



**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
FNHA Public Health Response
Community Situation Report
May 27, 2020**

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

Purpose

The purpose of this information note is to provide a daily situational overview of the FNHA COVID-19 response activities that are being carried out by the Public Health Response Team and supporting executive leadership.

Background

On March 17, 2020, British Columbia’s (BC) Provincial Health Officer (PHO) declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 18, 2020, BC’s Public Safety Minister also declared a provincial state of emergency, in an effort to allow the government to support the PHO and Ministry of Health in their response. Please refer to Appendix “A” for details on the Provincial and Public Health Emergencies/Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the powers granted under them. All provinces across the country have declared public health emergencies.

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Update as of **May 27, 2020 at 5:00pm**

There are 2550 confirmed cases in BC, and a total of 162 deaths. Of these, 9 cases and one (1) death were confirmed as of May 27th. The regional breakdown is as follows:

- Vancouver Coastal: 899
- Fraser: 1267
- Vancouver Island: 127
- Interior: 194
- Northern: 63

As of May 27th, there are 244 active cases in the province. Currently, 37 people are hospitalized and of those, 7 people are in ICU. Of the total number of cases, 2144 (84%) patients have fully recovered.

Active Outbreaks

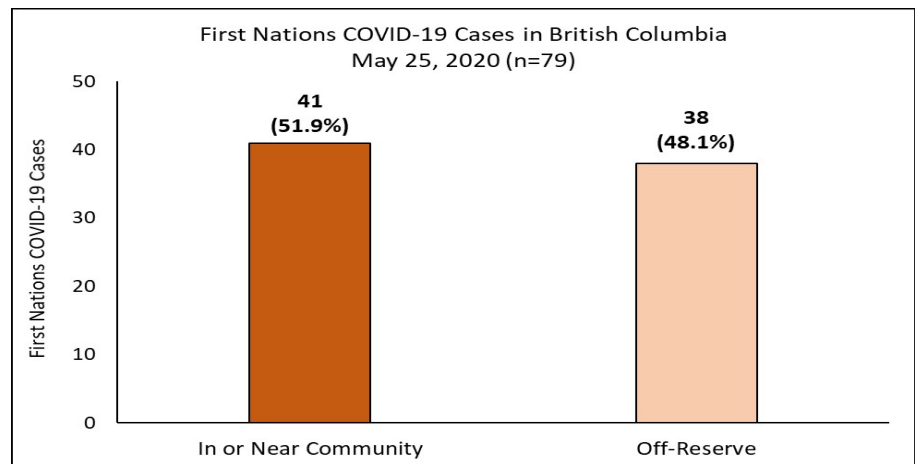
- Long term care/assisted living centres/acute care units: 14 outbreaks
- Mission Institution: 134 cases
- Chilliwack Fraser Valley Specialty Poultry plant: 7 cases
- Kearl Lake oilsands project: 16 cases
- Matsqui Federal Correctional Institution: 1 case
- Nature’s Touch facility, Abbotsford: 5 cases

First Nations COVID-19 Cases

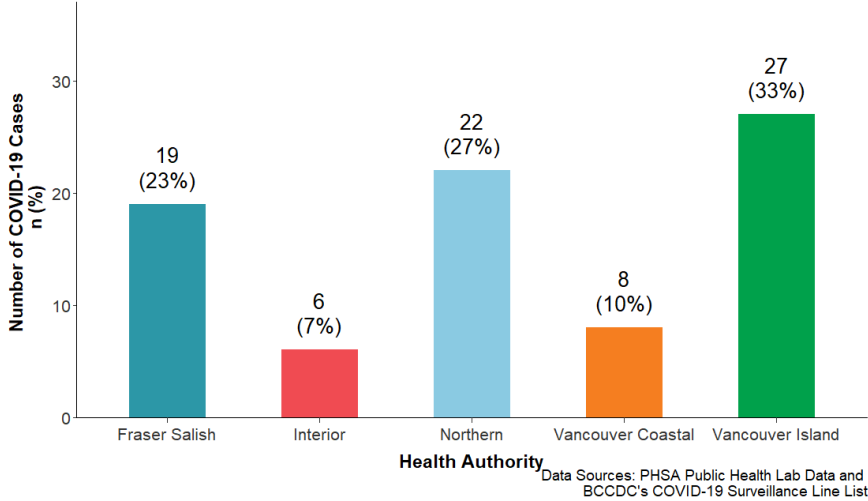
The total number of First Nations COVID-19 lab confirmed cases 79 in BC as of May 25, 2020.

