



# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

## FNHA Public Health Response

September 20, 2021

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

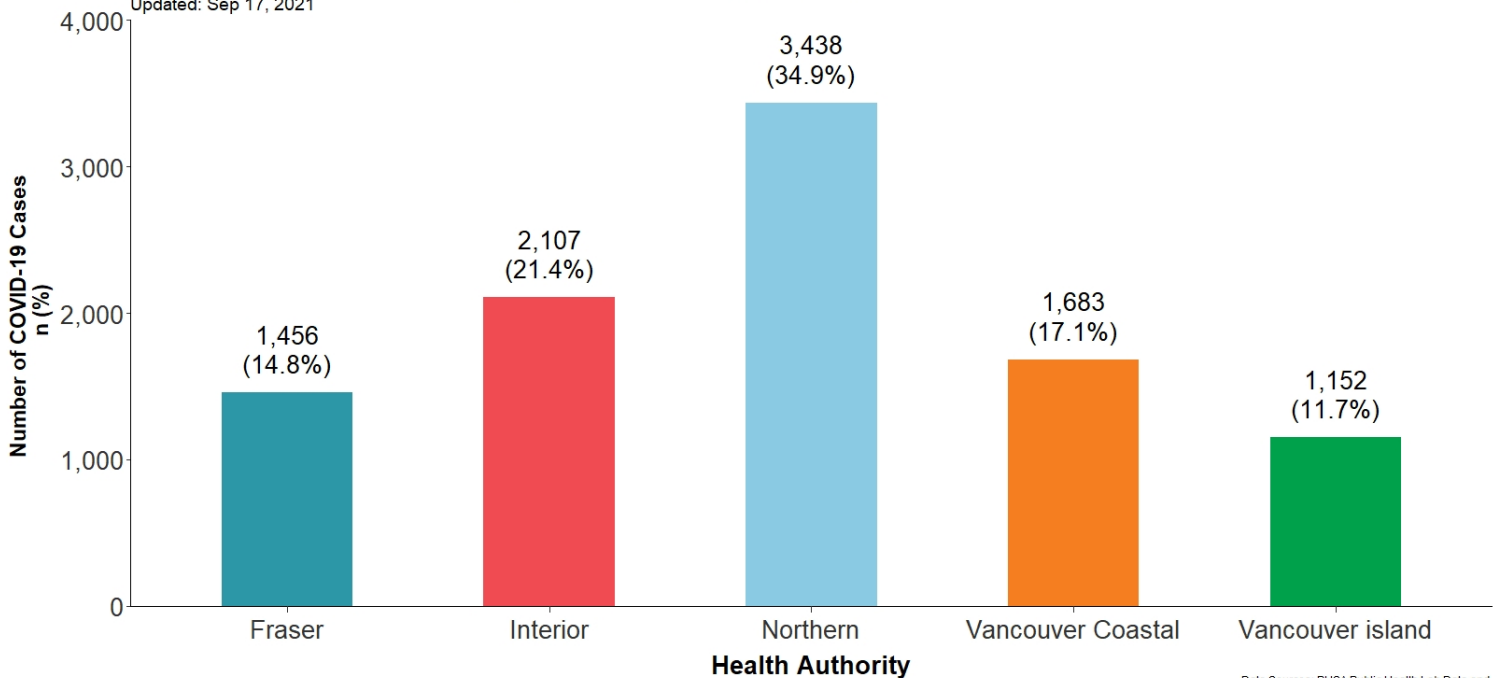
### COVID-19 Updates

#### First Nations Cases in BC – As of September 17, 2021

- There have been a total of **9,861** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**9,661** lab diagnosed cases and **200** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **446 cases among First Nations people in BC** since the last published report.
- Out of the total **9,861** cases, **4,053 (41.1%)** are in or near community; **5,822 (56.6%)** are off reserve. As geographical information is not available, information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **226 (2.3%)** cases.
- There are total **649** active First Nations COVID-19 cases in British Columbia. There are **237** active COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.
- Sadly, there have been total **148** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **Two** additional deaths are reported since **the last published** report.
- There have been a total **1,013 (10.3%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these **420** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **589** off reserve. Information on in or near community/ off reserve is not available for 4 cases.

