



# Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

FNHA Public Health Response

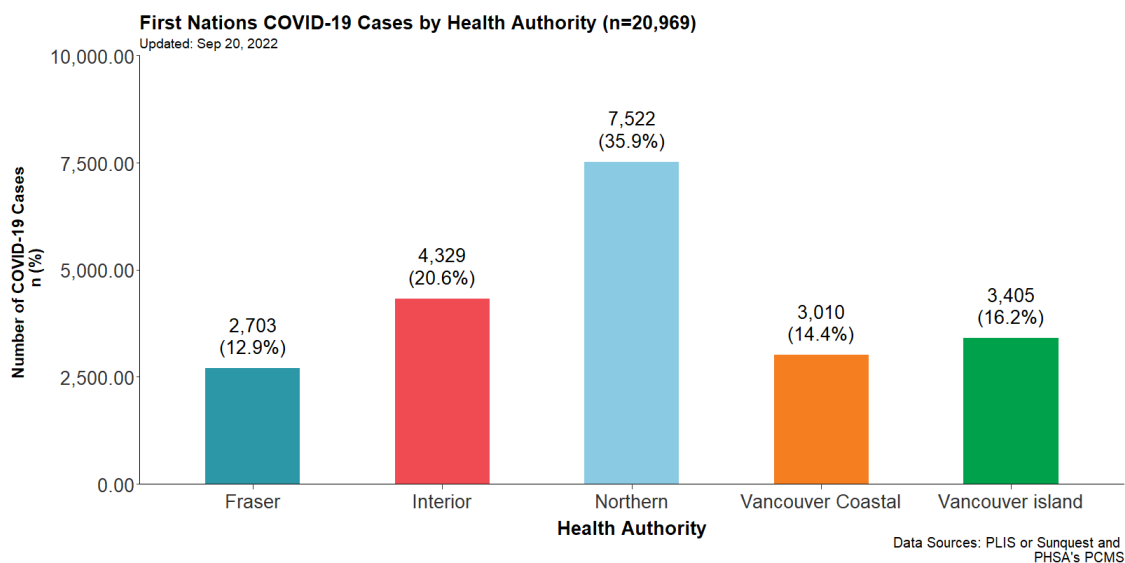
September 27, 2022

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

## COVID-19 Updates

### First Nations Cases in BC – As of September 20, 2022<sup>1</sup>

- There are **20,971** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**20,695** lab diagnosed cases and **276** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **26 cases among First Nations people in BC** since the last published report.
- Out of the **20,971** cases, **8,938 (42.6%)** are in or near community; **11,288 (53.8%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **745 (3.6%)** cases.
- Sadly, there have been **258** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations people living in BC from the beginning of the pandemic to **April 1, 2022**. **Between April 2 and August 30, 2022, 31 First Nations people died from any cause (COVID-19 and non-COVID-19) within 30 days of testing positive for COVID-19**. Due to a reduction in the number of deaths occurring from COVID-19, this will be reported on a monthly basis going forward.
- There have been **2,419 (11.5%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these, **1,037** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **1,379** off reserve. Information on in or near community/ off reserve is not available for **3** cases.