Note:

Analyses for In or Near Community only includes lab confirmed cases, 3 additional epi-linked cases are included in the cases by Health Authority



First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority
Updated: May 24, 2020



Note:

The majority of cases in both Fraser Salish and Vancouver Island Regions can be traced to specific outbreaks

On First Nations reserves in provinces, as of May 27, ISC is aware of:

- 212 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 20 hospitalizations
- 4 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 41
- Alberta: 39
- Saskatchewan: 49
- Ontario: 48

First Nations Community Statistics as of May 28:

Band Offices Closed	154
First Nations Emergency Operation Centres	101
Declared State of Emergency	57
Community Closures (Limited Access)	109
Tribal Councils Closed	16

FNHA Response:

- FNHA is on Week 9 of Level 3 Emergency Response, which means that FNHA spends 80% on COVID-19 and 20% on FNHA operations.
- FNHA will maintain essential services to support First Nations communities during this pandemic.
- Supporting First Nations communities in refreshing their Pandemic Plans, and provide COVID-19 resources for medical transportation, isolation and quarantine.
- Maintaining communications and regular telephone updates with the Regional Health Authorities, Emergency Management of BC, Ministry of Health, First Nations Leadership Council, and Indigenous Services Canada.
- “*First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day*” is up and running in all five regions, which is to close this gap by providing virtual access of physicians to First Nations communities.
- Working with Federal and Provincial partners to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care staff and first responders in all communities.
 - The 1st Provincial delivery of PPE was received on March 27 and was shipped to Regional Offices on March 28.
 - The 2nd Provincial delivery of PPE was received on April 3 and shipped out to Regional Offices for April 6th week delivery. The 3rd Provincial delivery of PPE was received April 7th and sent out to Regional Offices on April 8th.
 - A Federal and 4th Provincial shipment of PPE arrived in Vancouver on April 15th and sent out to Regional Offices on April 20th.
 - 5th PPE order from Province received week of April 20 and shipped to the Regional offices on April 27th.

- 6th PPE order from Province received April 29th will be repackaged and shipped to the Regional offices for Monday May 4th.
- 7th Provincial PPE order and arrived in Regions May 8th
- 8th Provincial PPE order and arrived in Regions May 19th.
- 9th Provincial PPE order and was sent to Regions on May 26th
- 10th order of PPE submitted Tuesday, expected to arrive at Sinclair Thursday or Friday and be shipped to Regions early next week.
- Working with Interior Health Authority to provide surge capacity PPE if there is a community outbreak.
- FNHA is working on access to point of care testing, self-isolation and quarantine options with our Federal, Provincial Government partners and the Canadian Red Cross to support First Nations communities and urban settings.
- Compounding the COVID-19 response is the re-emerging of the opioid overdoses and starting of flooding and forest fires that are affecting our First Nations communities.
- With the announcement of the Rural, Remote and Indigenous Framework, the FNHA will be working with its partners, and First Nations communities to identify needs and develop plans at both the regional and community level.
- 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.

FNHA Resources:

The FNHA website has been updated and has been divided into three sections: Community Leaders, Health Professionals and Public. <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus>. See Appendix “B” for full list of [COVID Resources](#).

New Resources:

Safety First: Let’s protect our children from ingesting hand sanitizer. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/safety-first-lets-protect-our-children-from-ingesting-hand-sanitizer>

APPENDIX “A” - PROVINCIAL ORDERS

Effective April 20:

There has been transmission of COVID-19 from people who have returned to BC from the Kearl Lake oilsands project in Alberta (7 cases confirmed, others under investigation). There is an ongoing outbreak investigation happening in that community in AB. The PHO is now ordering anyone who has been in the Kearl Lake projects as early as March 15th to self-isolate for 14 days after they return to BC.

