



# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

FNHA Public Health Response

May 27, 2021

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

## COVID-19 Updates

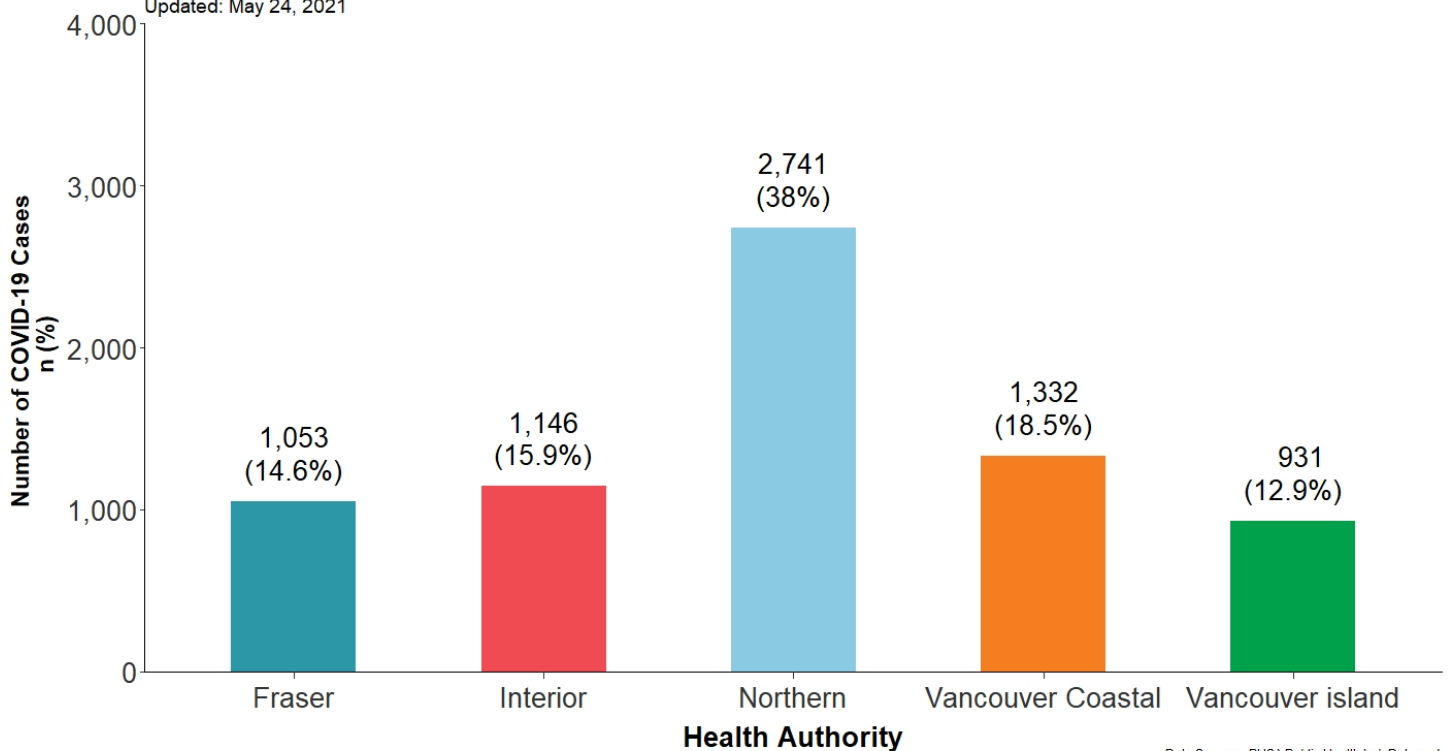
### First Nations Cases in BC

As of **May 24, 2021**

- There have been a total of **7,216** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**7,032** lab diagnosed cases and **184** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **72** cases since the last published report.
- Out of the total **7,216** cases, **3,070 (42.6%)** are in or near community; **4,001 (55.4%)** are off reserve. As geographical information is not available, information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **145 (2.0%)** cases.
- There are **87** active First Nations COVID-19 cases; **29 (33.3%)** of the active cases are in or near community and **55 (63.2%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **3** active cases.
- Sadly, there have been total **128** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **No** additional deaths are reported since **the last published** report.
- There have been a total **772 (10.7%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these **339** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **431** off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 2 cases.

