



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

FNHA Public Health Response

March 21, 2022

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

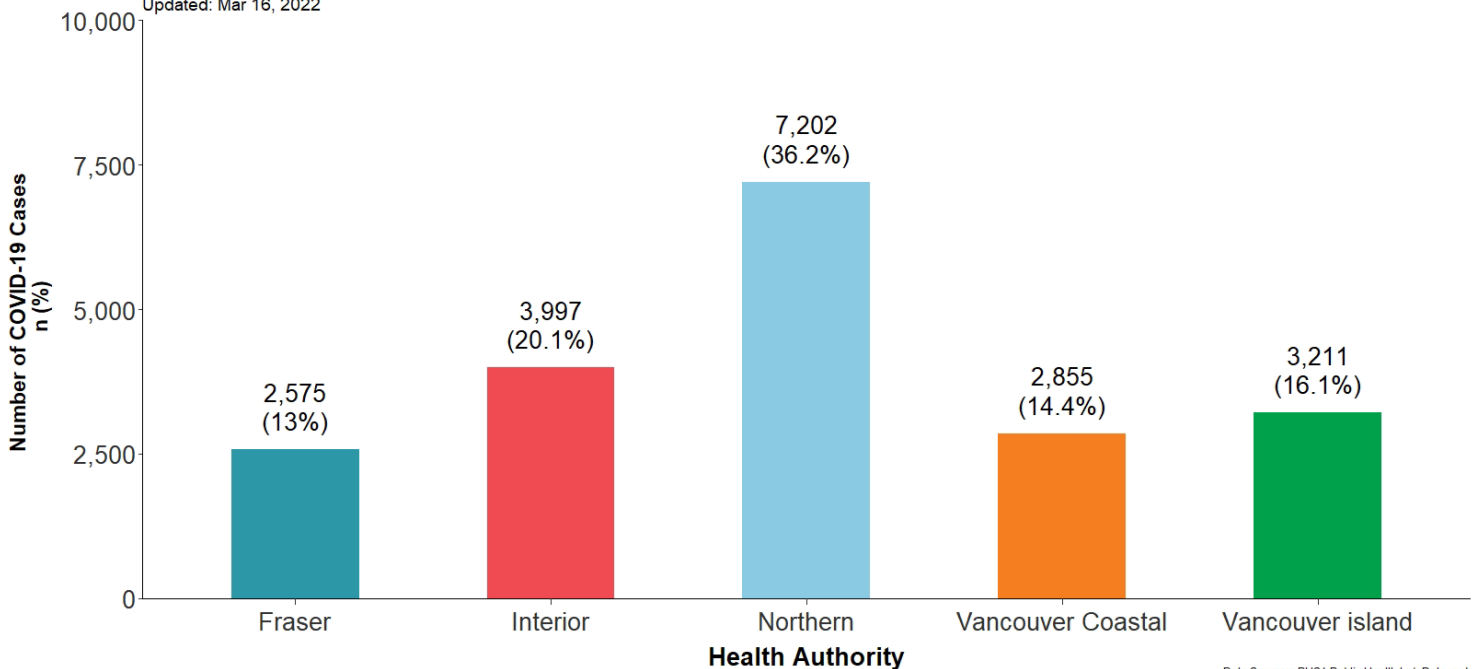
COVID-19 Updates

First Nations Cases in BC – As of March 16, 2022¹

- There have been a total of **19,884** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**19,608** lab diagnosed cases and **276** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **91 cases among First Nations people in BC** since the last published report.
- Out of the **19,884** cases, **8,516 (42.8%)** are in or near community; **10,622 (53.4%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **746 (3.8%)** cases.
- There is a total of **159** active First Nations COVID-19 cases in British Columbia. There are **63** active COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.
- Sadly, there have been a total of **257** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **One (1)** additional death is reported since **the last published** report.
- There have been a total of **1,900 (9.6%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these, **839** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **1,058** off reserve. Information on in or near community/ off reserve is not available for **three (3)** cases.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=19,840)

Updated: Mar 16, 2022



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

*Total number of cases (n=19,884) includes twenty seven (27) cases reported as Out of BC – Alberta residents, two (2) cases reported as Out of Canada – USA residents, eight (8) cases reported as Out of BC – Saskatchewan residents, three (3) cases reported as Out of BC – Ontario resident, one (1) case reported as Out of Canada - Country other resident, one (1) case reported as Out Of BC – Quebec resident and two (2) case reported as Out Of BC - Northwest Territories/Nunavut resident.