In an effort to avoid more spikes in community cases, COVID testing is being opened up more widely in order to quickly identify and address cases in community. Effective today, testing strategy has been broadened to allow anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 can to be assessed or tested by their family physician, nurse practitioner, or local community collection centre.

Effective April 9th, 2020:

BC's Premier Horgan announced that anyone returning to BC from an international location or any other points of entry into the province are now legally required to have a self-isolation plan upon arrival. This plan is meant to support the PHO's travel orders and reinforce the federal emergency order requiring anyone entering Canada to self-isolate for 14 days.

Effective March 27, 2020:

The PHO has made issued an additional order today:

- All episodic vending markets (e.g. farmers markets and community markets) must only allow vendors that sell food. All other vendors selling items other than food are prohibited from participating in these markets. This order recognizes the importance of access to locally grown food.

During the PHO address, she shared some epidemiological modelling done by the BCCDC which indicated that while the current restrictions need to remain in place for some time, they do seem to be working. The current case rate trajectory is lower than what would have been expected if restrictions had not been implemented in BC. BC's rate of growth in COVID-19 cases has slowed slightly compared to the rest of the country.

Effective March 26, 2020:

The PHO has made two additional orders under the Public Health Act:

1. Enables all health sector workers at all public and private facilities to remain at one facility only for the duration of the pandemic (includes long term care, assisted living, extended and acute care).
2. Minister Farnworth has put in place a number of enhanced provisions around the provincial emergency declaration under the Emergency Programs Act which allows municipal bylaw officers to enforce orders outline by the PHO (e.g. physical distancing, isolation/quarantine requirements, bans on large gatherings). A clearly defined list of essential and non-essential services was also released. The following other measures were also announced:
 - Establishing a provincial supply chain to make sure goods/supplies are getting to where they are needed
 - Protecting consumers by banning the resale of food, medical supplies, personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies
 - Ensuring passenger and car ferries provide minimum service levels
 - Suspending all local states of emergencies, except in the City of Vancouver

Other notable announcements, enforcements, and guideline changes occurring today include:

- There are new prescriber guidelines around the provision of a safe supply of drugs to people who use drugs and are suffering from Substance Use Disorder. These guidelines support these people in places such as the DTES, who may be affected by COVID-19, by ensuring that they are able to comply with public health advice around isolation and quarantine.
- The Government of Canada began enforcing the Quarantine Act effective the evening of March 25th, requiring a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all travelers returning to Canada.
- Isobel Mackenzie (Seniors Advocate for BC) has announced that the government is expanding its BC 211 helpline to match seniors in need with volunteers willing to help during the pandemic. The Government is funding the expansion of the program which was previously only available in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island, and will now cover the entire province. This will allow seniors to receive help which includes virtual visits, and picking up/delivering groceries and medications. Family members of a senior who needs help can also phone this number and be matched up with a volunteer or service in their community.

Effective March 18, 2020:

The declaration of a Provincial State of Emergency allows the government the following powers:

- To prohibit the reselling of certain necessary supplies
- To enact food rationing protocols and set fuel prices if necessary
- Enforce the closure of bars and restaurants

The state of emergency is for two weeks, renewable by Cabinet. The legislature will be called back on Monday, March 23rd to expedite the response to COVID-19.

At the briefing, Dr. Henry was asked about Indigenous communities being able to offer their own testing. She said she has been in talks with FNHA to ensure there are courses of action to meet those needs, and noting that in particular elders are important in this. She further indicated that the provincial leaders are meeting with Chiefs from across BC on Friday, to ensure they are addressing this in a culturally-appropriate way. Minister Dix highlighted FNHA's involvement in meetings with Stephen Brown.

