



# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

## FNHA Public Health Response

April 26, 2021

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

### COVID-19 Updates

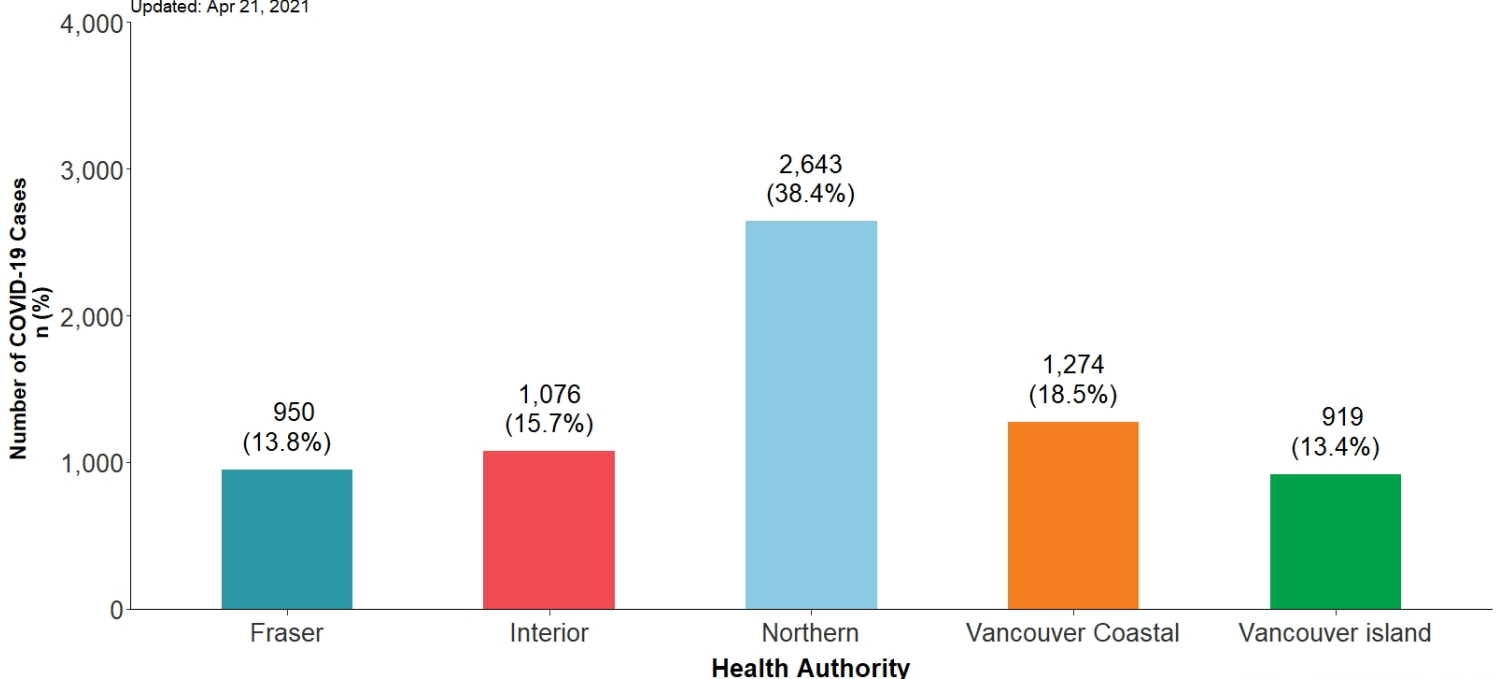
#### First Nations Cases in BC

As of **April 21, 2021**

- Total **6,875** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**6,695** lab diagnosed cases and **180** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **33** cases since the last published report.
- The daily new case numbers among First Nations continues to fall despite increasing case numbers provincially. The proportion of provincial daily cases who are First Nations is the lowest level since June 2020.
- Geographical information (In or near community/ off reserve) is available for **6,735** cases. Of these **6,735** cases, **2,951 (43.0%)** cases are in or near community and **3,784 (55.0%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **140 (2.0%)** cases.
- **148** active First Nations COVID-19 cases, **35 (23.6%)** of the active cases are in or near community and **112 (75.7%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **1** active case.
- Sadly, there have been total **124** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **0** additional death is reported after **the last published** report.
- There have been a total **715 (10.4%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these **321** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **392** 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=6,862)

Updated: Apr 21, 2021



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

\*Total number of cases (n=6,875) 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=6,862) reported as BC residents.