First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=9,836)

Updated: Sep 17, 2021



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

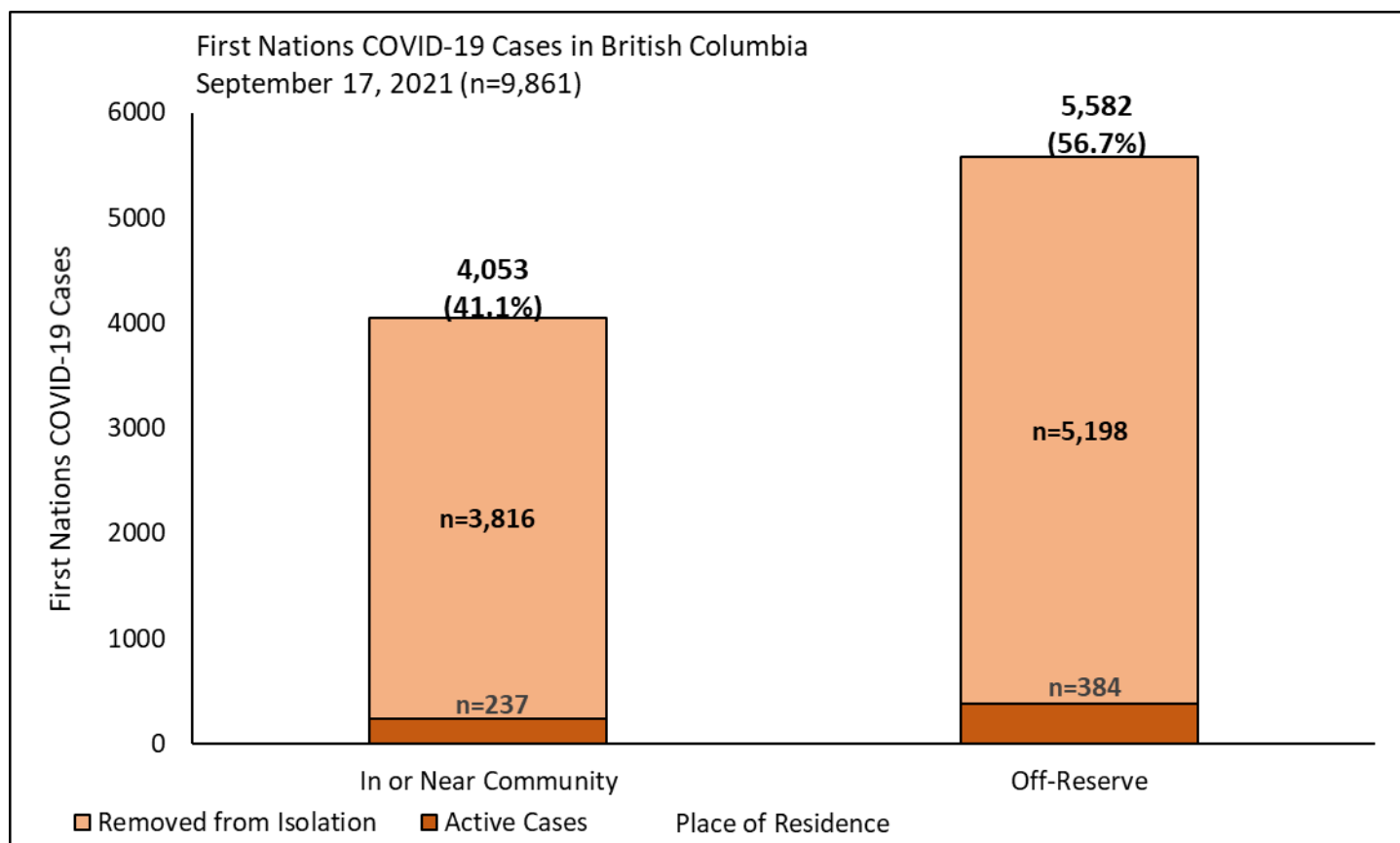
\*Total number of cases (n=9,861) includes one (1) case reported as "Out of Canada" resident, sixteen (16) cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents, two (2) case reported as "Out Of BC – Ontario", one (1) case reported as "Out Of BC – Quebec, one (1) case reported as "Out Of Canada - Country other", and four (4) cases reported as "Out of BC – Saskatchewan" resident. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=9,836) reported as BC residents.