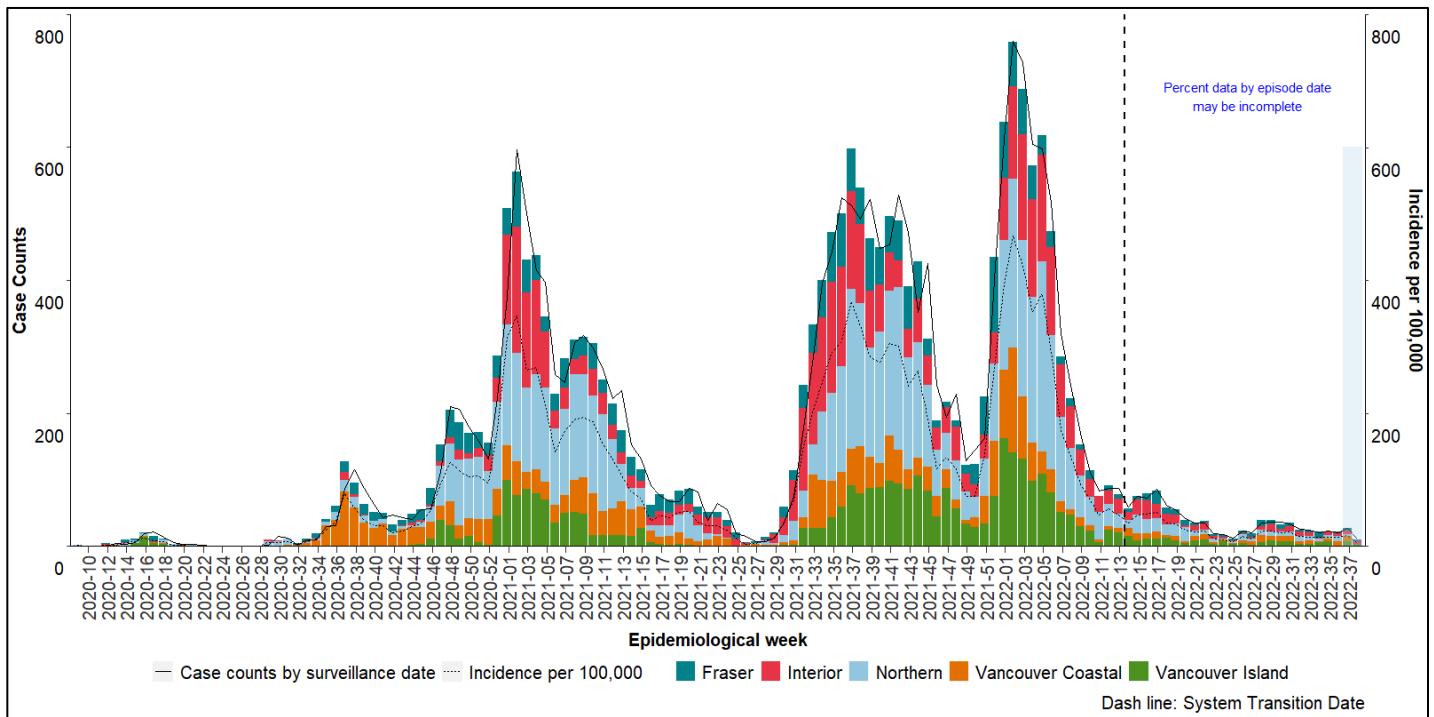
\*Total number of cases (n=20,971) includes 2 cases reported as Out of Country.

<sup>1</sup> As a part of BC’s transition plan for COVID-19 surveillance, the province has shifted away from daily to weekly COVID-19 data reporting and has transitioned to a new integrated COVID-19 surveillance system: the Provincial Health Services Authority’s (PHSA) Provincial COVID-19 Monitoring Solution (PCMS). This COVID-19 update includes data from the new integrated system. Hospitalization data now includes anyone who has been hospitalized and tests positive for COVID-19. This means that the number of hospitalizations will likely be higher due to the inclusion of incidental hospitalizations (i.e. people who were hospitalized for non-COVID-19 reasons, but were COVID-19-positive). Total deaths include all COVID-19-related deaths reported by regional health authorities (RHAs) from February 2020 to April 1, 2022, and from April 2022 forward all COVID-19 lab-positive cases of people who died from any cause within 30 days of their first COVID-19 lab-positive result. Going forward, only cases with positive laboratory results will be added to the PHSA’s PCMS. This is likely an underestimate of cases. Consequently, 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 (see <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>). Total COVID-19 cases include lab-confirmed, lab-probable and epi-linked cases. From January 2020 to April 1, 2022 cases included those reported by RHAs and positive laboratory results in the Provincial Laboratory Information Solution (PLIS) or Sunquest. As of April 2, 2022, only cases with positive laboratory results in PHSA’s PCMS are included. These case counts do not include people who only tested positive by rapid antigen tests. Self-reporting is also no longer possible through the provincial COVID-19 positive test result reporting form. As it is no longer possible to estimate active cases accurately, FNHA will no longer be reporting on active cases. These changes align with BCCDC’s reporting changes.