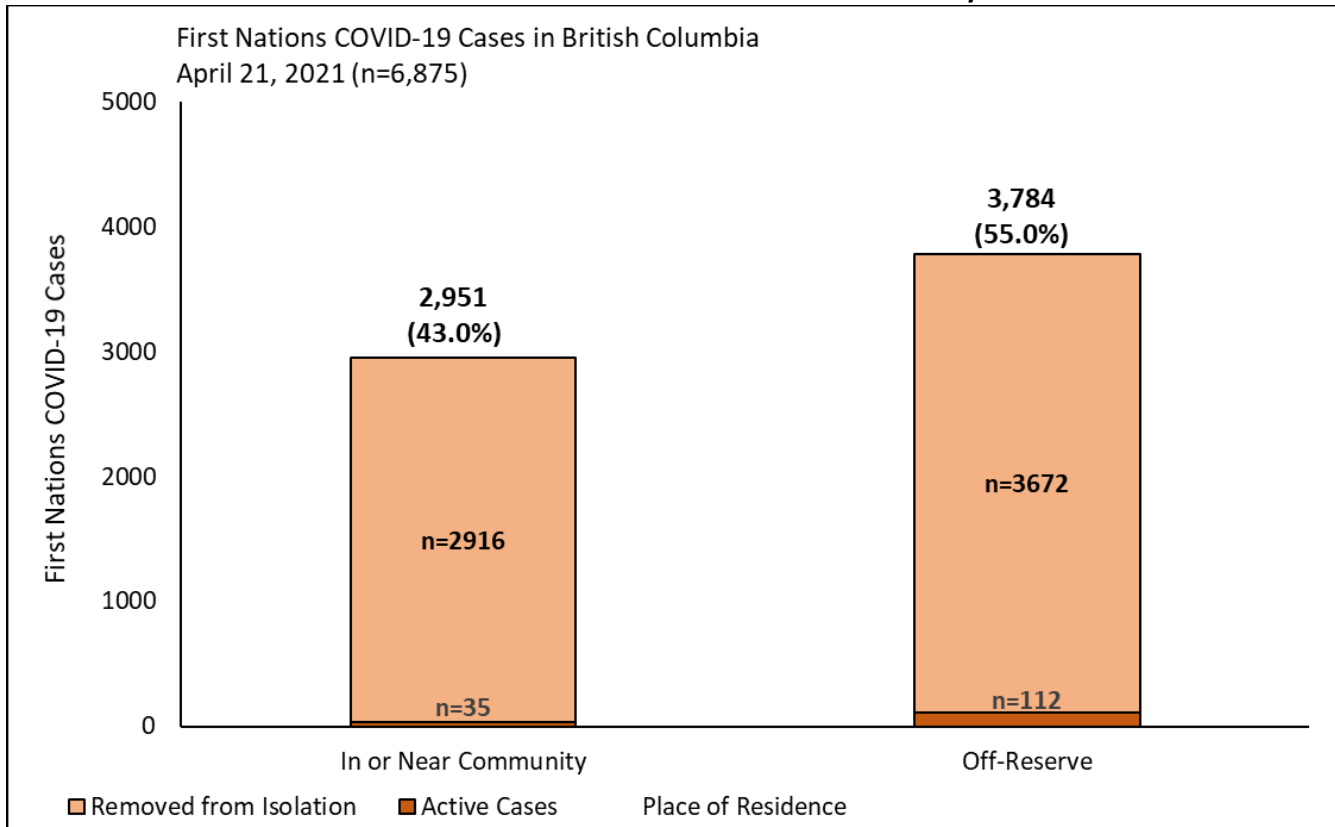
**Regional Active cases and Testing data as of April 21, 2021**

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 Cases*	28	20	26	41	32	148
Total persons tested**	8,669	8,723	10,746	8,253	8,640	45,062
Cumulative Percentage Positivity (%)	7.0%	9.0%	17.3%	9.2%	7.8%	10.3%
Testing Rate (Total tests per 100,000 First Nation Population)	55,030.9	38,175.8	37,584.3	60,845.3	34,222.7	43,002.0

\*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". This change reflects in reduced case counts for active cases in today's update. 1 person is out of BC resident.

