



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

COVID-19 Meal Support *Frequently Asked Questions*

WHO CAN APPLY FOR COVID-19 MEAL SUPPORT FUNDING?

- Effective October 17, 2022 meal support will only be available on an exception basis for Status and Status eligible First Nations people. This approach aligns with recent, updated guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control indicating that people who have COVID-19 are no longer required to self-isolate.
 - A note is now required from a Physician or Community Health Nurse confirming a medical need to access isolation supports for each person who is required to isolate. Supports are available to a maximum of 5 days following a positive test.
- Prior to October 17, 2022, submissions for meal support during periods of isolation must meet the following criteria:
 - Fully vaccinated individuals who test positive on a PCR or rapid take-home test are eligible for up to 5 days of meal support
 - Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals who test positive on a PCR test or rapid take-home test are eligible for up to 10 days of meal support
 - Meal support funding is not available for individuals who are a close contact of someone who tests positive on a PCR or rapid take-home test
 - First Nations communities will be asked to provide: first name, last name, Status number, date of birth and the isolation start and end date of each individual applying for meal support

From Mar. 1, 2022, meal support funding is no longer available for individuals who are a close contact of someone who tests positive on a PCR or rapid take-home test.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

- Meal support submissions for self-isolation between the dates of Oct. 1, 2021 and Oct. 16, 2022 will be accepted until March 3, 2023.
- Effective October 17, 2022 meal support will only be available on an exception basis.

WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO APPLY?

- To process your application, the following are required:
 - Status number
 - Last name, first name
 - Date of birth
 - Start date of isolation, end date of isolation

- Mailing address
- Contact phone number or email address

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR COVID-19 MEAL SUPPORTS?

- There are two application pathways:
 - Communities can apply on behalf of their members using the [Community Meal Support Calculator](#)
 - Individuals can apply for themselves and their households using the [Individual Meal Support Calculator](#)
- Here are the steps to request meal support for Status First Nations individuals in BC:
 - Complete the [Individual Meal Support Funding Calculator](#) or the [Community Meal Support Funding Calculator](#)
 - Email your completed calculator to COVID19@fnha.ca
- As of October 17, written documentation from a physician or community health nurse documenting a medical need to isolate, must accompany all applications.
- Alternatively, you can also call **Health Benefits** at **1-888-305-1505** (press 2 for the 'other' option, and then 1 for enrolment). This direct telephone line is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CAN I APPLY THROUGH THE INDIVIDUAL PATHWAY IF MY COMMUNITY HAS APPLIED FOR ME THROUGH THE COMMUNITY PATHWAY?

- If your community has already applied for meal support for your self-isolation dates on your behalf, you will not be eligible for support through the individual pathway for the same dates

I AM NOT ABLE TO SAFELY ISOLATE AT HOME. ARE THERE OTHER SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO ME?

- If you are unable to safely isolate at home and a period of isolation has been directed in writing by a physician or community health nurse:
 - Call your Community Health Center and inquire about community based COVID-19 isolation spaces that may be available.
 - Contact Health Benefits medical transportation team for assistance with alternative accommodation, meals and transportation. Call Health Benefits at 1-888-305-1505 (press 2 for the 'other' option, then 3 for patient travel, and 3 for benefit exceptions). This direct telephone line is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- [What to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms](#) (BC Centre for Disease fact sheet)
- [Mental Health and Wellness Support](#) (FNHA web page)