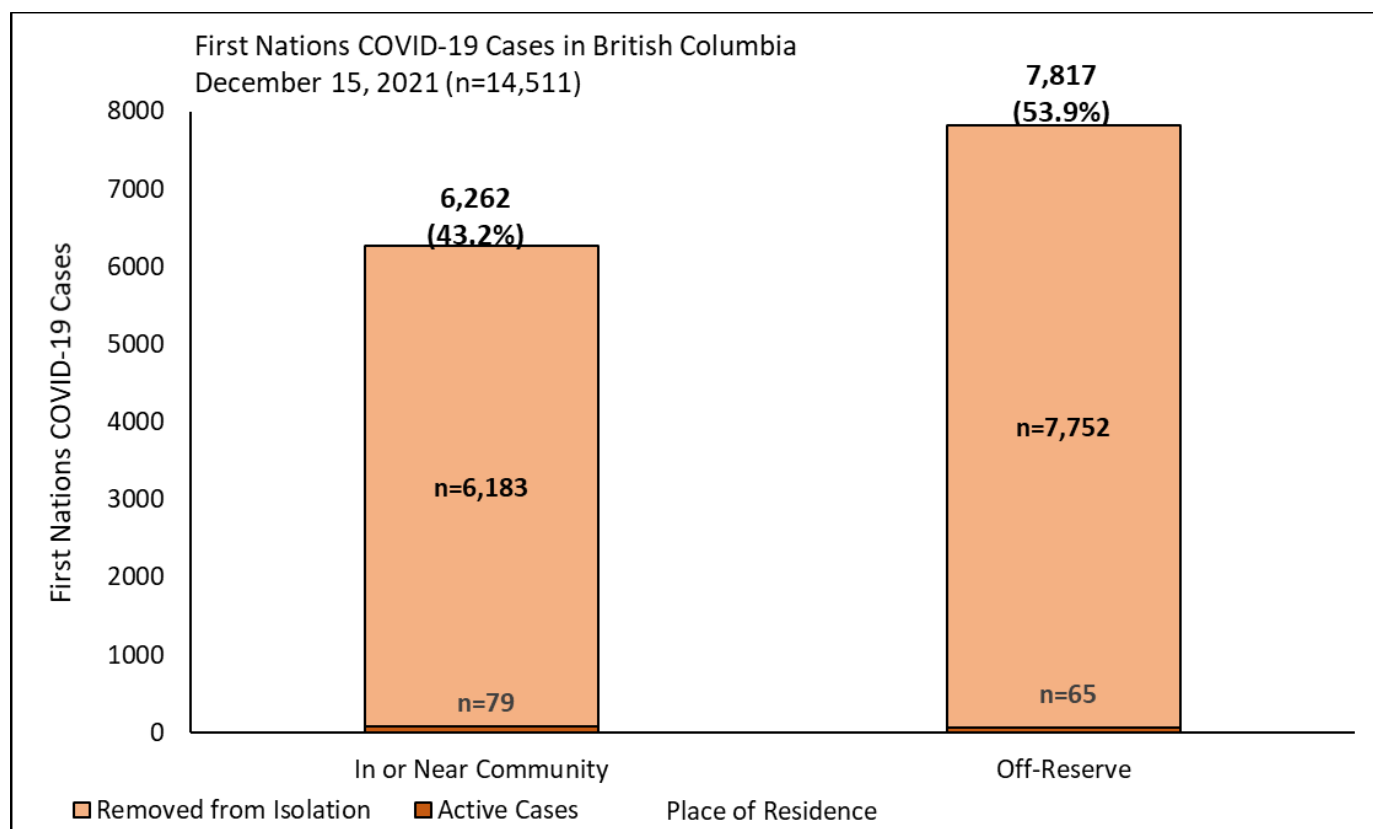
\*Total number of cases (n=14,511) includes two (2) case reported as "Out of Canada" residents, twenty-four (24) cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents, one (1) case reported as "Out Of BC – Ontario", one (1) case reported as "Out Of BC – Quebec, one (1) case reported as "Out Of Canada - Country other", and six (6) cases reported as "Out of BC – Saskatchewan" resident. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=14,476) reported as BC residents.