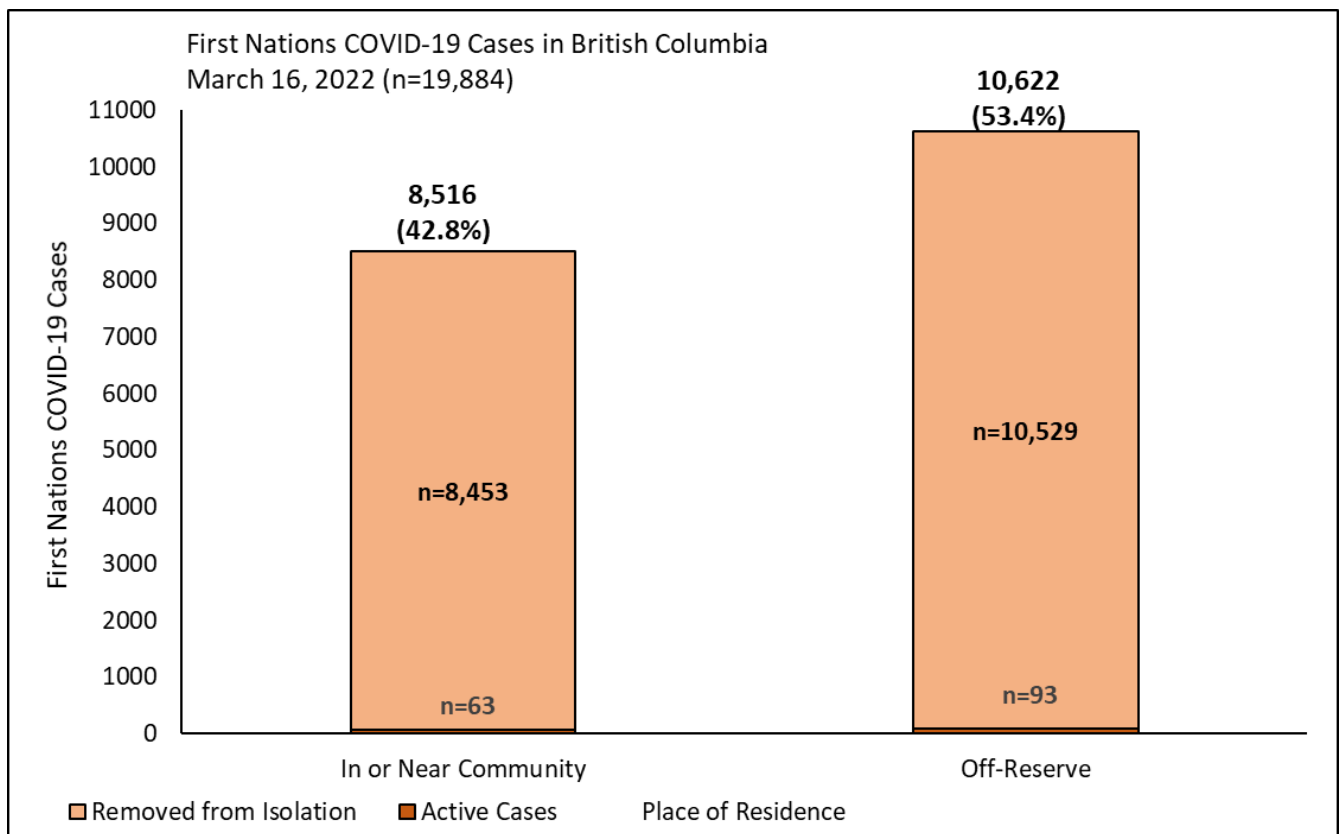
¹ Case counts in this report are likely an underestimate of the true number of COVID-19 cases due to changes in testing strategies driven by the Omicron variant (<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>). The number of COVID-19 cases reported herein are based on laboratory confirmed cases from the public health laboratory dataset and epi-linked COVID-19 cases from regional health authority line list datasets. These case counts do not include people who only tested positive by rapid antigen tests and self-reported through the provincial COVID-19 positive test result reporting form (<https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca/>).