### Regional Active cases and Testing data as of September 17, 2021

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 cases <sup>a</sup>	87	152	249	76	85	649
Total persons tested <sup>b</sup>	11,041	11,744	12,925	9,599	10,080	55,418
Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to September 17, 2021)	7.5%	11.2%	17.5%	9.6%	7.4%	10.8%
Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (September 11 to September 17, 2021)	12.2%	22.5%	31.7%	13.6%	14.1%	20.1%
Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)	80,078.5	58,351.5	48,079.7	77,933.4	42,991.0	58,366.0

<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)  $\geq 20$  days before the line list case dataset date to "removed from isolation."

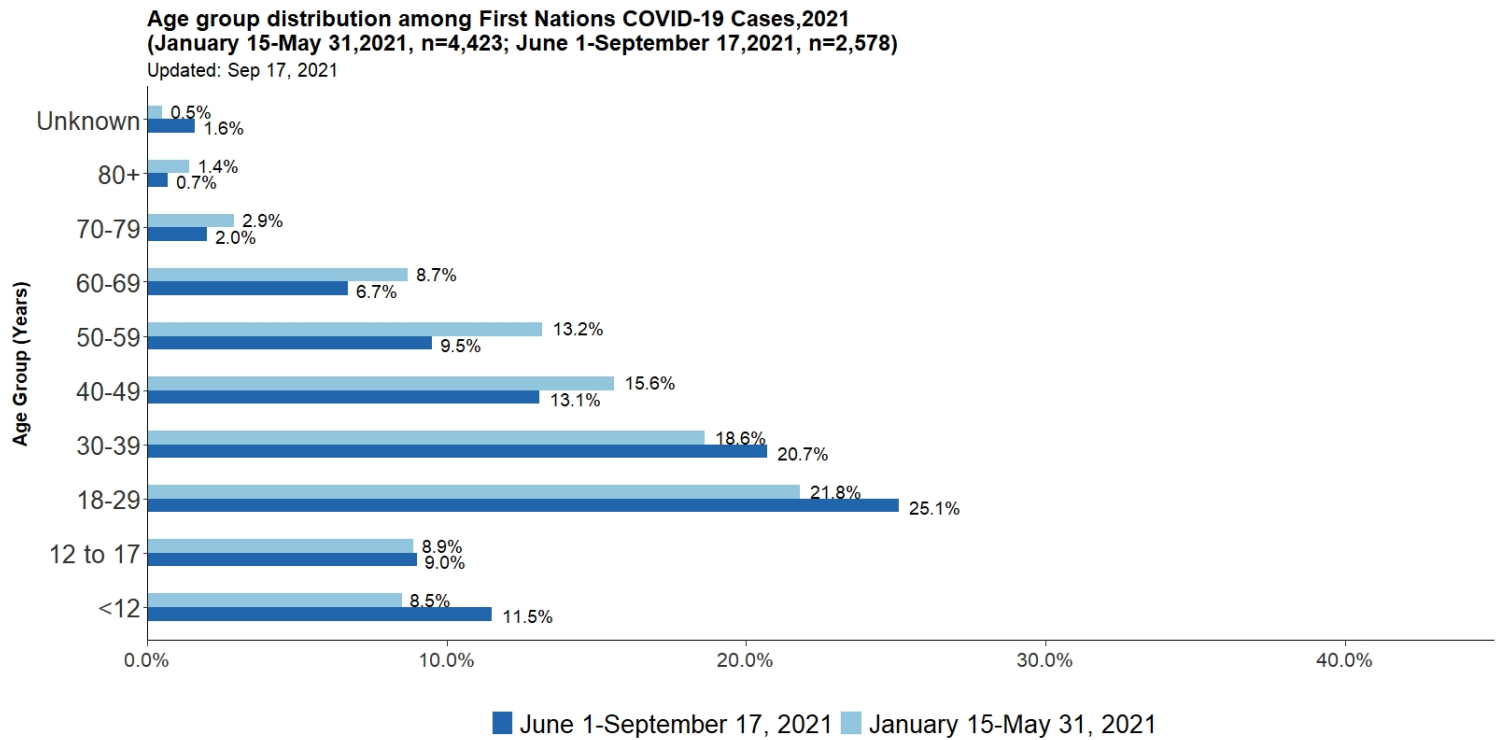
<sup>b</sup> Geographical Information (RHAs) for 29 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available. They are included in total number of First Nations people tested in BC.



\*Total number of cases (n=9,861) includes 226 cases without information on LHA of residence and "In or Near Community" analysis. Information about in or near community analysis is not available for twenty-eight (28) active cases.