Effective March 17, 2020:

For the duration of the Public Health Emergency, the Provincial Health Officer is granted the following powers:

- Can deliver order verbally
- Can compel police to enforce those orders
- Can make orders of health staff in all health authorities

Additionally, the Minister of Health can make changes without being required to seek the approval of legislature.

The following announcements were also made by Premier John Horgan, Finance Minister Carole James and Education Minister Rob Fleming:

- Province will reveal pandemic economic plan once federal government reveals details of its own stimulus package on Wednesday, March 18. BC will then look to supplement where needed (ie. Expansion of EI coverage).
- Amendments to be made to employment standards act around assisting those who cannot work.
- K-12 classes across BC suspended indefinitely.
- Daycare/Childcare will remain available (at this time), but upon new advice this can change.
- New self-assessment tool available: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>

Effective March 16, 2020: the following orders are in place, announced by the BC Provincial Health Officer and Health Minister:

- Ban on gatherings of 50 people or more
- All casinos closed
- Restrictions on visitors at long-term care facilities (“essential only”)
- Pharmacies to refill prescriptions without requiring physician’s notes
- All hospitals (except Lions Gate) moved to Outbreak phase 2:
 - All elective scheduled surgeries cancelled — urgent and emergency services only
 - Staff within sites reallocated to support COVID-19
- Lions Gate Hospital moved to Outbreak phase 3 – accepting emergencies only
 - Preparing to open a dedicated COVID-19 unit to provide care to those affected
- Ministry moving to acquire more long-term care beds to move non-urgent patients out of acute care sites
- Physician compensation being extended for virtual-care services
- Regulatory colleges to list non-practicing providers to potentially re-register
- COVID telephone/text line available in addition to 811: 1-888-COVID19/1-888-268-4319

APPENDIX “B” COVID-19 – What You Need to Know

What are the symptoms?

- Self-Assessment Tool: Are you worried about your symptoms? Visit the Self-Assessment Tool from the BC Provincial Government. <https://bc.thrive.health/>

Public Health Notices:

- **First Nations Health Authorities Tell Commons Committee They Need More PPE**, <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authorities-tell-commons-committee-they-need-more-ppe>
- Your story, our future: new survey seeks input from First Nations on COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/your-story-our-future-new-survey-seeks-input-from-first-nations-on-covid-19>
- International Nurses' Day: tips to celebrate nurses in your community. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/international-nurses-day-tips-to-celebrate-nurses-in-your-community>
- First Nations Health Authority and Canadian Red Cross Announce Partnership for Disaster Response. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authority-and-canadian-red-cross-announce-partnership-for-disaster-response>
- Chief Medical Officer of the First Nations Health Authority to Join Indigenous Services Canada to Support Nation-wide COVID-19 Response. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/chief-medical-officer-of-the-fnha-to-join-indigenous-services-canada-to-support-nation-wide-covid-19-response>
- Happy Nursing Week! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/happy-nursing-week>
- First Nations Health Authority Issues Guidance on Notification of COVID-19 Cases. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-health-authority-issues-guidance-on-notification-of-covid-19-cases>
- Thank-You Message to Nurses & Midwives during National Immunization Awareness Week. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/thank-you-message-to-nurses-and-midwives-during-national-immunization-awareness-week>
- COVID-19 Guide to Medical Transportation Benefits for Self-Isolation. https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/health-benefits-news/covid-19-guide-to-medical-transportation-benefits-for-self-isolation?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Recovery%20During%20the%20Pandemic%20Medical%20Transportation%20Benefits%20for%20Self-Isolation%20Virtual%20Programming%20from%20Tow-Tun-Le-Lum%20Society%20and%20more&utm_content=Recovery%20During%20the%20Pandemic%20Medical%20Transportation%20Benefits%20for%20Self-Isolation%20Virtual%20Programming%20from%20Tow-Tun-Le-Lum%20Society%20and%20more+Version+A+CID_429071c2980b11af642f257ac41619c4&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20more%20about%20this%20program%20here
- Public health processes and the role of communities during COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/public-health-processes-and-the-role-of-communities-during-covid-19>
- New “Watchmon” Page Tells the Story About the FNHA’s Office of the Chief Medical Officer. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/new-watchmon-page-tells-the-story-about-the-fnhas-office-of-the-chief-medical-officer>
- First Recorded BC First Nations Community COVID-19 Fatality. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-recorded-bc-first-nations-community-covid-19-fatality>
- First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day. <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-doctor-of-the-day>
- First Nations Community Closures and Checkpoints in COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-community-closures-and-checkpoints-in-covid-19-pandemic>
- Article: Need to see a the doctor? Introducing the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/need-to-see-a-doctor-introducing-the-first-nations-virtual-doctor-of-the-day>
- Fact Sheet: Introducing the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-First-Nations-Virtual-Doctor-of-the-Day-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- Release: FNHA/FNHC/FNHDA Advise Against All Gatherings to Prevent COVID-19 Spreading <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-fnhc-fnhda-advise-against-all-gatherings-to-prevent-covid-19-spreading>
- Article: When staying home is not safe: Domestic violence may increase during the COVID-19 pandemic <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-staying-home-is-not-safe>
- Article: COVID-19 - Smoking and Vaping: What’s the Risk? <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-smoking-and-vaping-whats-the-risk>