### First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=7,203)

Updated: May 24, 2021



Data Sources: PHSa Public Health Lab Data and BCCDC's COVID-19 Surveillance Line List

\*Total number of cases (n=7,216) includes five (5) COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon, one (1) case reported as "Out of Canada" resident and seven (7) cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=7,203) reported as BC residents.

**Regional Active cases and Testing data as of May 24, 2021**

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 cases <sup>a</sup>	23	**	37	18	*	87
Total persons tested <sup>b</sup>	9,354	9,335	11,268	8,623	9,050	47,660
Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to May 17, 2021)	7.0%	8.6%	16.9%	9.1%	7.4%	9.9%
Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (May 11 to May 17, 2021)	8.5%	4.5%	22.1%	9.7%	0.0%	9.5%
Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)	61,799.7	42,326.9	39,945.5	65,547.0	36,790.3	46,821.4

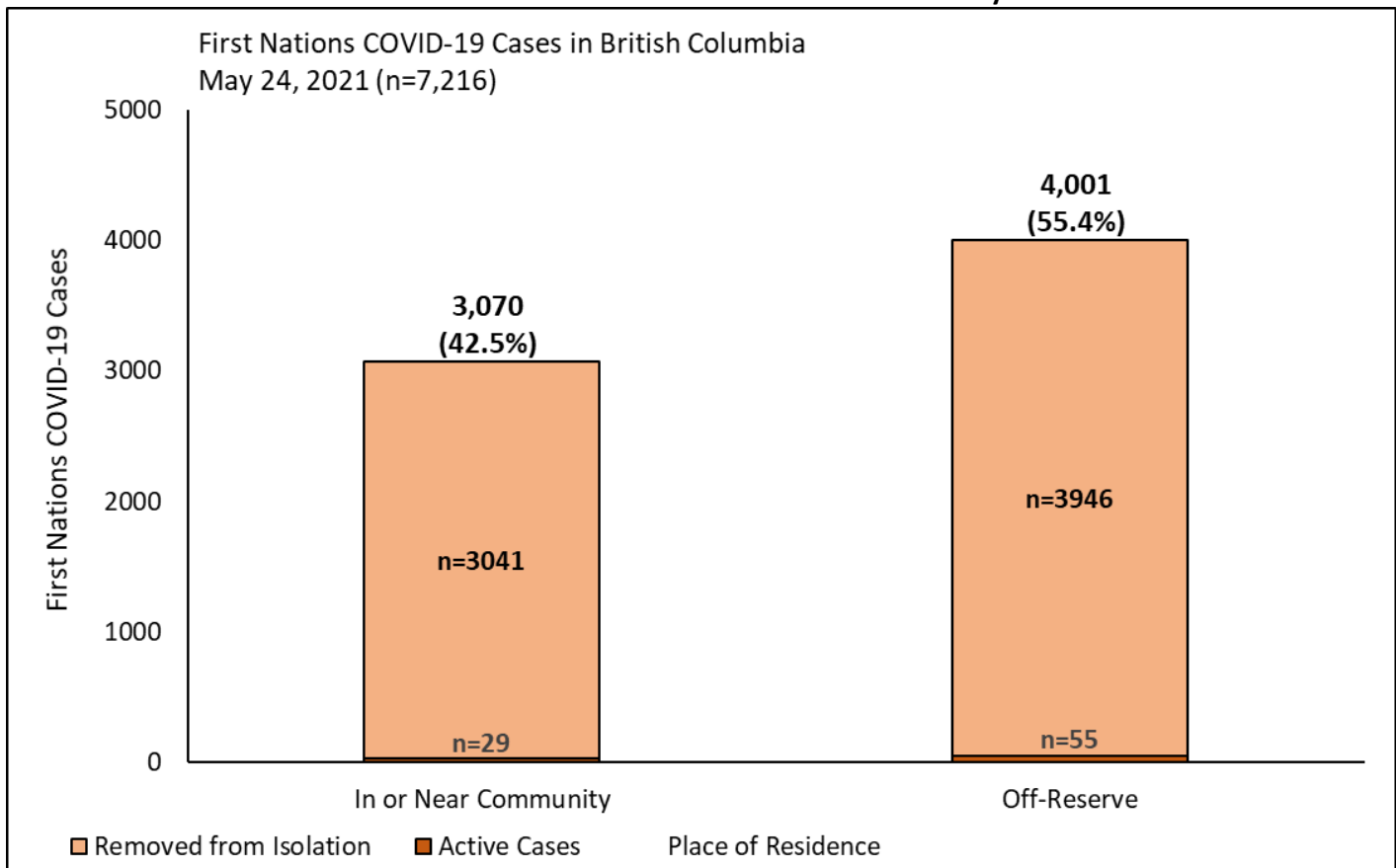
<sup>a</sup> Algorithm to define people who are removed from isolation is updated on February 5, 2021 to reflect change adopted by PHSA. Updated algorithm assigns cases who are lost to follow up and whose surveillance date (reported date and if not available then result date) >=20 days before the line list case dataset date to "removed from isolation".