### Regional Testing Data for the Past Week (September 14 - September 20, 2022)

|  | Fraser Salish | Interior | Northern | Vancouver Coastal | Vancouver Island | Total N (%) |
|--|---------------|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total persons tested over the past week      | 26            | 23       | 47       | 42                | 52               | 190         |
| Percentage positivity (%) over the past week | 19.2%         | 21.7%    | 2.1%     | 9.5%              | 19.2%            | 13.2%       |

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among First Nations in BC by episode date, surveillance date (line) and health authority (coloured bars),<sup>a</sup> British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – September 20, 2022 (Week-38, 2022\*) (n=20,971)



<sup>a</sup> Total COVID-19 cases include lab-confirmed, lab-probable and epi-linked cases. From January 2020 to April 1, 2022 cases included those reported by the health authorities and positive laboratory results in the PLIS or Sunquest. As of April 2, 2022, only cases with positive laboratory results in PHSA's PCMS are included (up to September 20, 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.

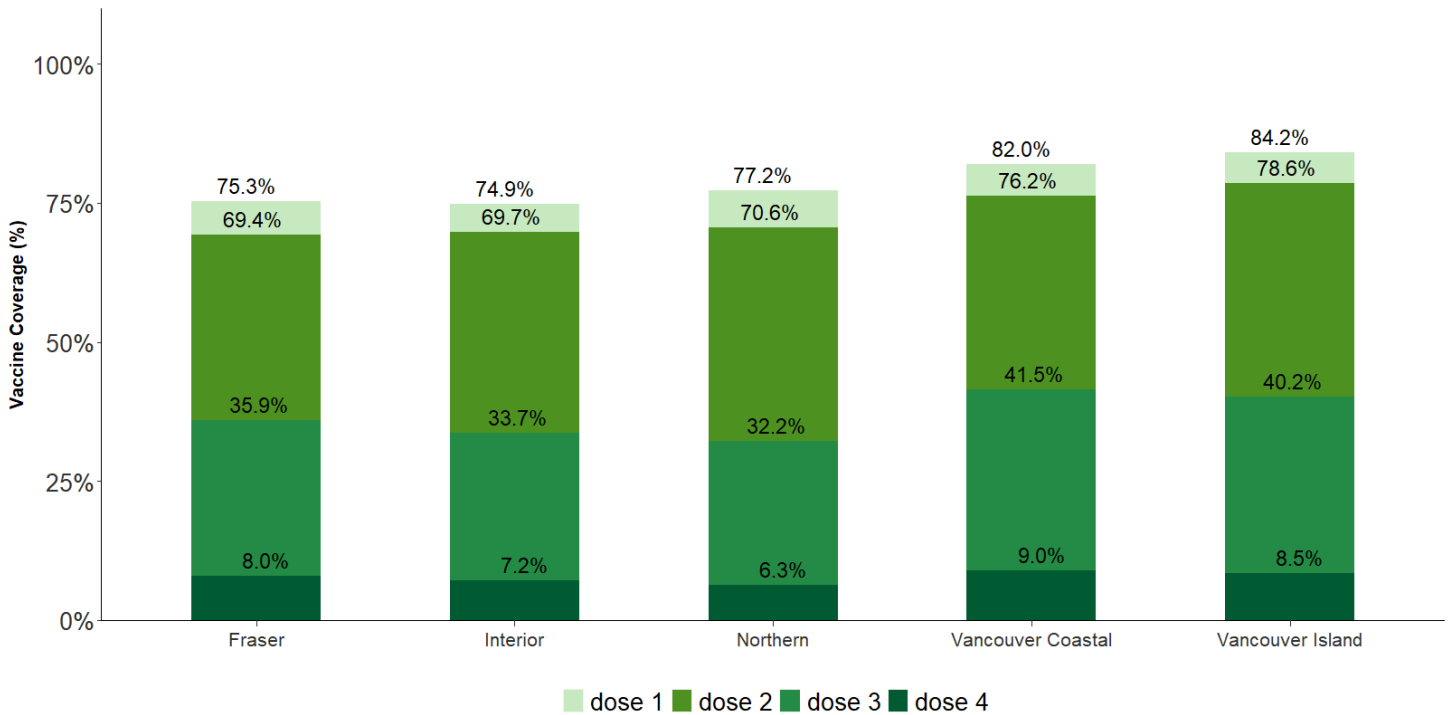