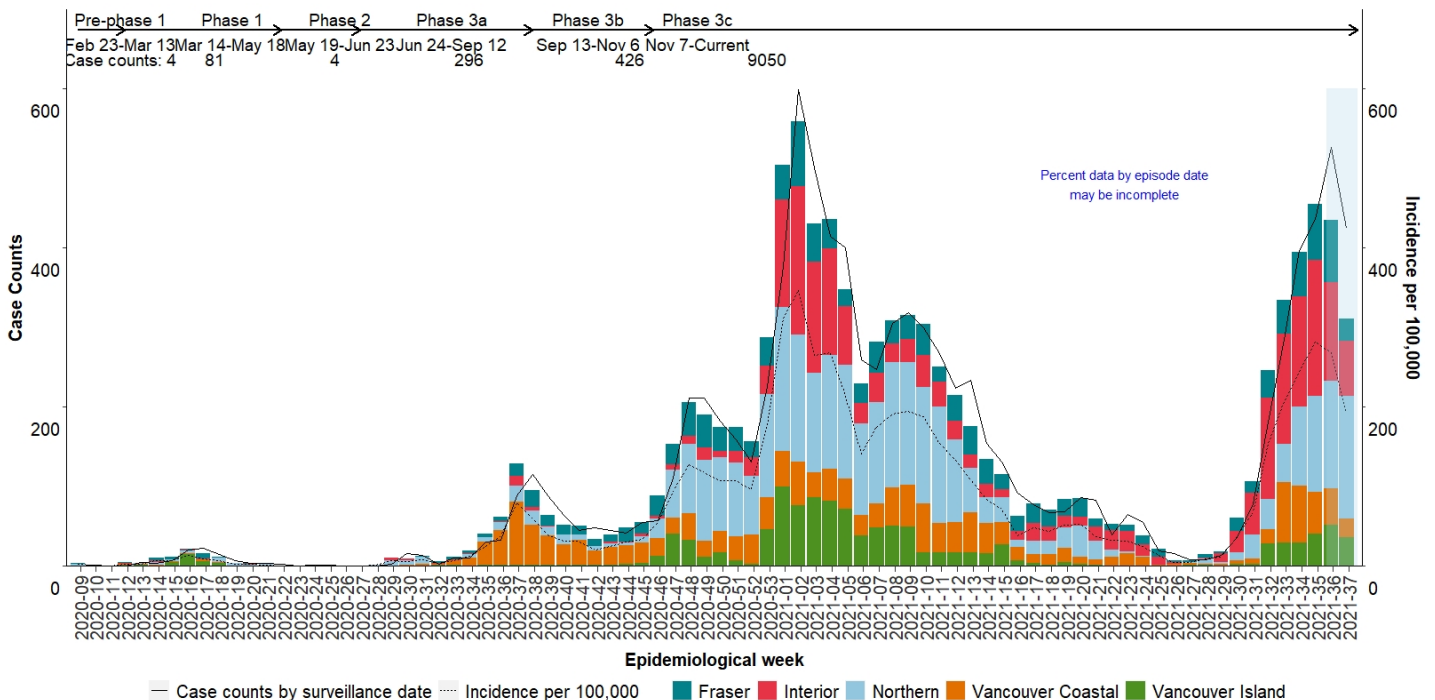
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of September 17, 2021, there were 237 active First Nations COVID-19 cases in or near community.**

There is an increase in the proportion of COVID-19 cases among <17 years old and 18-39 years old from June 1 to September 17, 2021 compared to cases reported between from January 15 to May 31, 2021.



The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 test completed for First Nations in BC was **10.78%** as of **September 17, 2021**. The rate of positive cases was **6,073.8** per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was **3,423.4** 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) – September 17, 2021 (Week-37, 2021\*) (n=9,861)**

