



Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

FNHA Public Health Response

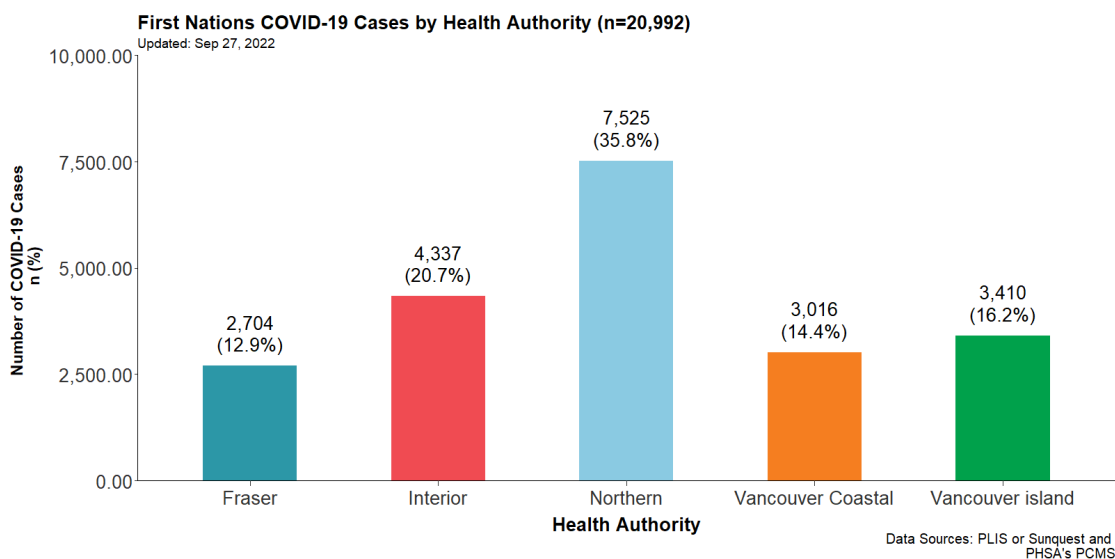
October 3, 2022

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

COVID-19 Updates

First Nations Cases in BC – As of September 27, 2022¹

- There are **20,994** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**20,718** lab diagnosed cases and **276** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **23 cases among First Nations people in BC** since the last published report.
- Out of the **20,994** cases, **8,943 (42.6%)** are in or near community; **11,307 (53.9%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **744 (3.5%)** cases.
- Sadly, there have been **258** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations people living in BC from the beginning of the pandemic to **April 1, 2022**. **Between April 2 and August 30, 2022, 31 First Nations people died from any cause (COVID-19 and non-COVID-19) within 30 days of testing positive for COVID-19**. Due to a reduction in the number of deaths occurring from COVID-19, this will be reported on a monthly basis going forward.
- There have been **2,426 (11.6%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these, **1,042** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **1,381** off reserve. Information on in or near community/ off reserve is not available for **3** cases.