<sup>b</sup> Geographical Information (RHAs) for 30 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.

\* Active case counts are suppressed as counts are less than 5.

\*\* Active case counts are more than 5 but they are suppressed to prevent inadvertent identification of active cases in Vancouver Island region.

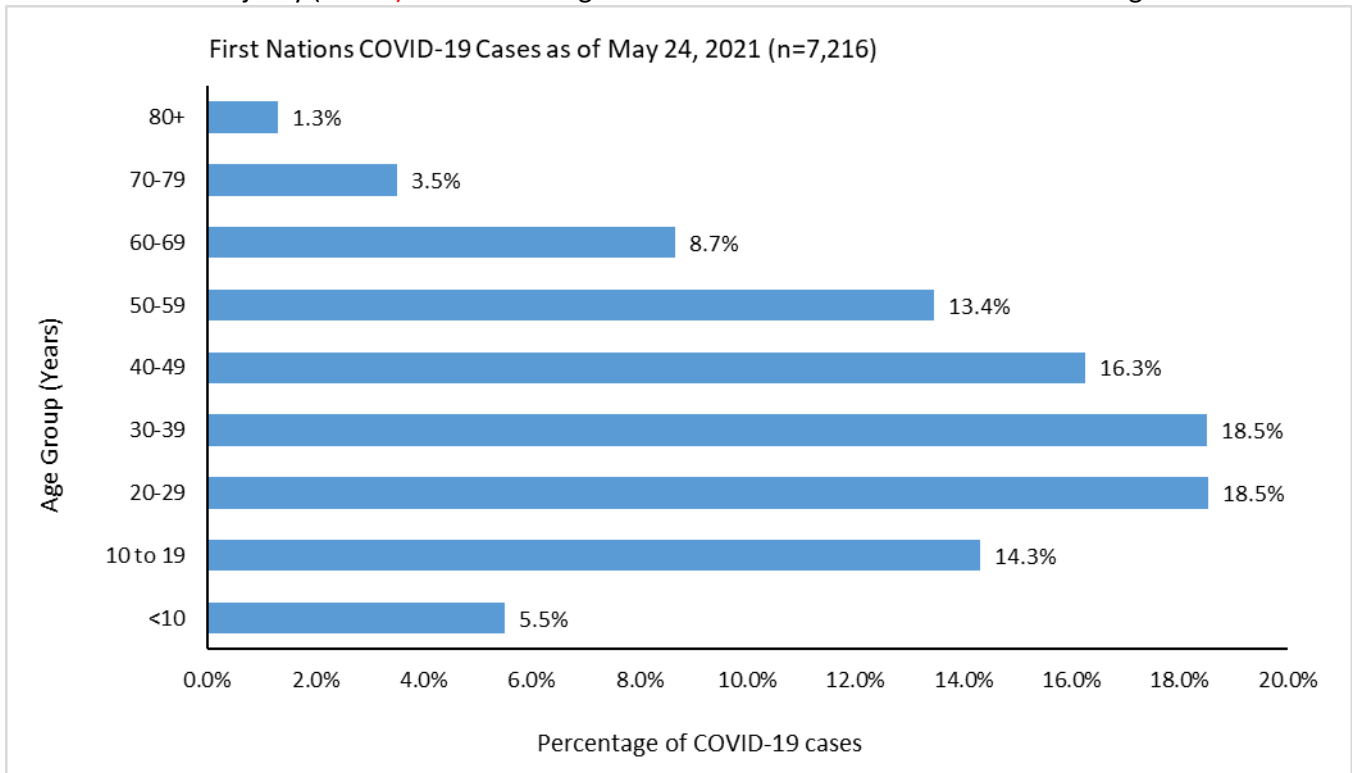
**First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community\***