Regional Active Cases and Testing Data as of March 16, 2022

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 cases ^a	26	57	42	23	11	159
Total persons tested ^b	13,522	15,067	17,728	11,803	13,519	71,663
Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to March 16, 2022)	9.2%	13.7%	22.5%	11.4%	13.4%	14.2%
Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (March 10, 2022 to March 16, 2022)	8.8%	15.3%	25.5%	14.5%	14.5%	16.6%
Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)	113,914.9	87,442.1	75,465.0	107,829.3	65,122.8	86,158.6

^a Algorithm to define people who are removed from isolation was 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".

^b Geographical Information (RHAs) for 24 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.

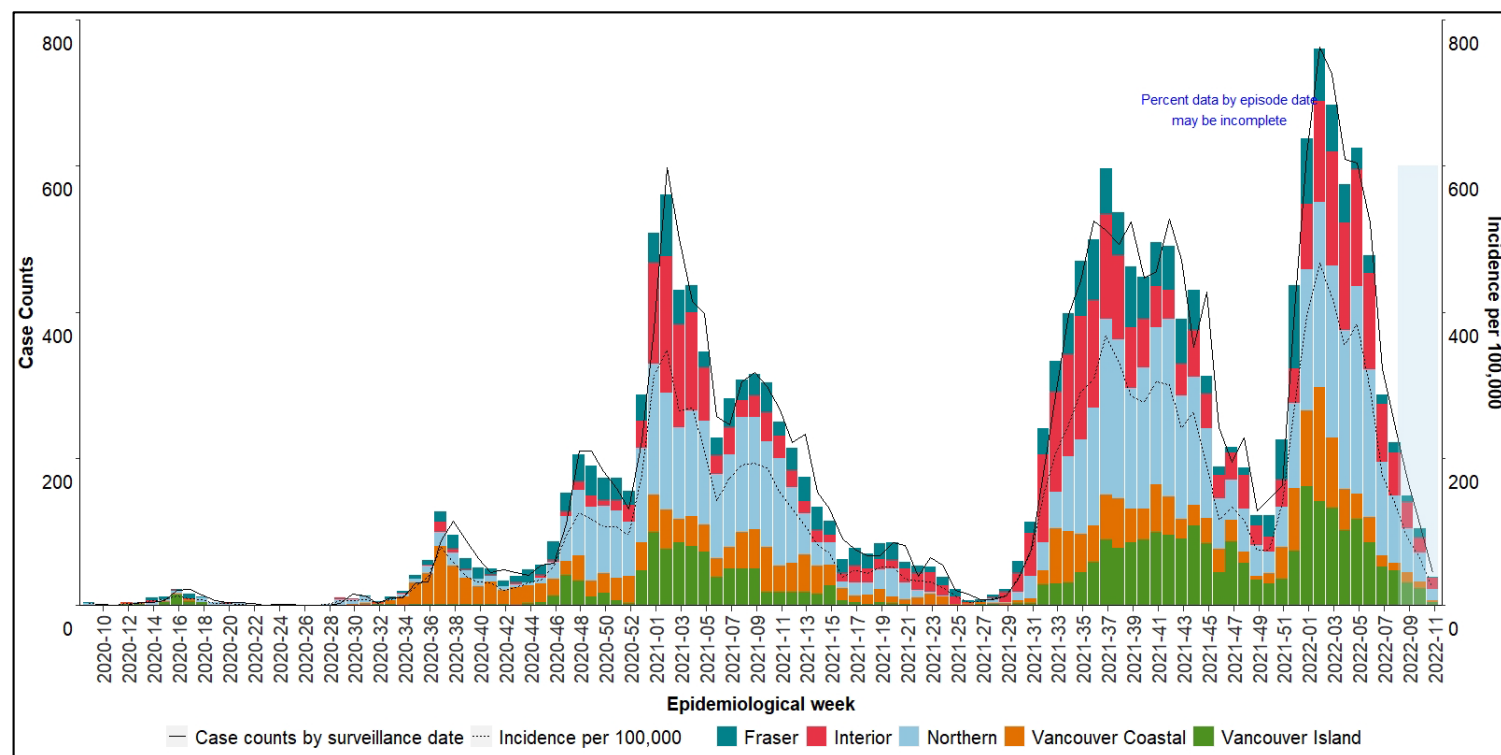


*Total number of cases (n=19,884) includes 746 cases without information on LHA of residence and "In or Near Community" analysis. Information about in or near community analysis is not available for three (3) active cases.

Note: Analyses for in or near community include 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 March 16, 2022, there were 63 active COVID-19 cases among First Nations people living in or near community.**

The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 tests completed for First Nations in BC was **14.2%** as of **March 16, 2022**. The rate of positive cases was **12,247.4 per 100,000** people among First Nations. The rate of positive cases among other residents of BC was **6,791.9 per 100,000** people.