### Vaccine Distribution

- As of September 20, more than 120,700 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 20,300 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 110,600 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 16,600 First Nations individuals 5-17 years old have received at least two doses. Of these individuals, more than 58,800 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 3,200 First Nations individuals 5-17 years old have received at least three doses. Of these individuals, more than 12,500 First Nations people 5+ years of age have received fourth doses.
- As of September 20, 79.8% of 5+ years status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, 73.6% of 5+ years have received at least two doses, 36.5% of 5+ years have received at least three doses, and 7.6% of 5+ years have received at least four doses.
- As of September 17, 2022, 92% (4,555,322) of eligible people five and older in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 89% (4,398,096) have received their second dose, 57% (2,846,500) have received their third dose, and 12% (618,797) have received their fourth dose.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> British Columbia COVID-19 Dashboard <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>.

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

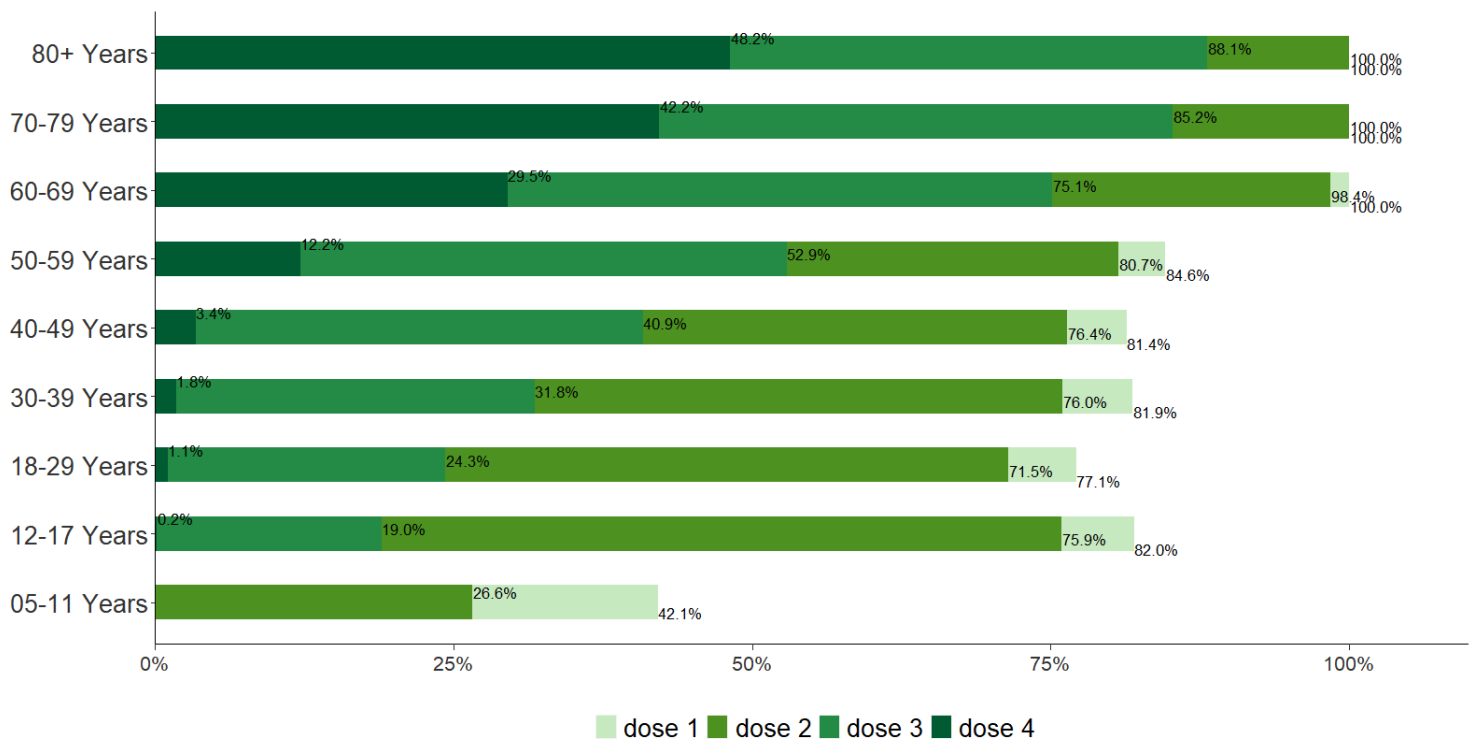
Doses 1, 2, 3, and 4 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 12,1078, dose 2= 111,976, dose 3= 55,760, dose 4= 11,738), 5+ years, up to September 20, 2022