\* In or near community analysis is not available for 3 active cases. Total number of cases (n=7,216) includes 145 cases without information on LHA of residence and "In or Near Community" analysis.

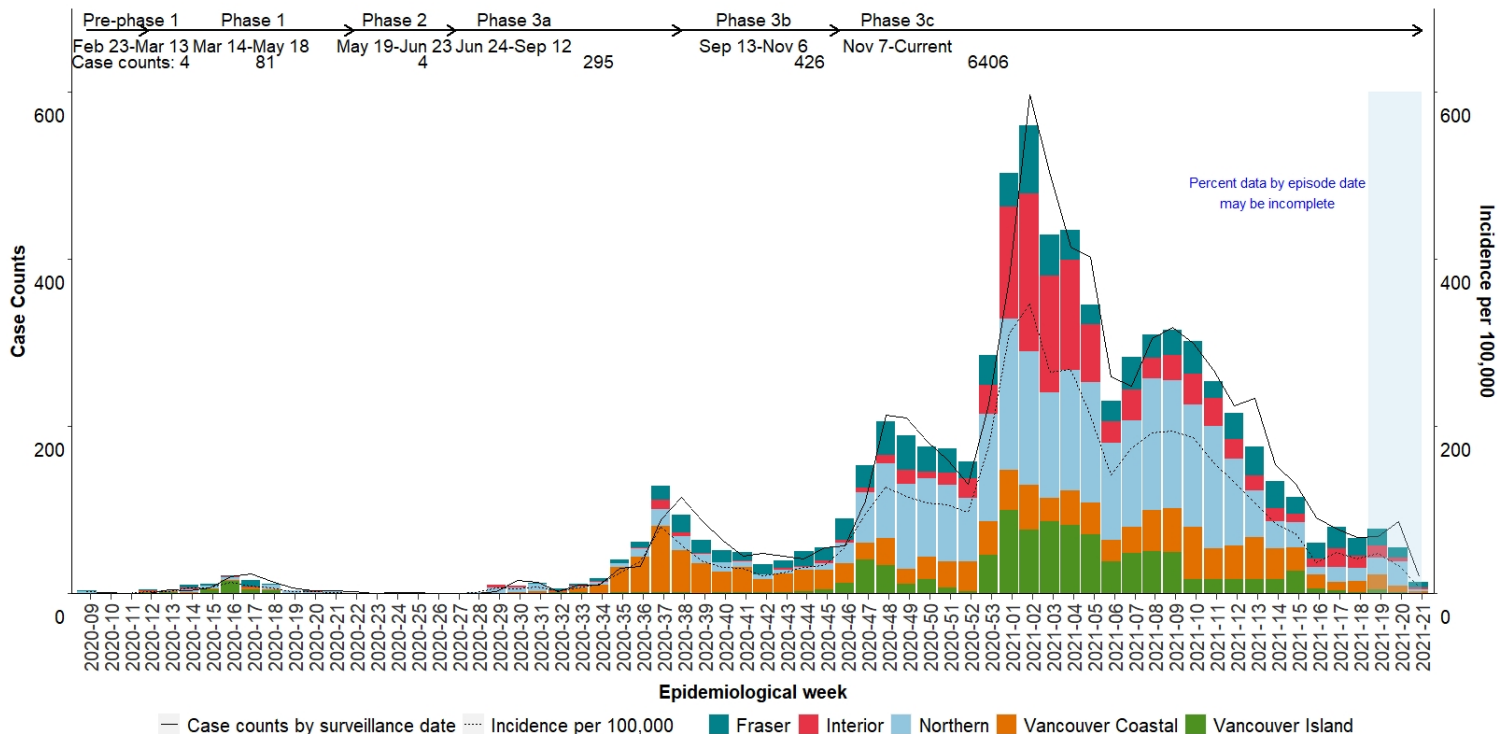
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of May 24, 2021, there were 29 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in or near community.**