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episode date, surveillance date (line) and health authority (coloured bars),^a British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – March 16, 2022 (Week-11, 2022*) (n=19,884)



^a 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.

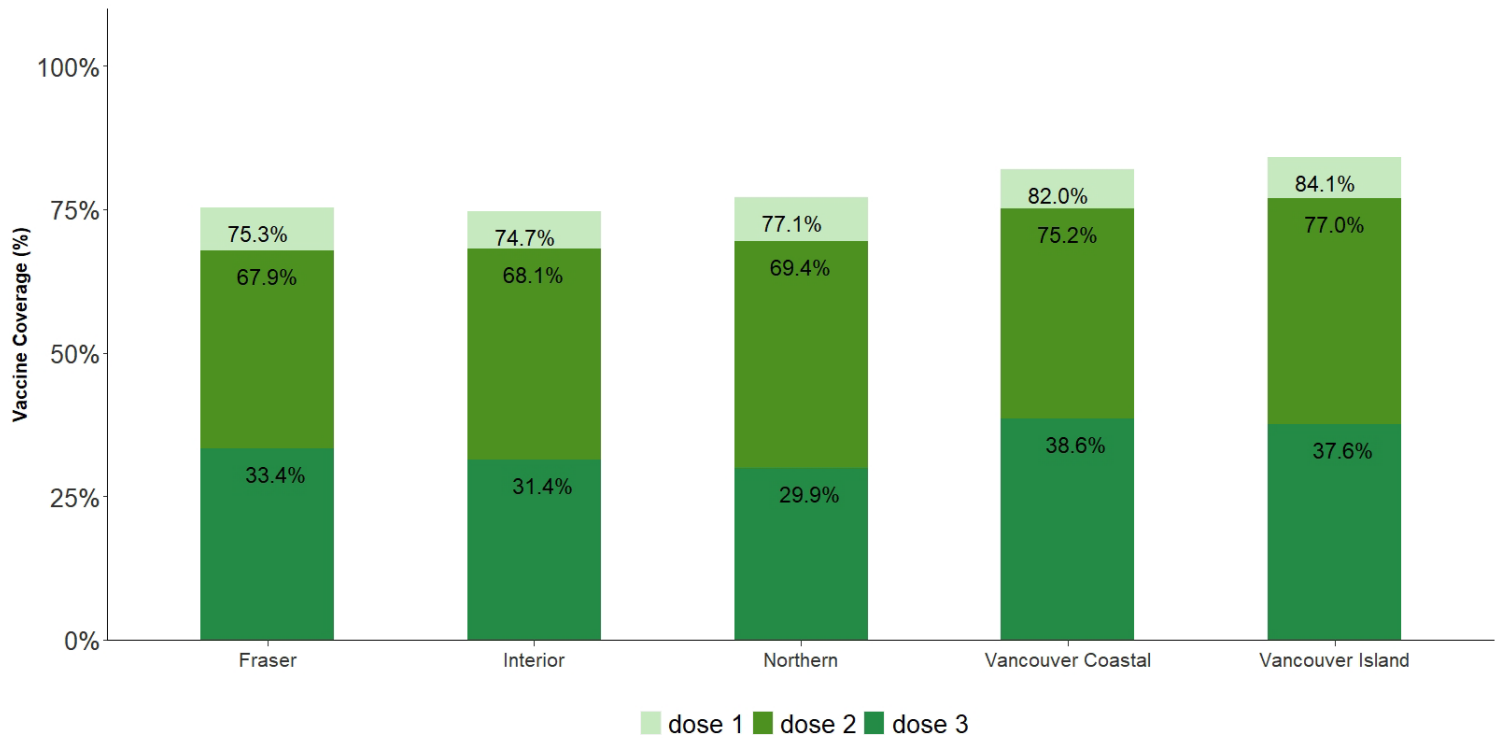
^b Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (up to March 16, 2022) and PHSA’s public health lab data (up to March 16, 2022). This epidemiological curve represents the weekly cases reported among First Nations in BC. The proportion of cases within each region is colour coded and the case 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 March 16, more than 121,100 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 20,100 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 110,900 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 14,800 First Nations individuals 5-17 years old have received at least two doses. Of these individuals, more than 58,000 First Nations people 5+ years of age have received third doses.
- As of March 16, 84.5% of 18+ years and 79.3% of 5+ years status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of March 17, 90.8% (4,524,095) of eligible people 5+ years in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 86.9% (4,330,237) have received their second dose.