\*\*Geographical Information (RHAs) for 31 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available. 30 of 31 people are tested Negative and 1 person was tested Positive.

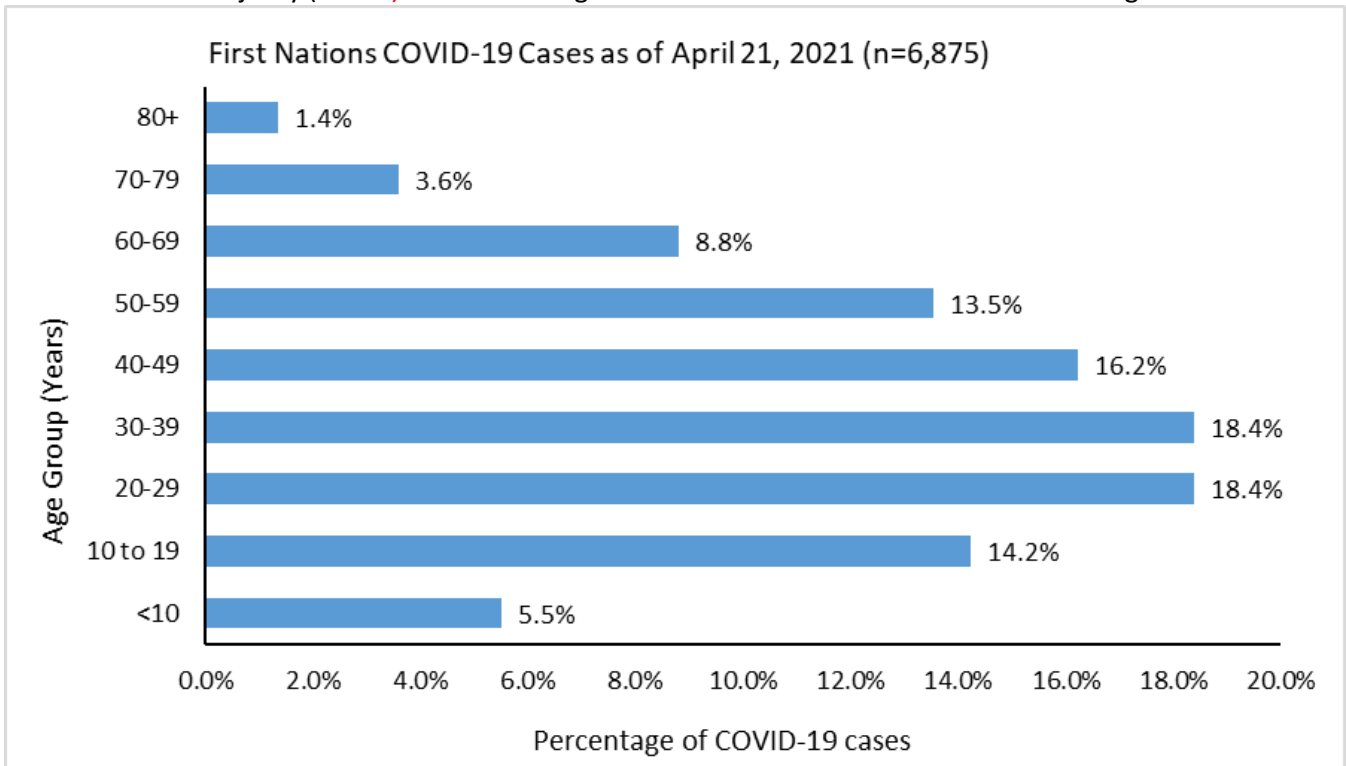
**First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community\***



\* In or near community analysis is not available for 1 active case. Total number of cases (n=6,875) includes 140 cases without information on LHA of residence and "In or Near Community" analysis.