**Regional Active cases and Testing data as of December 15, 2021**

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 cases <sup>a</sup>	11	24	51	15	51	152
Total persons tested <sup>b</sup>	12,925	13,941	15,983	11,255	12,429	66,558
Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to December 8, 2021)	8.0%	11.6%	20.1%	9.8%	10.4%	12.1%
Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (December 9 to December 15, 2021)	4.1%	8.5%	15.8%	3.3%	15.4%	9.5%
Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)	103,891.3	75,768.8	63,916.7	97,649.1	56,362.9	75,734.4

<sup>a</sup> 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."

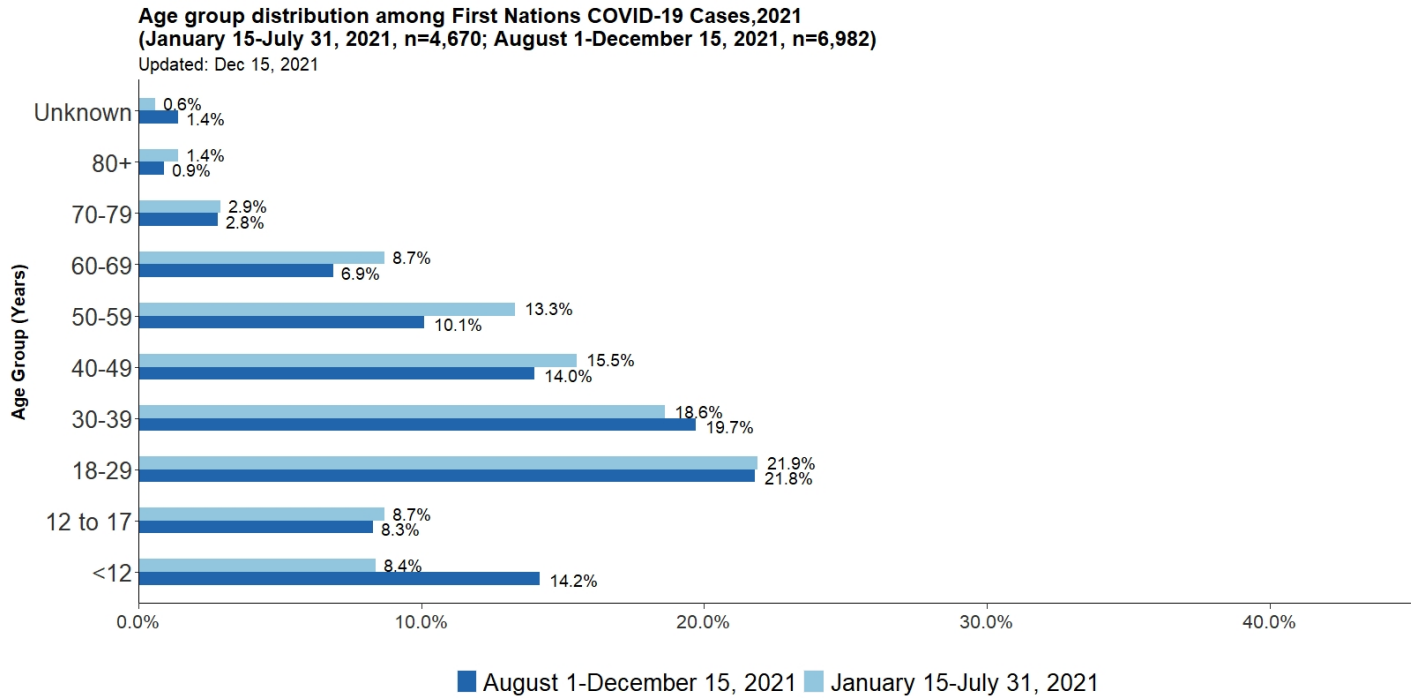
<sup>b</sup> Geographical Information (RHAs) for 25 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available. They are included in total number of First Nations people tested in BC.



