



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

## Communique: Air Purifier Distribution – 2020 Fire Season

Due to wildfire smoke in various areas of the province, there may be circumstances where in-home air purifiers are an appropriate solution to provide cleaner air. Public health evidence tells us that certain people are at more risk to wildfire smoke and preferential access to air purifiers is appropriate. Due to limited availability and to ensure units are available to individuals most vulnerable, FNHA will consider supplying units as follows:

Individuals with chronic conditions such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes, as well as pregnant women, infants, young children, and the elderly; **AND one or more of the following,**

- Remote community / housing with limited access to community clean air shelters;
- Homes that do not have ventilation systems that can recirculate; or,
- Individuals with transportation limitations and unable to access a community clean air shelter;
- Respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 *or* a positive COVID-19 test *or* a close contact of a positive COVID-19 test

If your community has individuals who meet the above criteria, please contact your local Environmental Health Officer (EHO)

Reimbursement to communities is considered provided that purchases are designated for individuals most vulnerable (as determined by community health staff), and:

- HEPA or electronic precipitation units as per the attached BC Lung Association guidance on Portable Air Cleaners for Wildfire Smoke
- Purchase limit of \$1,000 per community, or explanation of need beyond this limit
- Invoice and copy of purchase receipts to: Connie Wong ([Connie.Wong@fnha.ca](mailto:Connie.Wong@fnha.ca))

For more information, watch BCCDC's videos on Air Cleaners:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq69AHSEQ6I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShRQ75Sa74A>

**If you received or purchased HEPA filters during past wildfire seasons, ensure that the filters are still in good condition and replace if appropriate. Replacement filters are not provided by FNHA**

**Community Clean Air Shelters:** By now, your local EHO has likely been in contact with your community about an appropriate location for a community clean air shelter, including considerations for physical distancing and preventing the spread of COVID-19. If you are not aware of where this building is, or would like to discuss options, please contact FNHA staff listed above.

BCCDC Portable Air Cleaners for Wildfire Smoke:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Health-Environment/BCCDC WildFire FactSheet PortableAirCleaners.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Health-Environment/BCCDC%20WildFire%20FactSheet%20PortableAirCleaners.pdf)

BCCDC Wildfire Smoke:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke>

Regional air quality information (Air Quality Health Index):

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/aqhi-table.xml>

More info on wildfire smoke: <http://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/wildfire-information>