- Article and Workbook: Advance Care Planning for First Nations People <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/your-care-your-choices>

Protective Factors:

- FNHA ships over 150,000 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across the province. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-ships-over-150-000-pieces-of-personal-protective-equipment-across-the-province>
- When You're in Recovery and a Pandemic Hits. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-youre-in-recovery-and-a-pandemic-hits>
- Video: Interview with Dr. Evan Adams, FNHA Chief Medical Officer on protecting you, your loved ones and community from COVID-19. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVLYraZM4oU&list=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQtOr_6pzFu8jJOWX
- Article and Fact Sheet: Homemade Face Masks <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/homemade-face-masks>
- Poster: Physical Distancing Do's and Don'ts <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Physical-Distancing-Dos-and-Donts-Poster.pdf>
- Poster: Prevent COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) by Cleaning your Phone <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Prevent-COVID-19-by-Cleaning-Your-Phone.pdf>
- Poster: How Physical Distancing Works <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-How-Physical-Distancing-Works-Poster.pdf>
- Poster: "Please do not enter our home for the protection of the people who live here." <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Do-Not-Enter-Home-Sign.pdf>

Mental Health and Holistic Wellness

- **Pandemic Side Effect: Media Spotlight on FNHA's Doctors.** <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/pandemic-side-effect-media-spotlight-on-fnhas-doctors>
- **Accessing contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted infection counselling and services during COVID-19.** <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/accessing-contraception-abortion-and-sexually-transmitted-infection-counselling-and-services-during-covid-19>
- **First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day Service Provides Culturally-Safe Primary Care for First Nations People in BC.** <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/first-nations-virtual-doctor-of-the-day-service-provides-culturally-safe-primary-care-for-first-nations-people-in-bc>
- **Good Medicine: Reclaiming Food Sovereignty and Security with a Gardening Program for First Nations Families.** <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-reclaiming-food-sovereignty-and-security-with-a-gardening-program-for-first-nations-families>
- **Staying strong during tough times with the "medicine of resilience".** <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-strong-during-tough-times-with-the-medicine-of-resilience>
- Taking care of our sexual health during the pandemic. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/taking-care-of-our-sexual-health-during-the-pandemic>
- Good Medicine: Show us your homemade / handmade face masks! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-show-us-your-homemade-handmade-face-masks>
- Staying connected if your loved one is hospitalized due to COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/staying-connected-if-your-loved-one-is-hospitalized-due-to-covid-19>
- Practise Lateral Kindness to Help Reduce Stigma and Fear of COVID-19. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/practise-lateral-kindness-to-help-reduce-stigma-and-fear-of-covid-19>
- The Power of Voice to Advance Culturally Safe Health Care for First Nations Communities. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/the-power-of-voice-to-advance-culturally-safe-health-care-for-first-nations-communities>
- Enjoy the hot weather safely while practising physical distancing! <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/enjoy-the-hot-weather-safely-while-practising-physical-distancing>
- Should You Take Your Child to the Doctor During COVID-19? <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/should-you-take-your-child-to-the-doctor-during-covid-19>
- Your Health and Wellness Matter. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/your-health-and-wellness-matter>
- Head Start Programs Adapt in Laxgalts'ap and Gitanmaax. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/head-start-programs-adapt-in-laxgaltsap-and-gitanmaax>
- Young Wisdom on Mental Health and Wellness. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/young-wisdom-on-mental-health-and-wellness>

