



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

FNHA Public Health Response

March 18, 2021

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

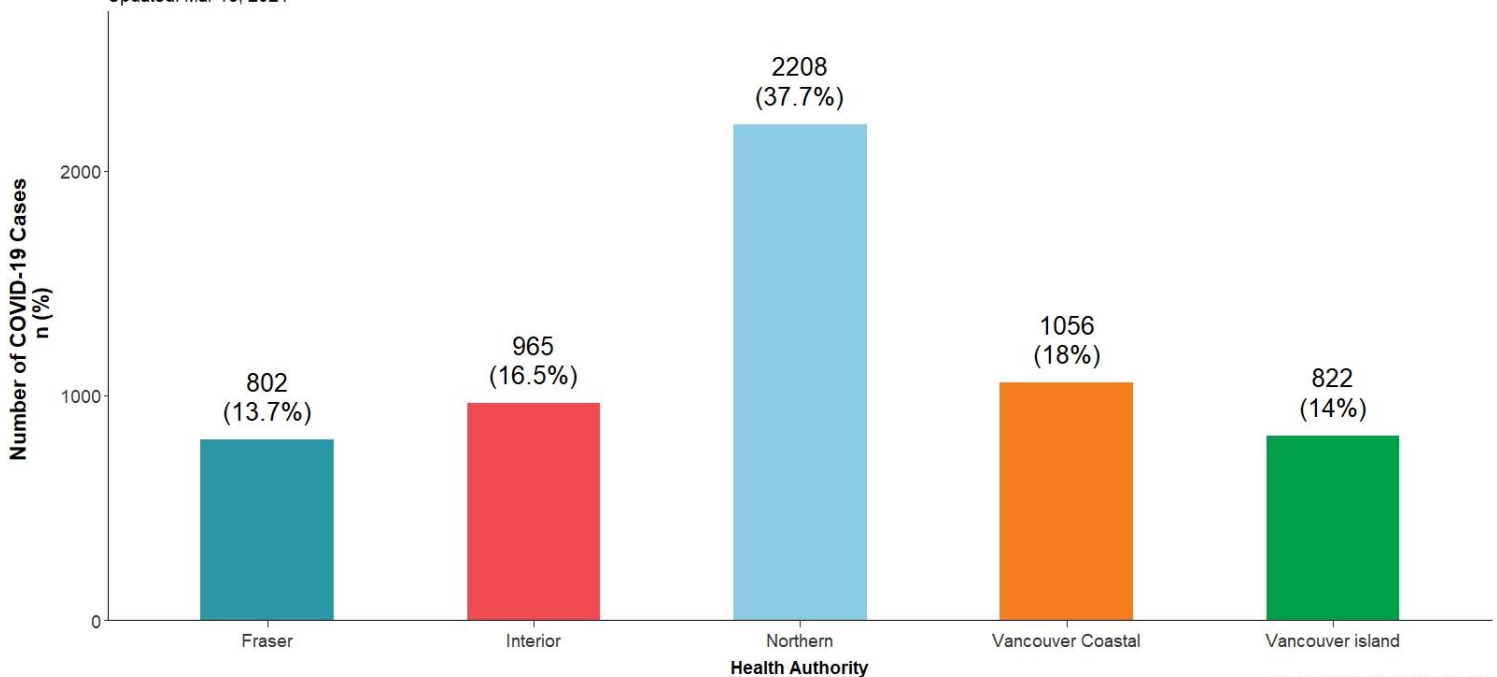
COVID-19 Updates

First Nations Cases in BC

As of **March 15, 2021**

- Total **5,864** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**5,713** lab diagnosed cases and **151** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **220** cases since **March 15, 2021** report.
- Geographical information (In or near community/ off reserve) is available for **5,744** cases. Of these **5,744** cases, **2,575 (44.8%)** cases are in or near community and **3,169 (55.2%)** are off reserve.
- **337** active First Nations COVID-19 cases, **123 (36.5%)** of the active cases are in or near community and **207 (61.4%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **7** active cases.
- Sadly, there have been total **100** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **2** additional deaths are reported after **March 15, 2021** report.
- There have been a total **613 (10.5%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these **274** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **338** off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 1 case.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=5853)
Updated: Mar 15, 2021



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

*Total number of cases (n=5,864) includes five (5) COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon, one (1) case reported as "Out of Canada" resident and five (5) cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=5,853) reported as BC residents.