\* Health authority information was not available for 2,708 clients for dose 1, 2,087 clients for dose 2, 771 clients for dose 3 and 89 clients for dose 4.  
 \*\* 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, 2, 3, and 4 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 123,786, dose 2= 114,063, dose 3= 56,531, dose 4= 11,827), 5+ years, up to September 20, 2022



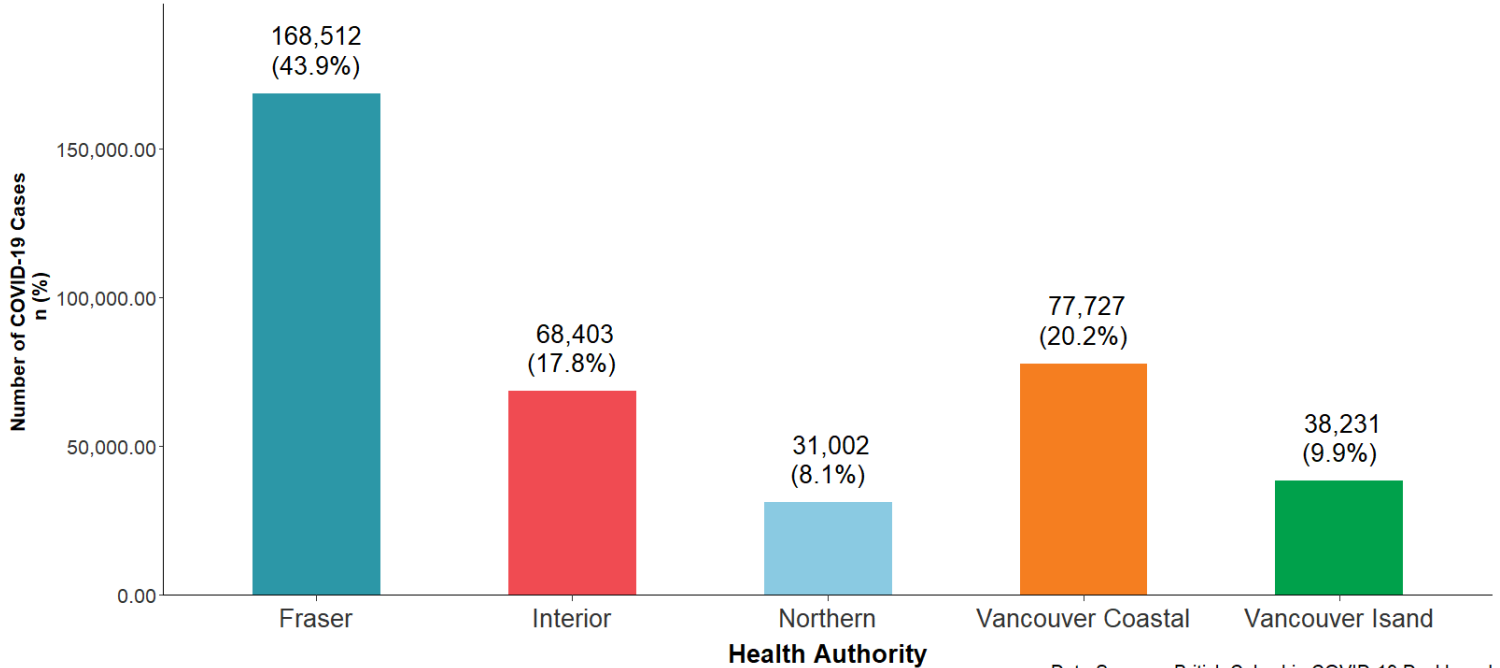
\* These analyses were only possible for status and status-eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations.  
 \*\* Please note that coverage rates are approximations and are capped at 100%.