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Health Authority

Doses 1, 2 and 3 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 120,826, dose 2= 109,772, dose 3= 51,910), 5+ years, up to March 16, 2022

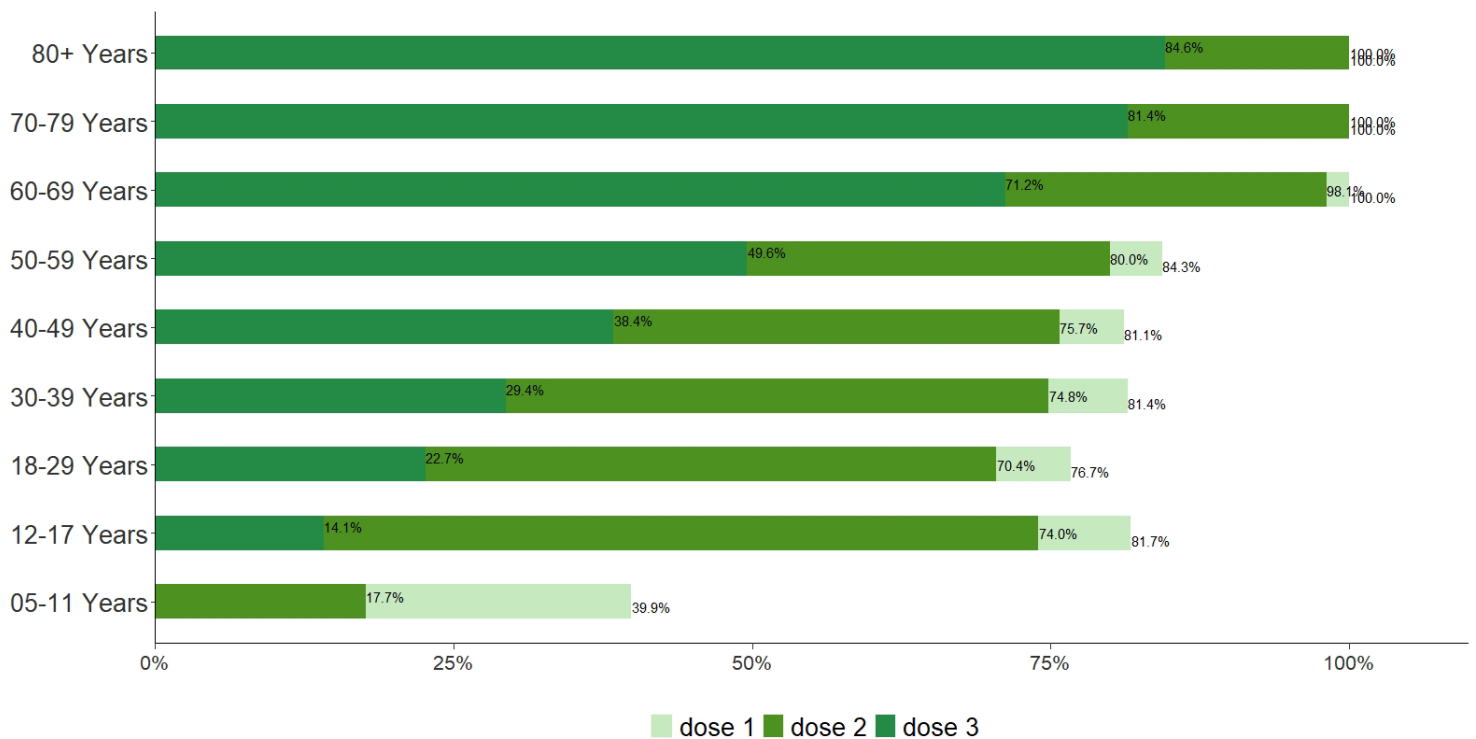


* Health authority information was not available for 1,985 clients for dose 1, 1,407 clients for dose 2 and 334 clients for dose 3.