\*Total number of cases (n=14,511) includes 432 cases without information on LHA of residence and "In or Near Community" analysis. Information about in or near community analysis is not available for eight (8) active cases.

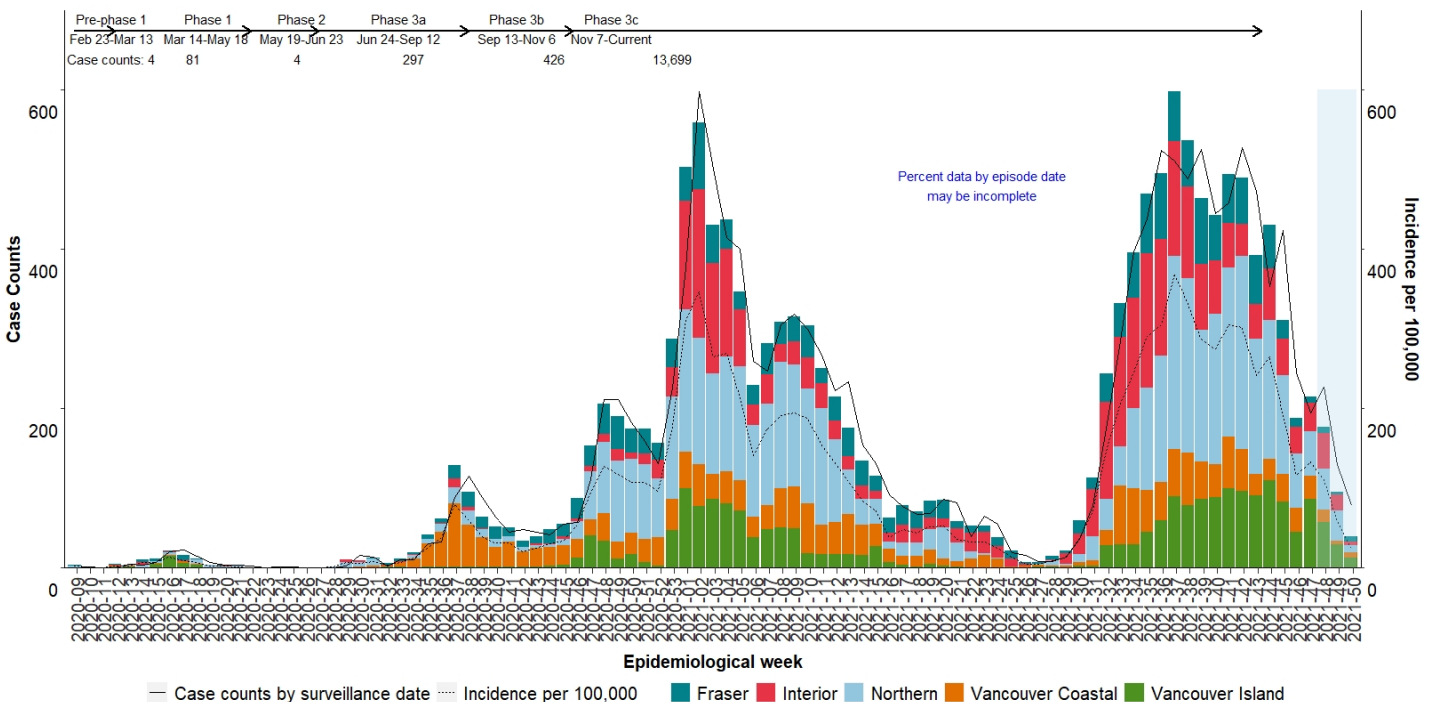
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including cases tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of December 15, 2021, there were 79 active COVID-19 cases among First Nations people in or near community.**

There is an increase in the proportion of COVID-19 cases who are <12 years of age, and to a lesser degree 30-39 years of age, reported between August 1 to December 15, 2021 compared to the proportion of cases of these age groups reported between January 15 to July 31, 2021.