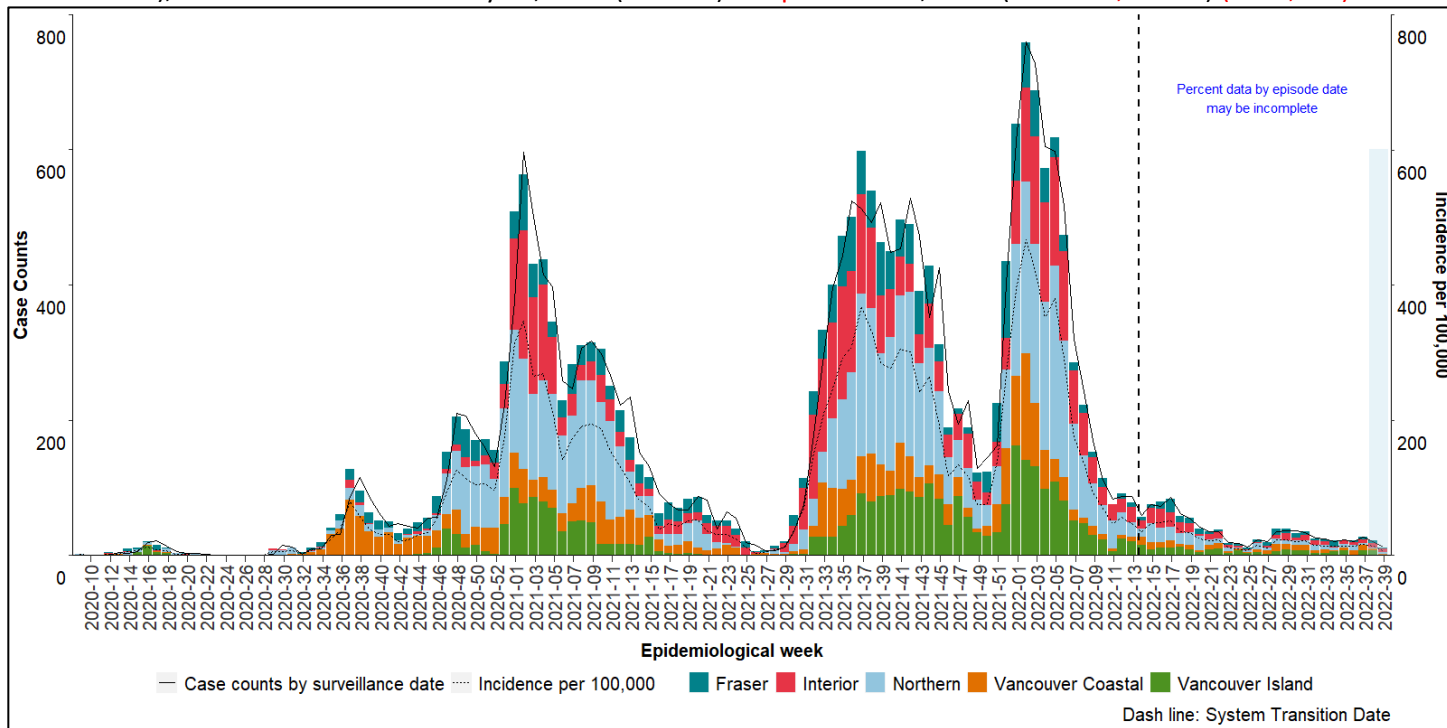
*Total number of cases (n=20,994) includes 2 cases reported as Out of Country.

¹ As a part of BC’s transition plan for COVID-19 surveillance, the province has shifted away from daily to weekly COVID-19 data reporting and has transitioned to a new integrated COVID-19 surveillance system: the Provincial Health Services Authority’s (PHSA) Provincial COVID-19 Monitoring Solution (PCMS). This COVID-19 update includes data from the new integrated system. Hospitalization data now includes anyone who has been hospitalized and tests positive for COVID-19. This means that the number of hospitalizations will likely be higher due to the inclusion of incidental hospitalizations (i.e. people who were hospitalized for non-COVID-19 reasons, but were COVID-19-positive). Total deaths include all COVID-19-related deaths reported by regional health authorities (RHAs) from February 2020 to April 1, 2022, and from April 2022 forward all COVID-19 lab-positive cases of people who died from any cause within 30 days of their first COVID-19 lab-positive result. Going forward, only cases with positive laboratory results will be added to the PHSA’s PCMS. This is likely an underestimate of cases. Consequently, case counts in this report are likely an underestimate of the true number of COVID-19 cases due to changes in testing strategies driven by the Omicron variant (see <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>). Total COVID-19 cases include lab-confirmed, lab-probable and epi-linked cases. From January 2020 to April 1, 2022 cases included those reported by RHAs and positive laboratory results in the Provincial Laboratory Information Solution (PLIS) or Sunquest. As of April 2, 2022, only cases with positive laboratory results in PHSA’s PCMS are included. These case counts do not include people who only tested positive by rapid antigen tests. Self-reporting is also no longer possible through the provincial COVID-19 positive test result reporting form. As it is no longer possible to estimate active cases accurately, FNHA will no longer be reporting on active cases. These changes align with BCCDC’s reporting changes.

Regional Testing Data for the Past Week (September 21 - September 27, 2022)

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Total persons tested over the past week	24	36	34	40	42	176
Percentage positivity (%) over the past week	12.5%	22.2%	14.7%	12.5%	11.9%	14.8%

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among First Nations in BC by episode date, surveillance date (line) and health authority (coloured bars),^a British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – September 27, 2022 (Week-39, 2022*) (n=20,994)



^a Total COVID-19 cases include lab-confirmed, lab-probable and epi-linked cases. From January 2020 to April 1, 2022 cases included those reported by the health authorities and positive laboratory results in the PLIS or Sunquest. As of April 2, 2022, only cases with positive laboratory results in PHSA's PCMS are included (up to September 27, 2022). 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.