The majority (73.1%) 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 9.93% as of May 24, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 4,444.6 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 2,757.9 per 100,000 people.

**Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episode date (coloured bar),<sup>a</sup> surveillance date (line) and health authority, British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – May 24, 2021 (Week-21, 2021\*) (n=7,216)**

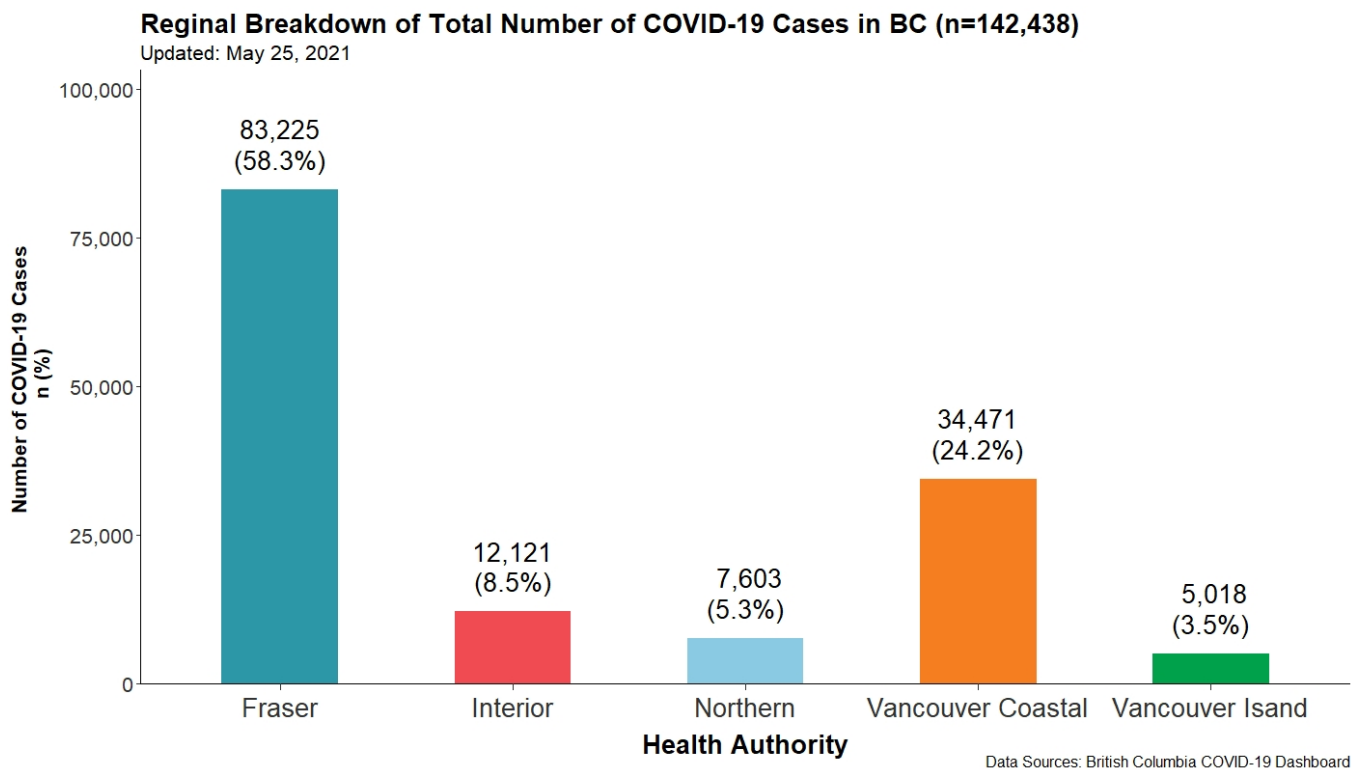


<sup>a</sup> Episode date is now defined as date of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. When those dates are not available, earliest lab date (collection date or result date) is used, and if unavailable, surveillance date is used. Report date used previously is now replaced with surveillance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

<sup>b</sup> Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (up to May 23, 2021) and PHSA’s public health lab data (up to May 24, 2021). 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 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: May 26, 2021 at 3:45 p.m.**

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 142,886 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,683 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 3,580 active cases, 296 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 97 people are in intensive care
- Of the total number of cases, 137,517 (96%) people have fully recovered



\*Total number of cases (n=142,636) includes 198 cases reported as “Out of Canada” residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=142,438) reported as BC residents.

**Active Outbreaks** (as of May 26, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living: 4 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 2 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 May 25, 2021, more than 90,000 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 18,600 First Nations people have received a second dose. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as those administered by Regional Health Authorities outside of communities.
- As of May 25, 60.1% of all status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC age 18 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of May 26, a total of 2,979,951 doses of vaccine have been administered in BC, of which 152,010 are second doses.