The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 tests completed for First Nations in BC was **12.10%** as of **December 15, 2021**. The rate of positive cases was **8,937.9 per 100,000** people among First Nations. The rate of positive cases among other residents of BC was **4,286.8** per 100,000 people.

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episode date (coloured bar)<sup>a</sup>, surveillance date (line) and health authority, British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – December 15, 2021 (Week-50, 2021\*) (n=14,511)

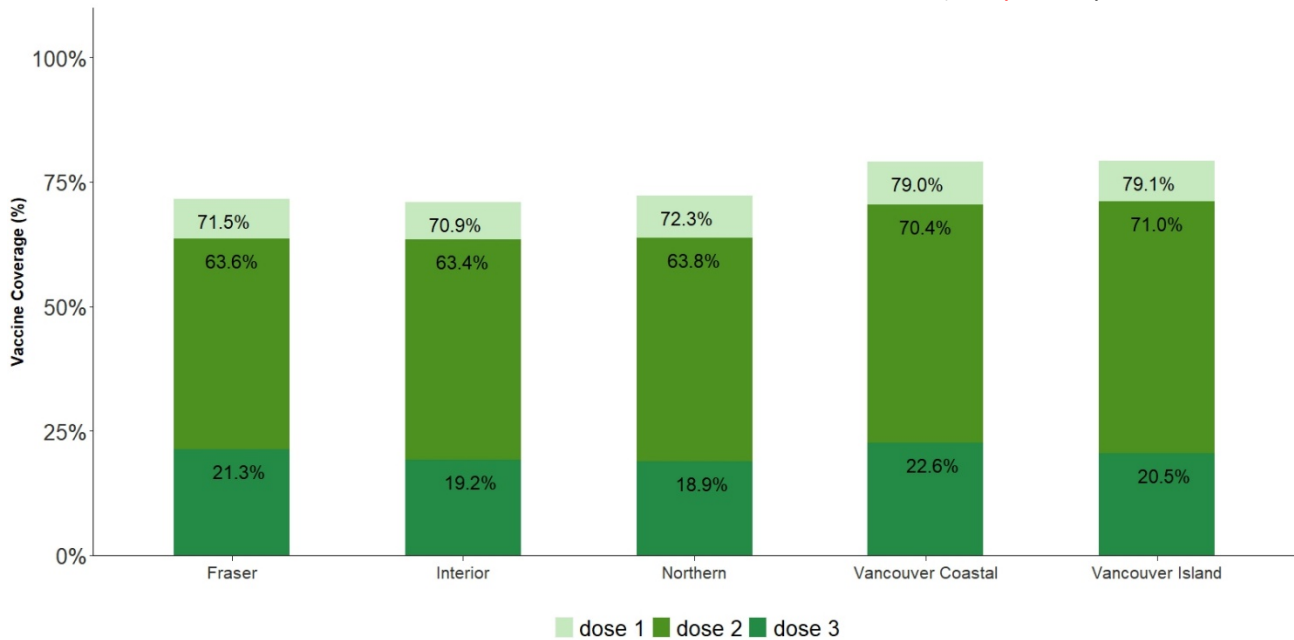


<sup>a</sup> Episode date is now defined as date of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. When those dates are not available, earliest lab date (collection date or result date) is used, and if unavailable, surveillance date is used. Report date used previously is now replaced with surveillance date (laboratory result date); if unavailable, report date is used.