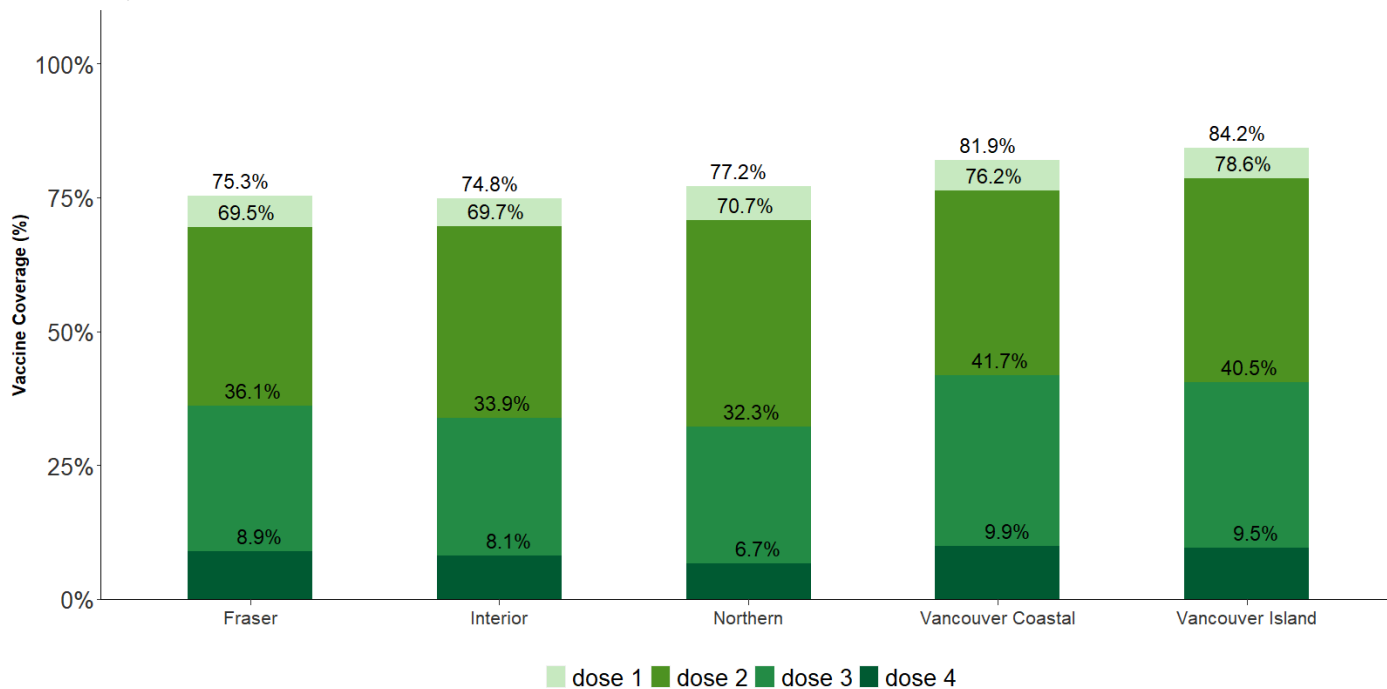
Vaccine Distribution

- As of September 27, more than 120,800 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 20,300 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. These individuals are First Nations people, as well as some non-First Nations people who were vaccinated in community. Of these individuals, more than 110,700 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 16,600 First Nations individuals 5-17 years old have received at least two doses. Of these individuals, more than 58,900 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 3,400 First Nations individuals 5-17 years old have received at least three doses. Of these individuals, more than 13,800 First Nations people 5+ years of age have received fourth doses.
- As of September 27, 79.8% of 5+ years status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, 73.7% of 5+ years have received at least two doses, 36.7% of 5+ years have received at least three doses, and 8.5% of 5+ years have received at least four doses.
- As of September 24, 2022, 92% (4,557,705) of eligible people five and older in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 89% (4,399,082) have received their second dose, 58% (2,856,792) have received their third dose, and 15% (726,853) have received their fourth dose.²

² British Columbia COVID-19 Dashboard <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>.