## Provincial COVID-19 Cases

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 384,266 confirmed cases in BC as of September 17, 2022
- There have been 4,253 deaths from COVID-19 as of September 17, 2022
- As of September 22, 22 people were in critical care and 305 were hospitalized due to COVID-19

### Regional Breakdown of Total Number of COVID-19 Cases in BC (n=383,875)

Updated: Sep 17, 2022



Data Sources: British Columbia COVID-19 Dashboard

\*Total number of cases (n=384,266) include 391 cases reported as "Out of Canada" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=383,875) reported as BC residents.

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

### First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (September 22, 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 First Nations individuals

Visit: <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/public> to find out more including information on [COVID-19 vaccines](#), [self-isolation](#), [testing and symptoms](#), medical support including [First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day service](#), and [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 information on COVID-19 vaccines, past COVID-19 Community Situation Reports, support and funding, resumption of services, personal protective equipment, and 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 information on COVID-19 management, COVID-19 vaccines, infection prevention and control, personal protective equipment, and nursing practice

## Latest News

- [An Update to FNHA's COVID-19 Isolation Supports](#). September 15, 2022.
- [What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccines](#). September 9, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Approved by Health Canada for Children Aged 0-5](#). July 15, 2022.
- [Second Round of COVID-19 Boosters Coming – But Many People Still Need Their First!](#) July 9, 2022.
- [How Do I Know If It's My Allergies, a Cold or COVID-19?](#) July 6, 2022.

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

## FNHA Response

**The FNHA is working in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure communities' needs are met, including by:**

- Maintaining essential services to support First Nations communities during the 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)
- Supplying First Nations communities with personal protective equipment; requests can be sent to [COVID19needs@fnha.ca](mailto:COVID19needs@fnha.ca); the form for ordering personal protective equipment is available at: <https://www.fnha.ca/AboutSite/NewsAndEventsSite/NewsSite/Documents/FNHA-Process-and-Considerations-for-obtaining-additional-PPE-for-BC-First-Nations-Communities-Annex-A.pdf>
- Supporting First Nations communities in refreshing their Communicable Disease Emergencies Plans
- Maintaining virtual care services including First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day and First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service
- Deploying community based testing for COVID-19, and ensuring that rapid tests are available to all First Nations communities
- 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

### **COVID-19 vaccines prioritized for First Nations people**

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. First, second and booster dose clinics in First Nations communities have been completed. However, the FNHA continues to support communities' vaccination clinics, as needed, and is working with regional health authorities to ensure adequate vaccine supply is available at local health units so that communities can order them as part of their established ordering pathways.

## External Funding for Indigenous Organizations

The [Indigenous Resilience and Recovery Grant](#) (IRR Grant) provides funding to Indigenous non-profit organizations that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and continue to face funding and operational challenges in their post-pandemic recovery. Applications are open until funds are exhausted or September 30, 2022, whichever comes first.