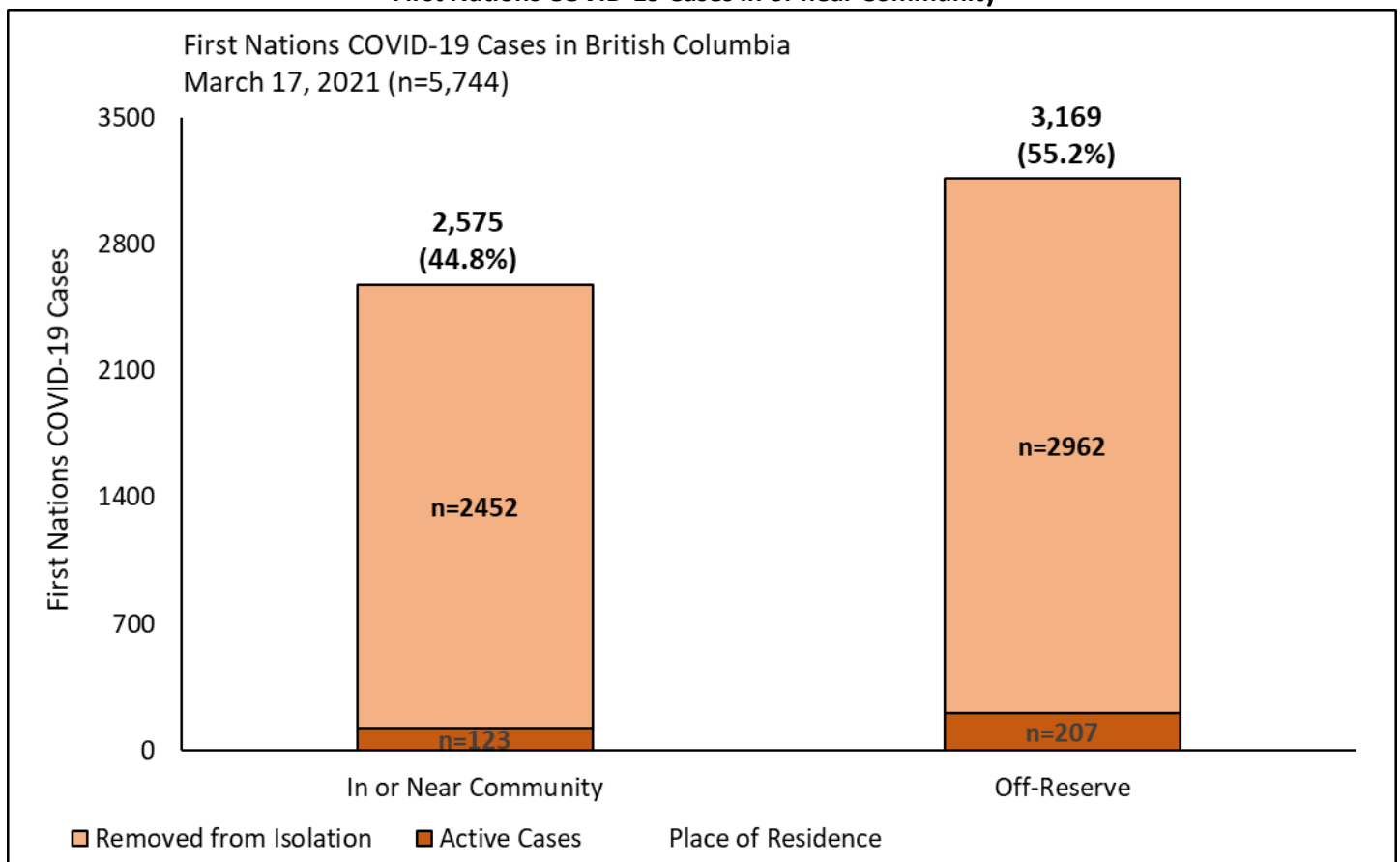
Regional Active cases and Testing data as of March 15, 2021

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 Cases*	51	40	130	72	43	337
Total persons tested**	7,854	8,030	9,814	7,673	7,842	41,239
Cumulative Percentage Positivity (%)	6.77%	9.06%	16.23%	8.56%	8.03%	9.92%
Testing Rate (Total tests per 100,000 First Nation Population)	47,377.8	33,938.0	33,510.0	54,594.3	30,072.2	38,001.1

*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". This change reflects in reduced case counts for active cases in today's update. One (1) cases are "Out of BC" Residents.

**Geographical Information (RHAs) for 26 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available and these 26 people are tested Negative.