- Good Medicine: Online Scavenger Hunts and Activities Raise Spirits in Sts'ailes. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-online-scavenger-hunts-and-activities-raise-spirits-in-stsailes>
- Good Medicine: Tsow-Tun-Le-Lum Society's virtual smudge receives over 10,000 views. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-tsow-tun-le-lum-societys-virtual-smudge-receives-over-10-000-views>
- Ten Tips for Sleeping Well During Troubled Times. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/ten-tips-for-sleeping-well-during-troubled-times>
- Good Medicine: Ideas for supporting land-based healing and wellness during the pandemic. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-ideas-for-supporting-land-based-healing-and-wellness-during-the-pandemic>
- Good Medicine: A Parade to Deliver Inspiration. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-a-parade-to-deliver-inspiration>
- Video: Interview with Dr. Nel Wieman, FNHA Senior Medical Officer, focusing on mental wellness and COVID-19. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yd8ZnmF7ek&list=PLDKOxTJMuk_CL2KEQOr_6pzFu8jJOWX&index=2
- Resource List: Mental Health and Cultural Supports Available During the COVID-19 Pandemic <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Mental-Health-and-Cultural-Supports.pdf>
- Fact Sheet: Providing Activities for Children during a time of Crisis <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/providing-activities-for-children-during-a-time-of-crisis>
- Article: Impacts of the Pandemic on Mental Health and Wellness <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/impacts-of-the-pandemic-on-mental-health-and-wellness>
- Article: Good Medicine: Keeping Active at Home <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-keeping-active-at-home>
- Article: How to Host a Virtual Social Gathering during the Pandemic <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/how-to-host-a-virtual-social-gathering-during-the-pandemic-staying-connected-while-practising-physical-distancing>
- Article: Remember that Food is Medicine <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/remember-that-food-is-medicine>

Harm Reduction:

- Article: Practising Harm Reduction during COVID-19 <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/practising-harm-reduction-during-covid-19>
- Fact Sheet (BC Centre for Disease Control): COVID-19 Harm Reduction and Overdose Response <http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19-harm-reduction.pdf>

Podcasts:

We have recorded a number of podcasts to help raise awareness of various pandemic topics.

Listen to the podcasts at <https://soundcloud.com/firstnationshealthauthority>

Podcasts feature:

- **Richard Jock**, Interim CEO | **Topics:** FNHA moves to Level 3 state of readiness | “What happens to communities happens to us” | First batch of personal protective equipment delivered to communities;
- **Dr. Evan Adams**, Chief Medical Officer | **Topics:** Why you won't be learning who has COVID 19 in your community – and why that doesn't matter | The role and value of testing | Physical distancing;
- **Dr. Nel Wieman**, Senior Medical Officer | **Topics:** Act like you already have the virus | Prevention tips | Cultural events | Mental health | Resources accessible at home | Coping exercise;
- **Dr. Shannon McDonald**, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and **Sonia Isaac-Mann**, VP, Programs and Services | **Topics:** Latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak | Taking care of your family and community members | Finding trustworthy and up-to-date information;
- **April MacNaughton**, Director, Health Protection | **Topics:** COVID-19 and community emergency plans.

Additional Resources:

- For information for Community Leaders, including regular Situation Report updates and funding guides, visit: COVID-19 Information for Community Leaders <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/community-leaders>