** 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= 122,811, dose 2= 111,179, dose 3= 52,244), 5+ years, up to March 16, 2022



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

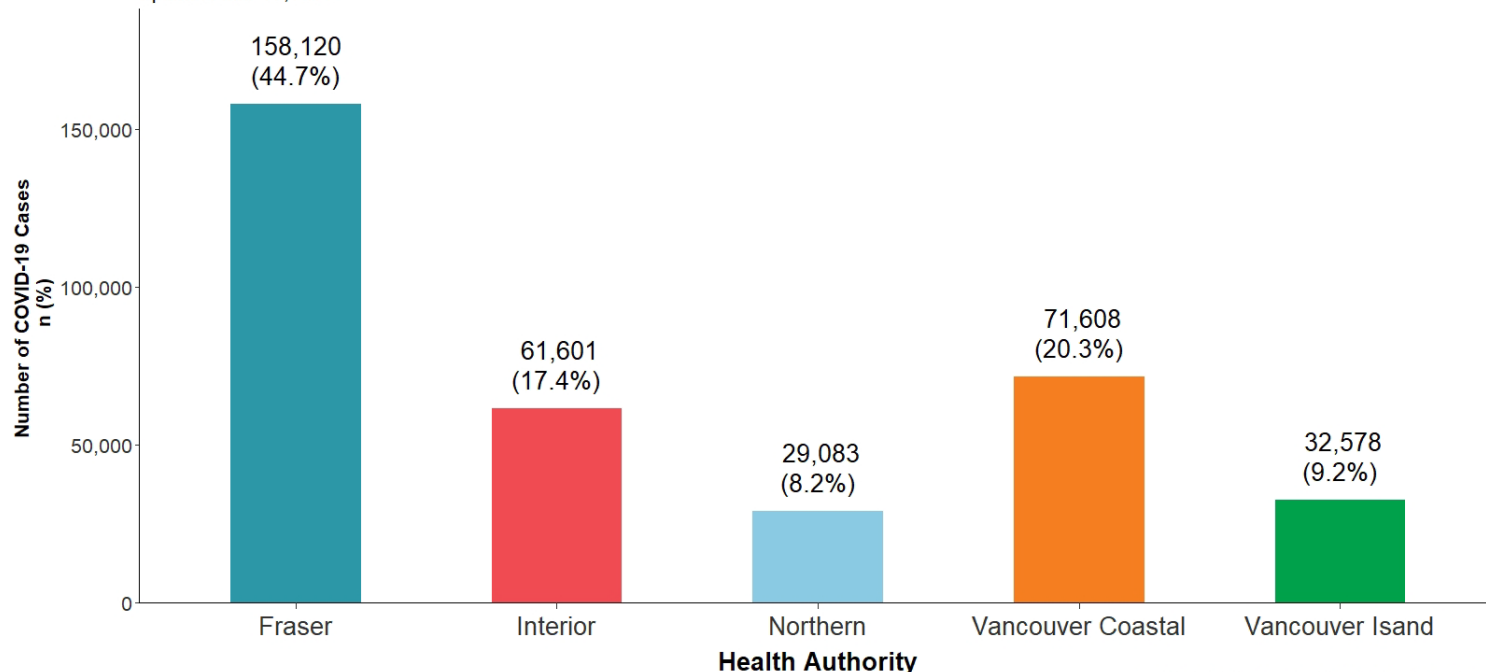
** Please note that coverage rates are approximations and are capped at 100%.