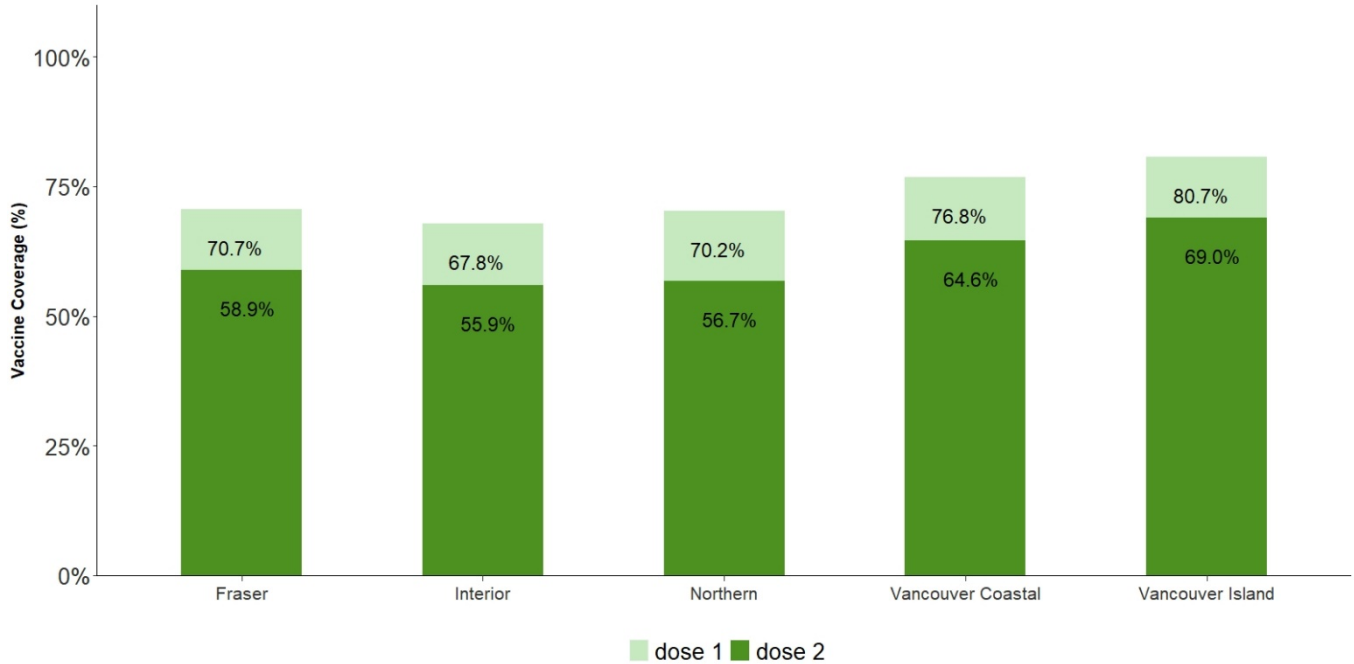


<sup>a</sup> Episode date is now defined as date of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. When those dates are not available, earliest lab date (collection date or result date) is used, and if unavailable, surveillance date is used. Report date used previously is now replaced with surveillance 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 September 17, 2021) and PHSA's public health lab data (up to September 17, 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 in the diagram as: Fraser – Dark blue, Interior – Red, Northern – Light Blue, Vancouver Coastal – Orange, and Vancouver Island – Green.