\* A geographic distribution of COVID-19 by Local Health Area can be found [here](#).  
 \* A weekly update on Variants of Concern can be found [here](#).

## **First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (May 20, 2021):**

Access Restrictions: 138 (+3)

Security Checkpoints: 71 (+3)

Band Offices Inaccessible: 86 (+1)

State of Local Emergency: 50\*

EOC Activations: 111 (+1)

*\*Number has been updated to reflect a change in the method of data collection.*

## **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**

- [COVID-19 Vaccinations Now Available to Youth Age 12 and Over](#). May 20, 2021
- [Second-Dose Vaccination Clinics Are Rolling Out: Can We Return to “Normal” Soon?](#) May 14, 2021.
- [Pregnant Women Prioritized for the COVID-19 Vaccination](#). May 11, 2021.
- [Joint Statement on Misleading COVID-19 Information](#). May 6, 2021.
- [The Second COVID-19 Vaccine Dose: Why We All Need to Get It, and What to Expect](#). May 5, 2021.
- [Vaccinated Mothers Can Transfer Antibodies to Their Babies to Protect Them from COVID-19](#). April 27, 2021.
- [BC Heightens Restrictions to Combat COVID-19 Spread](#). April 21, 2021.
- [Why We Must Keep Up Protective Measures Even after Getting Vaccinated](#). April 16, 2021.
- [Indigenous People Are a High Priority to Receive COVID-19 Vaccinations](#). April 15, 2021.
- [Draw on Culture, Community and Resilience to Stay Safe Against COVID-19 Variants and Rising Cases](#). April 12.
- [BC First Nations Are a High Priority to Receive COVID-19 Vaccines](#). April 9, 2021.
- [The Mental Health Pandemic within the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). April 8, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Now Open to All Indigenous People 18+](#). March 31, 2021.
- [First Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Complete in All BC First Nations Communities](#). March 31, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Testing](#). March 22, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellness](#). March 22, 2021.

- [The Best Vaccine for You Is the One Available to You Right Now](#). 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.
- [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.
- [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>

## FNHA Response

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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>