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – updated as of March 18, 2022, 3:09 p.m.

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 353,578 confirmed cases in BC, and 2,966 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 290 people currently hospitalized and 46 people in intensive care

Regional Breakdown of Total Number of COVID-19 Cases in BC (n=352,990)

Updated: Mar 17, 2022



Data Sources: British Columbia COVID-19 Dashboard

*Total number of cases (n=353,379) include 389 cases reported as "Out of Canada" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=352,990) reported as BC residents.

Active Outbreaks (as of March 18, 2022)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living/mental health and substance use facility: 6 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 1 outbreaks

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

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (March 17, 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 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

- [FNHA Statement on the Societal Consequences of BC’s COVID-19 Response](#). March 11, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Mask Mandates and Other Restrictions Easing in BC](#). March 11, 2022.
- [“It Wasn’t My Time to Go”: Personal and Cultural Survival during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). February 23, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Restrictions in BC Eased But Masks, Vaccine Cards Essential](#). February 15, 2022.
- [The COVID-19 Booster Vaccine Is Important in Reducing the Risk of Severe Illness with COVID-19 Infection](#). February 15, 2022.
- [Masks 101: Your Questions Answered](#). January 26, 2022.
- [Omicron – The Myth of Mildness That’s Putting People and Health Systems at Risk](#). January 19, 2022.
- [Boosters Best Way to Boost Protection against Omicron](#). January 19, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Rapid Tests Rolling Out – But Not Needed for Mild Cases](#). January 12, 2022.
- [Keep Your Guard Up Against the Dangerous Omicron Variant](#). January 7, 2022.
- [The Loss of Culture, Family, and Connection Due to COVID-19](#). January 4, 2022.
- [Rollout of COVID-19 Rapid Testing Kits Expanded in BC](#). December 22, 2021.
- [New Health Measures Take Aim at Omicron Variant of COVID-19](#). December 22, 2021.
- [What We Know About the Omicron COVID-19 Variant](#). December 22, 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.
- [BC Launches COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Program](#). November 2, 2021.
- [Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination – Travelling for Medical Appointments](#). October 29, 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.
- [FNHA Responds to New PHO Vaccine Mandate for BC Health Care Workers](#). September 24, 2021.
- [Smoking, Vaping and COVID-19: Do They Affect Each Other?](#) September 21, 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.
- [Inclusive Toolkit Provides Mental Health and Wellness Supports for COVID-19](#). July 21, 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
- 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
- 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>