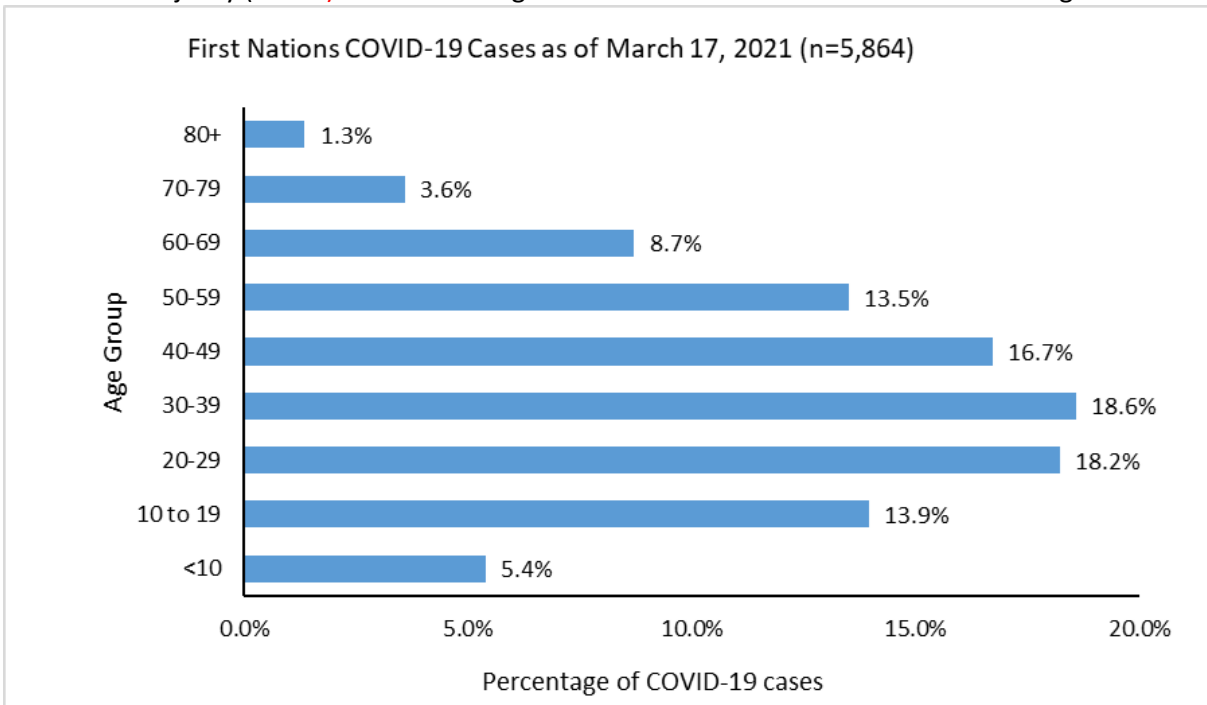
First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community*



* In or near community analysis is not available for 7 active case.