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Health Authority

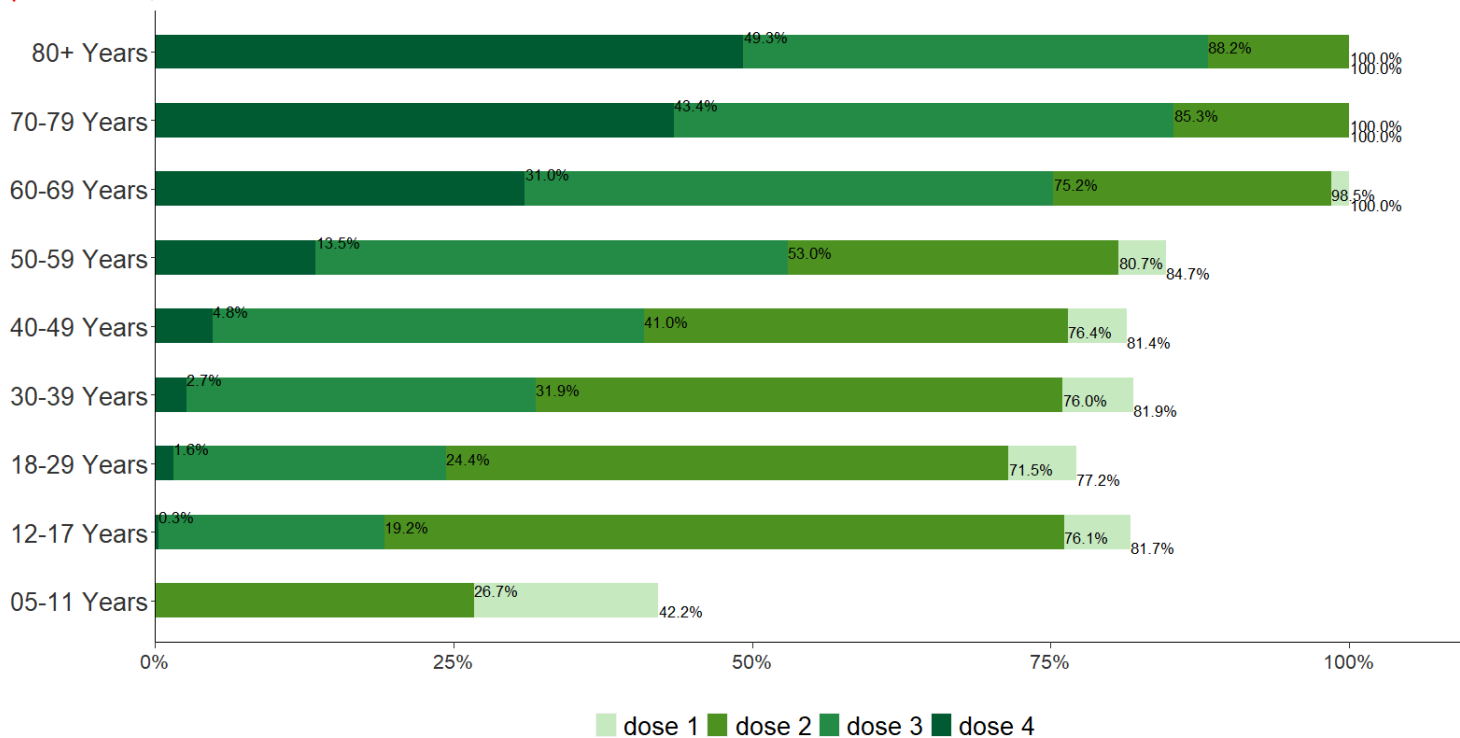
Doses 1, 2, 3, and 4 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 121,055, dose 2= 112,030, dose 3= 56,015, dose 4= 13,003), 5+ years, up to September 27, 2022



* Health authority information was not available for 2,737 clients for dose 1, 2,109 clients for dose 2, 2,785 clients for dose 3 and 93 clients for dose 4.
 **These analyses were only possible for status and status-eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Age Group