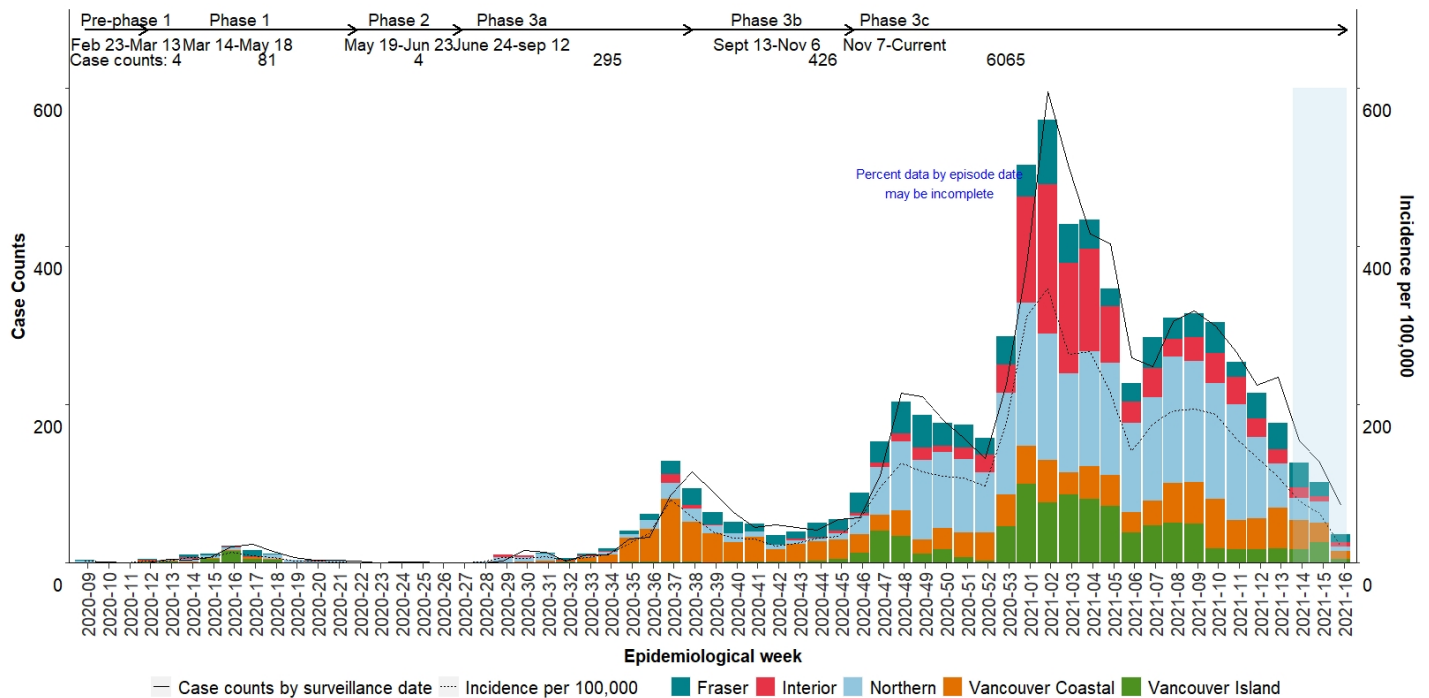
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of April 21, 2021, there were 35 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.**

The majority (72.7%) 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 10.28% as of April 21, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 4,234.6 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 2,360.0 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) – April 21, 2021 (Week-16, 2021\*) (n=6,875)**