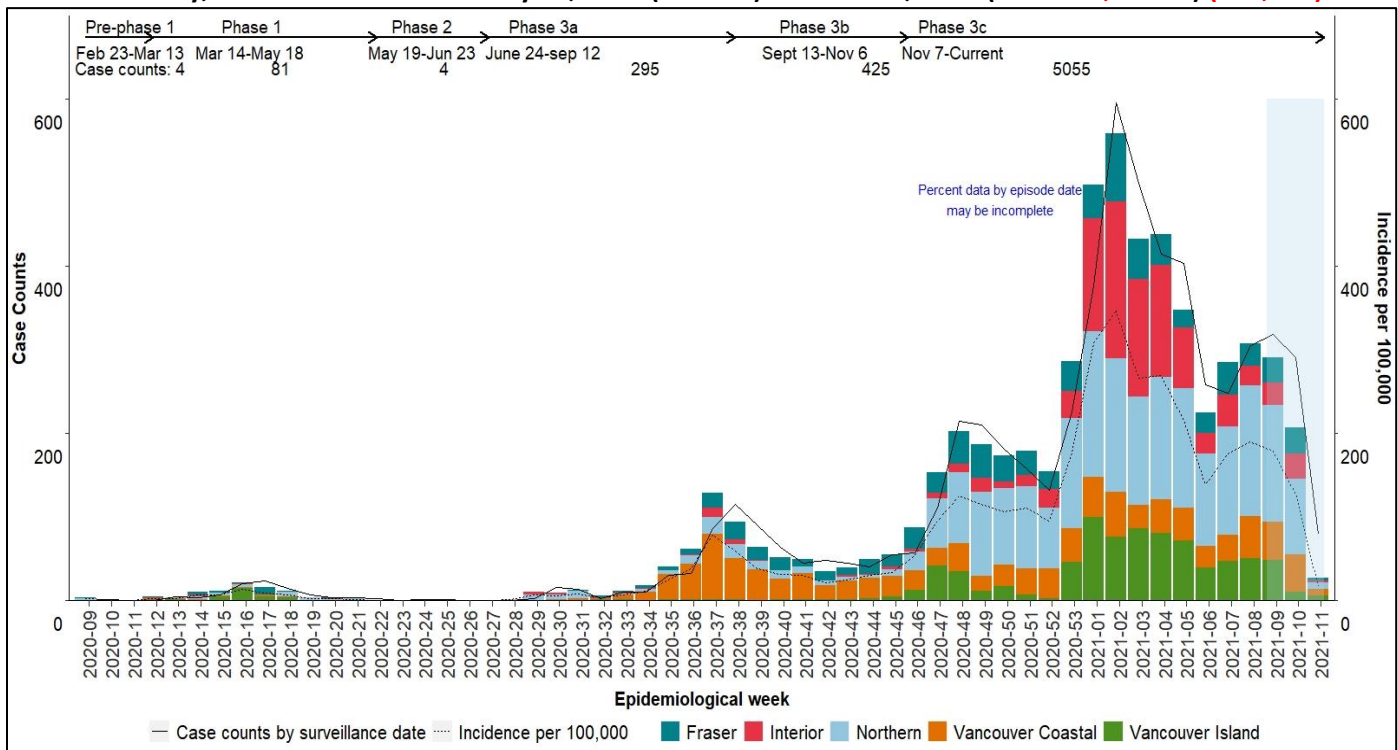
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of March 15, 2021, there were 123 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.**

The majority (72.9%) of cases among First Nations have occurred in those under age 50.



The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was 9.9% as of March 15, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 3,611.9 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 1,691.7 per 100,000 people.

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episode date (coloured bar)^a, surveillance date (line) and health authority, British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – March 15, 2021 (Week-11, 2021*) (n=5,864)



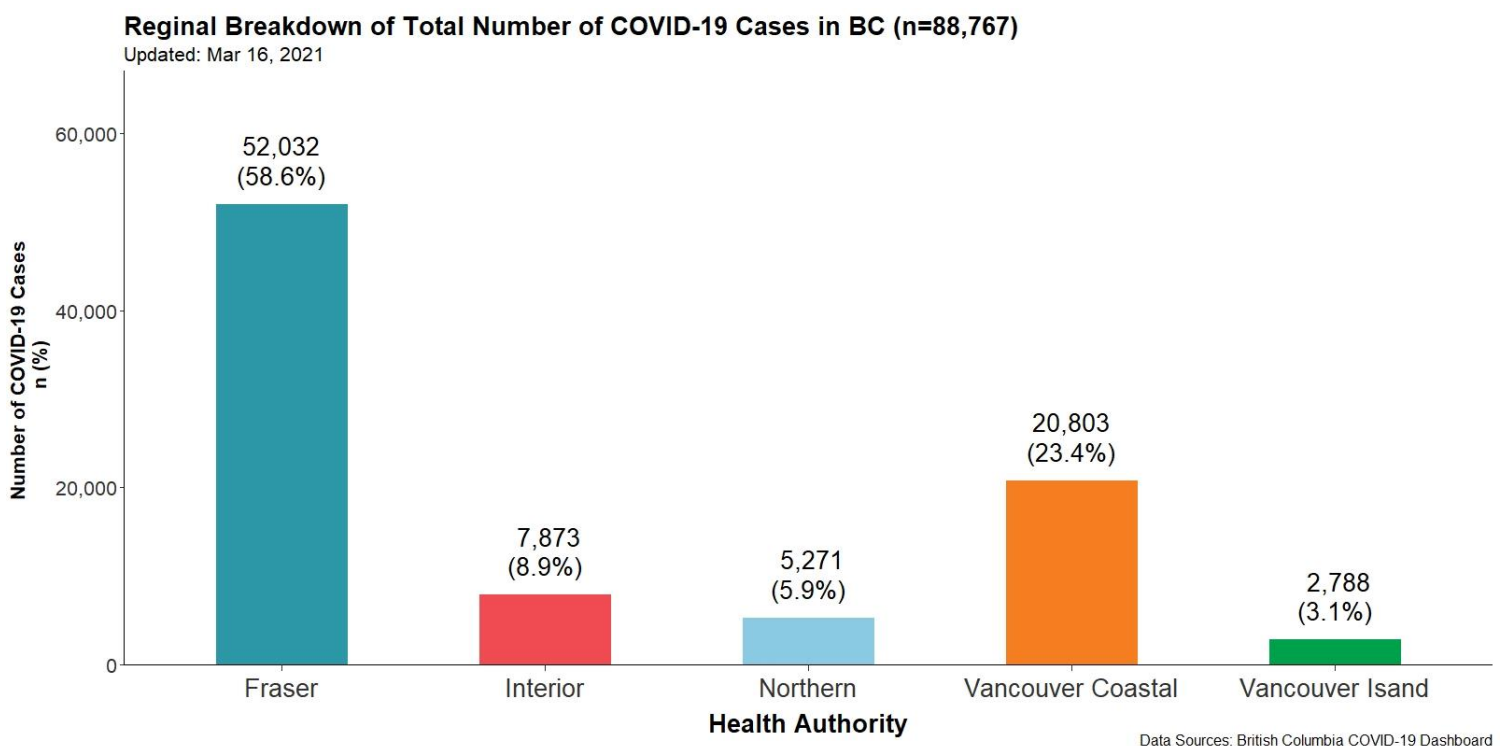
^a Episode date is now defined as dates of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. When those dates are not available, earliest lab date (collection date or result date) is used, and if unavailable, surveillance date is used. Report date used previously is now replaced with surveillance date (laboratory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