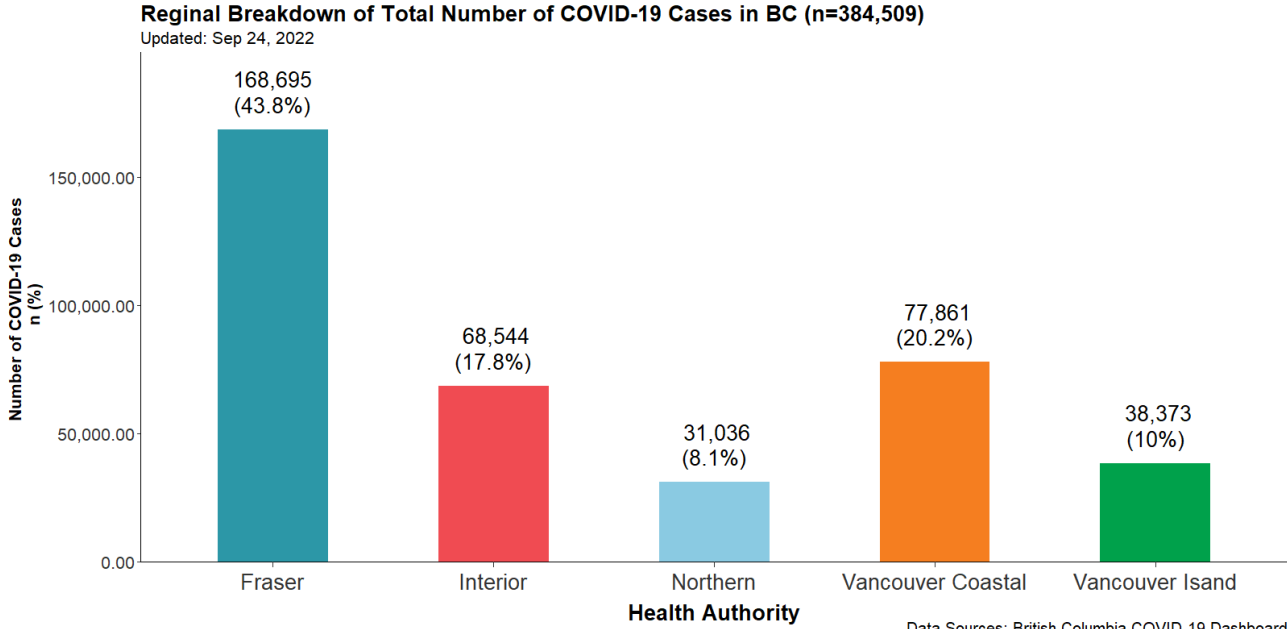
Doses 1, 2, 3, and 4 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 123,792, dose 2= 114,139, dose 3= 56,800, dose 4= 13,096), 5+ years, up to September 27, 2022



* 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%.

Provincial COVID-19 Cases

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 384,900 confirmed cases in BC as of September 24, 2022
- There have been 4,283 deaths from COVID-19 as of September 24, 2022
- As of September 29, 30 people were in critical care and 367 were hospitalized due to COVID-19



*Total number of cases (n=384,900) include 391 cases reported as "Out of Canada" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=384,059) reported as BC residents.

* A geographic distribution of COVID-19 by Local Health Area can be found [here](#).

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (September 22, 2022):

Access Restrictions: 128 (same)	Security Checkpoints: 66 (same)
Band Offices Inaccessible: 83 (same)	State of Local Emergency: 46 (same)
	EOC Activations: 119 (same)

FNHA Resources and Supports

Information for First Nations individuals

Visit: <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/public> to find out more including information on [COVID-19 vaccines](#), [self-isolation](#), [testing and symptoms](#), medical support including [First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day service](#), and [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 information on COVID-19 vaccines, past COVID-19 Community Situation Reports, support and funding, resumption of services, personal protective equipment, and 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 information on COVID-19 management, COVID-19 vaccines, infection prevention and control, personal protective equipment, and nursing practice

Latest News

- [An Update to FNHA's COVID-19 Isolation Supports](#). September 15, 2022.
- [What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccines](#). September 9, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Approved by Health Canada for Children Aged 0-5](#). July 15, 2022.
- [Second Round of COVID-19 Boosters Coming – But Many People Still Need Their First!](#) July 9, 2022.
- [How Do I Know If It's My Allergies, a Cold or COVID-19?](#) July 6, 2022.

For more latest news visit <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events>

FNHA Response

The FNHA is working in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure communities' needs are met, including by:

- Maintaining essential services to support First Nations communities during the 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
- Supplying First Nations communities with personal protective equipment; requests can be sent to COVID19needs@fnha.ca; the form for ordering personal protective equipment is available at: <https://www.fnha.ca/AboutSite/NewsAndEventsSite/NewsSite/Documents/FNHA-Process-and-Considerations-for-obtaining-additional-PPE-for-BC-First-Nations-Communities-Annex-A.pdf>
- Supporting First Nations communities in refreshing their Communicable Disease Emergencies Plans
- Maintaining virtual care services including First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day and First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service
- Deploying community based testing for COVID-19, and ensuring that rapid tests are available to all First Nations communities
- 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

COVID-19 vaccines prioritized for First Nations people

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. First, second and booster dose clinics in First Nations communities have been completed. However, the FNHA continues to support communities' vaccination clinics, as needed, and is working with regional health authorities to ensure adequate vaccine supply is available at local health units so that communities can order them as part of their established ordering pathways.