<sup>b</sup> Data source: BCCDC's line list data received from RHAs and PHSA's public health lab data (up to December 15, 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

114,309, dose 2= 101,851, dose 3= 31,184), 5+ years, up to December 15, 2021



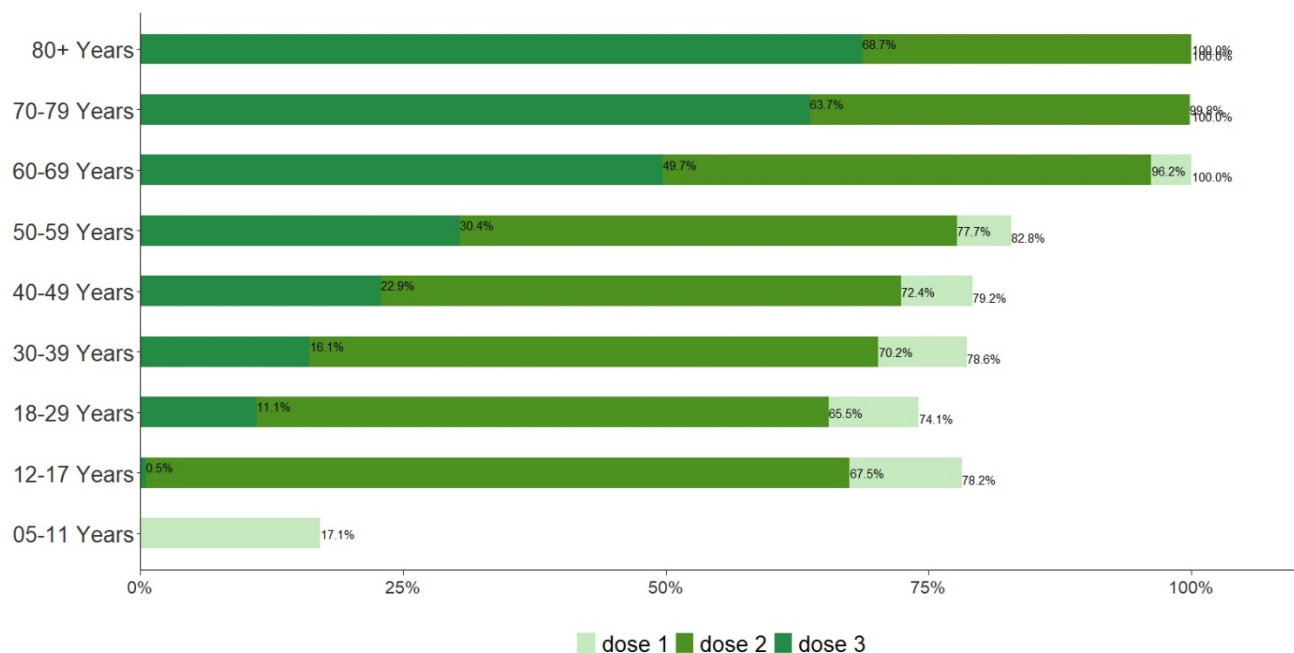
\* HA information was not available for 1,493 clients for dose 1, 979 clients for dose 2 and 97 clients for dose 3.

\*\* These analyses were only possible for Status and Status eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations

**Please note that the coverage rates shown include 5-11 year olds and cannot be directly compared to previous rates for 12+ years as the total population eligible for vaccination is now larger.**

### First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Age Group

Doses 1, 2 and 3 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 115,802, dose 2= 102,830, dose 3= 31,281), 5+ years, up to December 15, 2021



\* These analyses were only possible for Status and Status eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations

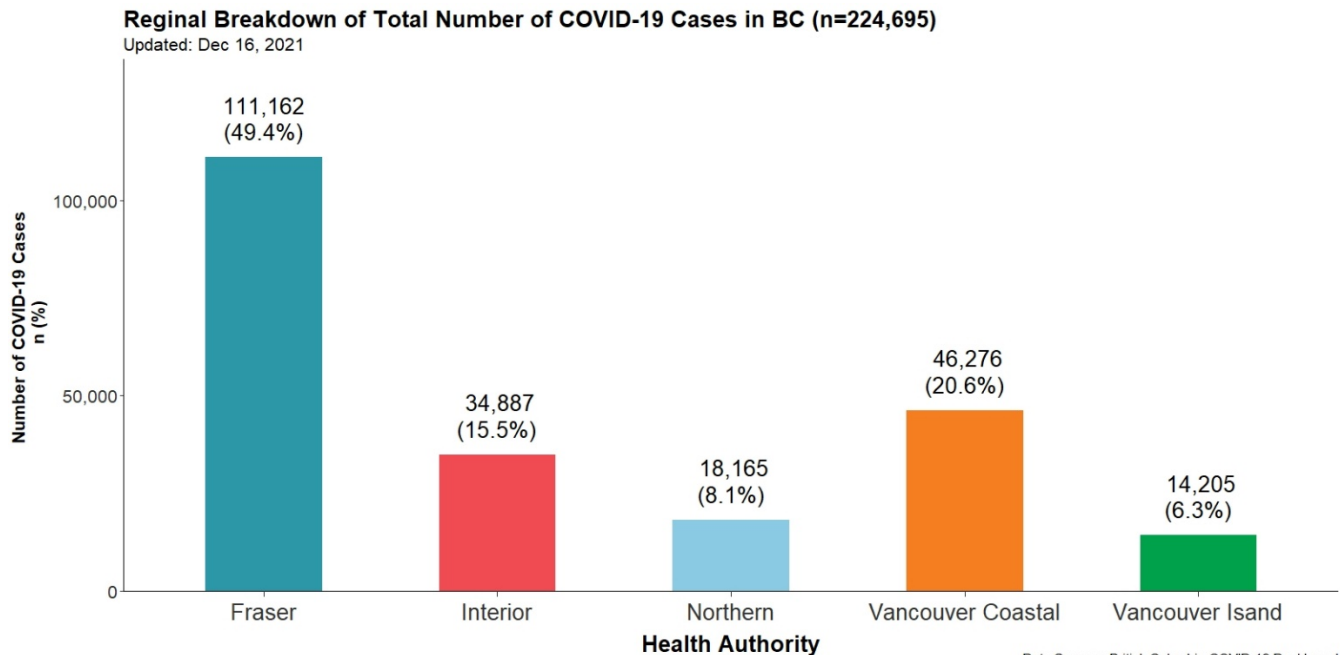
\*\* Please note that coverage rates are approximations and are capped at 100%.

## Vaccine Distribution

- As of December 15, 2021, more than 118,900 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 16,900 individuals aged 5-17 years have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in First Nations communities, as well as outside of communities by regional health authorities.<sup>1</sup> These individuals are First Nations people, as well as some non-First Nations people who were vaccinated in community. Of these individuals, more than 107,000 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 10,700 First Nations individuals 5-17 years old have received at least two doses. Of these individuals, more than 39,700 First Nations people 5+ years of age have received third doses.
- As of December 15, 82.5% of 18+ years and 74.8% of 5+ years status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine<sup>2</sup>
- As of December 16, 86.8% (4,327,774) of eligible people 5+ years in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 82.5% (4,110,723) have received their second dose

## Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of December 17, 2021, 3:25 p.m.

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 225,785 confirmed cases in BC, and 2,399 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 4,313 active cases, 191 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 74 people are in intensive care



\*Total number of cases (n=224,695) include 303 cases reported as “Out of Canada” residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=224,998) reported as BC residents.

## Active Outbreaks (as of December 17, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living: 0 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 1 outbreaks

\* 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 (December 17, 2021):

Access Restrictions: 128 (same)	Security Checkpoints: 66 (same)
Band Offices Inaccessible: 83 (same)	State of Local Emergency: 45 (same)
	EOC Activations: 119 (same)

<sup>1</sup> Prior to December 13, 2021’s report, when a vaccinated person’s age was not known, the doses were included in the 18+ counts. Most of these missing ages have now been determined, and total dose counts have been adjusted accordingly. This has resulted in a lower 18+ dose count and a higher count for the 5-17 age cohort.

<sup>2</sup> Coverage rates in reports prior to December 13, 2021, are not directly comparable to this report’s coverage rates because age at vaccination has been replaced with age at the end of 2021, in order to align with provincial reporting. Similarly, the addition of 5-11 year olds to the population eligible for vaccination has decreased overall coverage rates.