^b Data source: BCCDC's line list data received from RHAs and PHSA's public health lab data (up to March 15, 2021).

This epidemiological curve represents the weekly cases reported among First Nations in the province of 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 by following coloured bars in the diagram: Fraser-Dark blue, Interior-Red, Northern-Light Blue, Vancouver Coastal-Orange, and Vancouver Island-Green.

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of: March 17, 2021 at 4:10pm

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 89,427 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,411 deaths from COVID-19.
- There are 4,851 active cases in the province, 281 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 83 people are in intensive care (ICU).
- 9,472 people are under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure.
- Of the total number of cases, 83,083 (93%) people have fully recovered.



Active Outbreaks (as of March 17, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/Independent living: 6 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 8 outbreaks

Vaccine Distribution

- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination and the first doses arrived on December 29. As of March 16, almost 43,000 individuals who are First Nations people (and some non-First Nations people living in or near First Nations communities) have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 6,500 First Nations people have also received a second dose. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as vaccines administered by the Regional Health Authorities outside of communities.
- As of March 17, a total of 444,140 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC, 87,093 of which are second doses.

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

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (March 11, 2021):

Access Restrictions: **141 (-2)**

Security Checkpoints: **71 (-2)**

Band Offices Inaccessible: **86 (-3)**

State of Local Emergency: 75

EOC Activations: **112 (-1)**

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

- [The Best Vaccine for You Is the One Available to You Right Now](#). March 16, 2021.
- [Why Your Second Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Can Be Extended](#). March 16, 2021.
- [Who Are You Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine for?](#) March 15, 2021.
- [Suicide: Responding and Keeping People Safe](#). March 10, 2021.
- [FNHA Podcast: Doctor Talks Vaccine Acceptance](#). March 10, 2021.
- [Evolving Vaccination Plans Is Science in Action: Dr. Bonnie Henry](#). March 10, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Update](#). March 9, 2021.
- [Questions about COVID-19 Virus Variants? Here Are Some Answers](#). March 3, 2021.
- [VaxChamps Share Their Reasons for Getting COVID-19 Vaccines](#). March 2, 2021.
- [BC Phase 2 Vaccination Rollout Update](#). March 1, 2021.
- [Stay the Course: Why We Need to Follow Public Health Guidelines Even after Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine](#). February 22, 2021.
- [Dr. Nadine Caron on COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#). February 19, 2021.
- [BC First Nations Communities Accepting Vaccines with Open Arms, Rolled-Up Sleeves](#). February 18, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellness](#). February 18, 2021.

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

Working with First Nations

The FNHA is working in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure the needs of communities 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
- Supporting First Nations communities in refreshing their Pandemic Plans
- FNHA continues to maintain operations team availability to respond to COVID-19 support requests through the weekends during business hours.
- 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 is working hard with our partners and First Nations communities to support vaccine distribution and planning and to prioritize available doses for First Nations communities
- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination with the first doses arriving December 29, 2020.

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.
- 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>