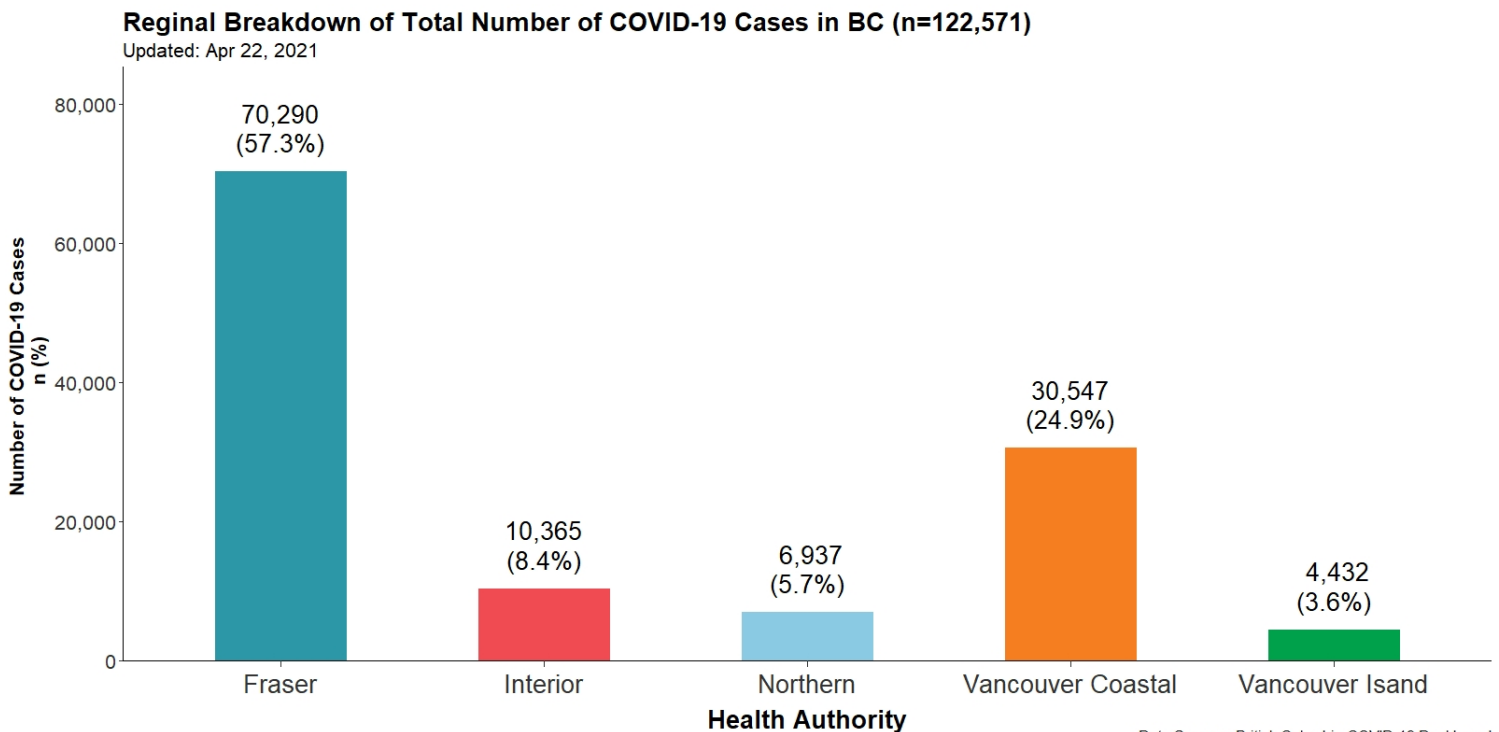


<sup>a</sup> Episode date is now defined as dates of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. When those dates are not available, earliest lab date (collection date or result date) is used, and if unavailable, surveillance date is used. Report date used previously is now replaced with surveillance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

<sup>b</sup> Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs (up to April 21, 2021) and PHSA’s public health lab data (up to April 21, 2021). This epidemiological curve represents the weekly cases reported among First Nations in the province of 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: April 23, 2021 at 4:25 p.m.**

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 123,758 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,554 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 8,842 active cases, 486 people are currently hospitalized and, of those, 160 people are in intensive care
- 12,608 people are under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure
- Of the total number of cases, 113,139 (91%) people have fully recovered



\*Total number of cases (n=122,757) includes 186 cases reported as “Out of Canada” residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=122,571) reported as BC residents.

**Active Outbreaks** (as of April 23, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living: 7 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 7 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 April 22, more than 77,500 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 6,900 First Nations people have also 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 April 22, 2021, 50% of all status and status eligible BC first Nations ≥18 years age have received at least first dose of COVID vaccine.
- As of April 23, a total of 1,542,066 doses of vaccine have been administered in BC, of which 88,663 are second doses.

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

## **First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (April 15, 2021):**

Access Restrictions: 141 (same)  
Band Offices Inaccessible: 85 (same)

Security Checkpoints: 72 (same)  
State of Local Emergency: 75 (same)  
EOC Activations: 110 (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**

- [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, 2021.
- [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.
- [New Orders from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry Due to Rising Case Counts](#). March 29, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Testing](#). March 22, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellness](#). March 22, 2021.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Opening to Indigenous People Age 55 and Older](#). March 19, 2021.
- [The Best Vaccine for You Is the One Available to You Right Now](#). March 16, 2021.
- [Why Your Second Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Can Be Extended](#). 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.
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Update](#). March 9, 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.
- [BC Phase 2 Vaccination Rollout Update.](#) March 1, 2021.
- [Stay the Course: 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>