## 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**

- [An Important Message about the Omicron Variant of COVID-19](#). December 17, 2021.
- [New Health Measures Take Aim at Omicron Variant of COVID-19](#). December 17, 2021.
- [Keep COVID-19 Out of Your Winter Holiday Plans](#). December 14, 2021.
- [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines Can't Change Your DNA – Here's Why](#). December 9, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Regulations under Part II of the Canada Labour Code Information Summary for Indigenous Partners](#). December 8, 2021.
- [Indigenous VaxChamp Wants To Go Viral in the Healthiest Way](#). December 7, 2021.
- [End of Federal Transition Period for Domestic Travellers Who Are Not Fully Vaccinated](#). December 1, 2021.
- [An Indigenous Paramedic on the Front Lines of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). November 30, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccines Now Available for Children 5-11 in BC](#). November 23, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccines Approved For Children 5-11 – What You Should Know](#). November 19, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Boosters: What They Are and Why You Need Them](#). November 10, 2021.
- [Kiefer Collison Partnership with FNHA Expands into November VaxChamp Contest](#). November 3, 2021.
- [BC Launches COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Program](#). November 2, 2021.
- [Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination – Travelling for Medical Appointments](#). October 29, 2021
- [Tl'azt'en Man Urges Indigenous People to Get Vaccinated after Loss of Family Member](#). October 20, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Risk versus the Vaccine's Side Effects – There's No Comparison!](#) October 20, 2021.
- [Proof of Vaccination Now Required for Visitors of Long-Term Care Facilities](#). October 13, 2021.
- [Kiefer Collison Teams Up with the FNHA for New COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign](#). October 1, 2021.
- [FNHA Responds to New PHO Vaccine Mandate for BC Health Care Workers](#). September 24, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Cases in My Community: Should I Be Concerned?](#) September 22, 2021.
- [Smoking, Vaping and COVID-19: Do They Affect Each Other?](#) September 21, 2021.
- [Everything You Need to Know about BC COVID-19 Vaccine Card](#). September 8, 2021.
- [Breakthrough Infections – Does It Mean the Vaccine Has Stopped Working?](#) September 2, 2021.
- [FASD Support during the COVID-19 Pandemic Is about Being Flexible, Creative](#). September 1, 2021.
- [The Back-to-School Essentials List: Pencils, Paper... and Vaccines](#). September 1, 2021.

- [Help! My Loved One Won't Get Vaccinated!](#) July 29, 2021.
- [Inclusive Toolkit Provides Mental Health and Wellness Supports for COVID-19.](#) July 21, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Numbers Add up to a Concern for First Nations Population.](#) July 20, 2021.
- [Feeling Anxious about Getting Back to "Normal"? Navigating BC's Restart Plan.](#) July 14, 2021.
- [Vaccine Hot Topics: Myocarditis, Pericarditis and the COVID-19 Vaccines.](#) June 16, 2021.
- [Vaccines and Vigilance Key to Putting the Pandemic behind Us.](#) June 2, 2021.
- [Pregnant Women Prioritized for the COVID-19 Vaccination. May 11, 2021.](#)
- [Vaccinated Mothers Can Transfer Antibodies to Their Babies to Protect Them from COVID-19.](#) April 27, 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.](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing.](#) March 22, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellness.](#) March 22, 2021.
- [Suicide: Responding and Keeping People Safe.](#) March 10, 2021.
- [FNHA Podcast: Doctor Talks Vaccine Acceptance.](#) March 10, 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](mailto: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](mailto:COVID19needs@fnha.ca)
- The form for ordering personal protective equipment is available here:  
<https://www.fnha.ca/AboutSite/NewsAndEventsSite/NewsSite/Documents/FNHA-Process-and-Considerations-for-obtaining-additional-PPE-for-BC-First-Nations-Communities-Annex-A.pdf>