### First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Health Authority

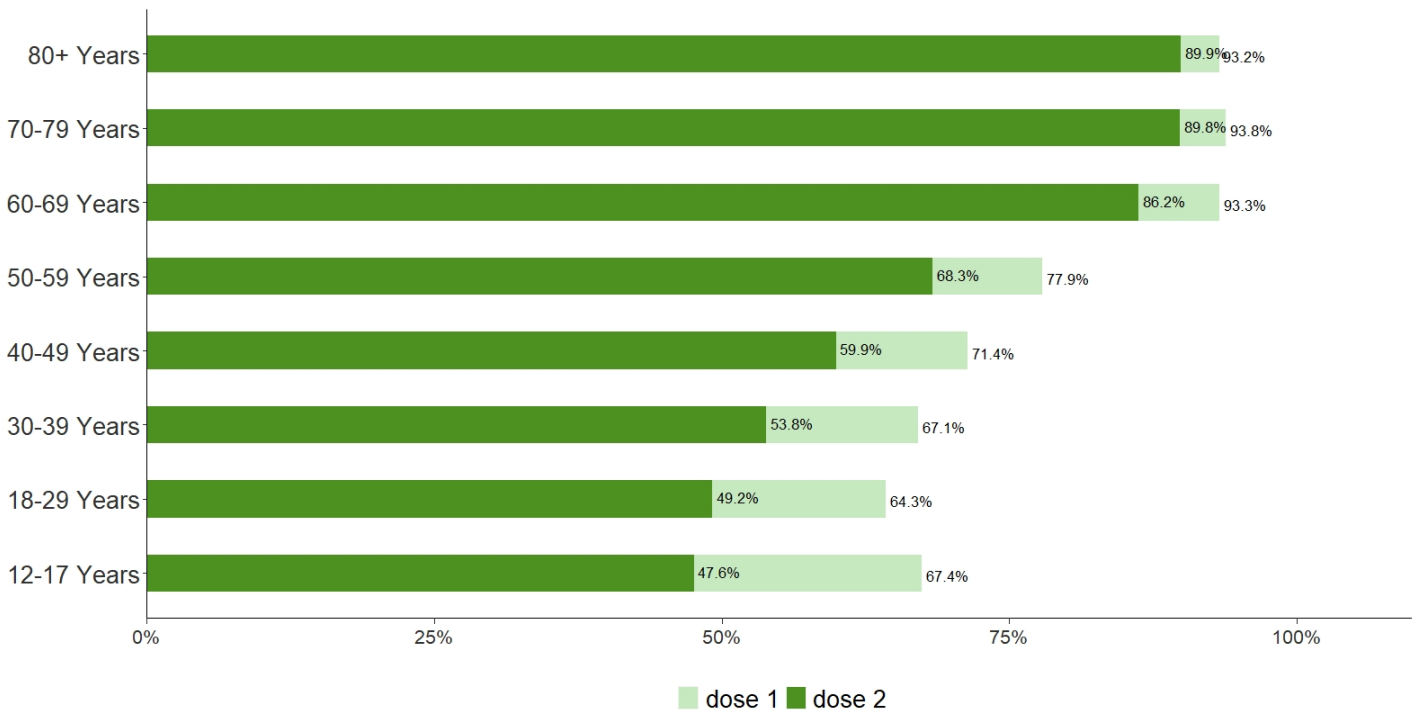
Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1=99,797, dose 2=83,034) 12+ years, up to September 17, 2021



\* HA information was not available for 1,131 clients for dose 1 and 648 clients for dose 2  
 \*\*These analyses were only possible for Status and Status eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations

### First Nations COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage, by Age Group

Doses 1 and 2 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1=100,487, dose 2=83,443) 12+ years, up to September 17, 2021



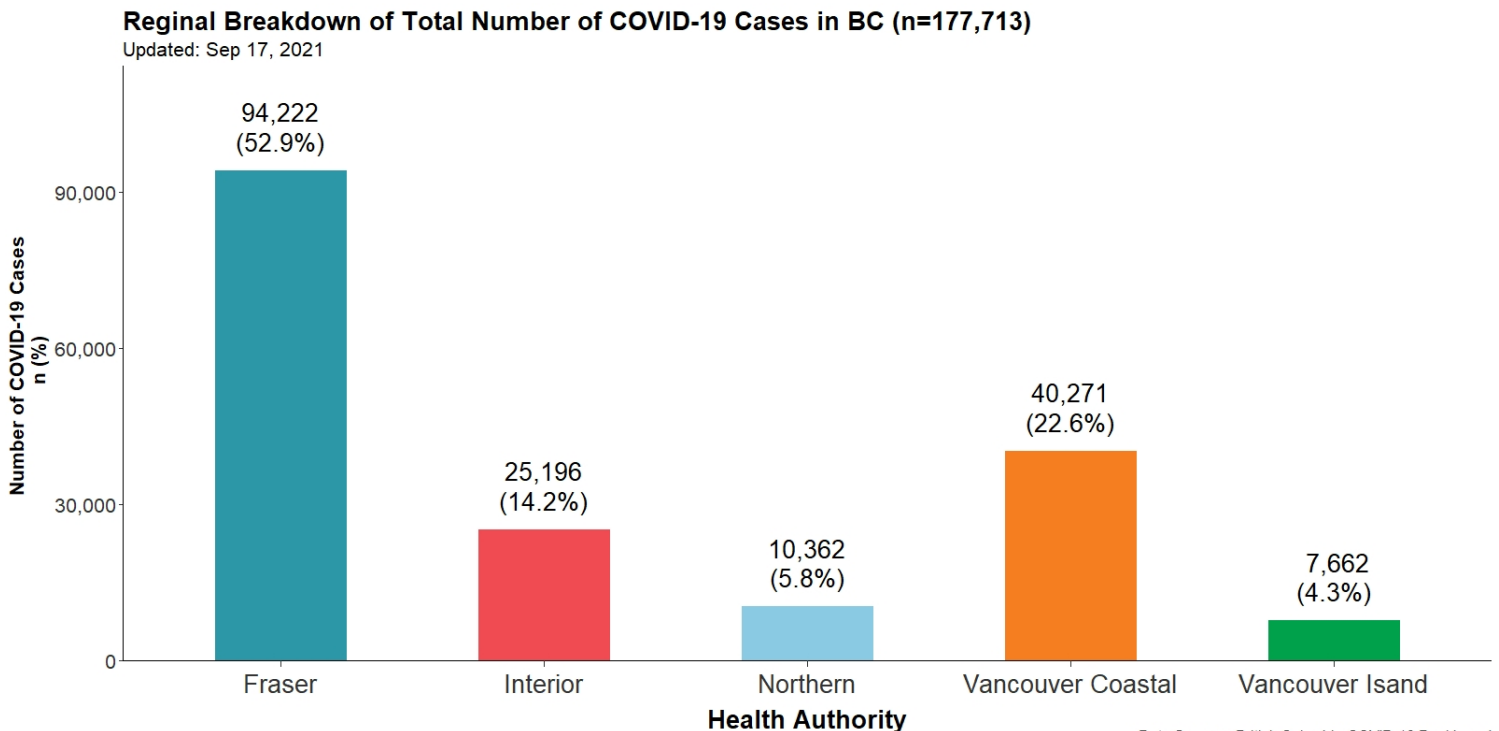
\* Age group information was not available for 441 clients for dose 1 and 239 clients for dose 2  
 \*\*These analyses were only possible for Status and Status eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations

## Vaccine Distribution

- As of September 17, 2021, more than 109,100 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 9,700 individuals ages 12-17 who are First Nations people (and some non-First Nations people living in or near First Nations communities) have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of these individuals, more than 90,400 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 7,000 First Nations individuals 12-17 years old have received two doses. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as outside of communities by regional health authorities.
- As of September 17, 74.8% of 18 and older, and 73.3% of 12 and older, status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- As of September 17, 86.5% (4,008,076) of eligible people 12 and older in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 78.9% (3,659,495) have received their second dose

## Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of September 17, 2021, 3 p.m.

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 177,954 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,888 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 6,031 active cases, 298 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 136 people are in intensive care
- Of the total number of cases, 169,653 (95.3%) people have fully recovered



\*Total number of cases (n=177,954) include 240 cases reported as "Out of Canada" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=177,713) reported as BC residents.

## Active Outbreaks (as of September 17, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living: 17 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 3 outbreak

\* 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 (September 16, 2021):

Access Restrictions: 135 (same)	Security Checkpoints: 69 (-1)
Band Offices Inaccessible: 83 (+1)	State of Local Emergency: 59 (-1)
	EOC Activations: 120 (-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**

- [Province Makes Vaccines Mandatory for Health Workers, Announces Third Dose for Immune-Compromised People](#). September 15, 2021.
- [Going Back to School during the Pandemic: Keeping Your Children Safe](#). September 9, 2021.
- [Everything You Need to Know about BC COVID-19 Vaccine Card](#). September 8, 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.
- [The Back-to-School Essentials List: Pencils, Paper... and Vaccines](#). September 1, 2021.
- [Making Sense of Increased COVID-19 Cases and Renewed Public Health Measures](#). August 27, 2021.
- [BC Launches Proof of Vaccination and Renews Mask Mandate](#). August 25, 2021.
- [The COVID-19 Delta Variant in BC: What You Need to Know](#). August 12, 2021.
- [FNHA Launches Youth Wellness and COVID-19 Social Media Contest](#). August 10, 2021.
- [Help! My Loved One Won't Get Vaccinated!](#) July 29, 2021.
- [Inclusive Toolkit Provides Mental Health and Wellness Supports for COVID-19](#). July 21, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Numbers Add up to a Concern for First Nations Population](#). July 20, 2021.
- [Feeling Anxious about Getting Back to "Normal"? Navigating BC's Restart Plan](#). July 14, 2021.
- [Two Doses Are the Number One Way to Beat COVID-19](#). June 24, 2021
- [Vaccine Hot Topics: Myocarditis, Pericarditis and the COVID-19 Vaccines](#). June 16, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth 12 to 17](#). June 9, 2021
- [Vaccines and Vigilance Key to Putting the Pandemic behind Us](#). June 2, 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.
- [Why We Must Keep Up Protective Measures Even after Getting Vaccinated. April 16, 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 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.](#)
- [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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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>