



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) FNHA Public Health Response Community Situation Report
February 22, 2021

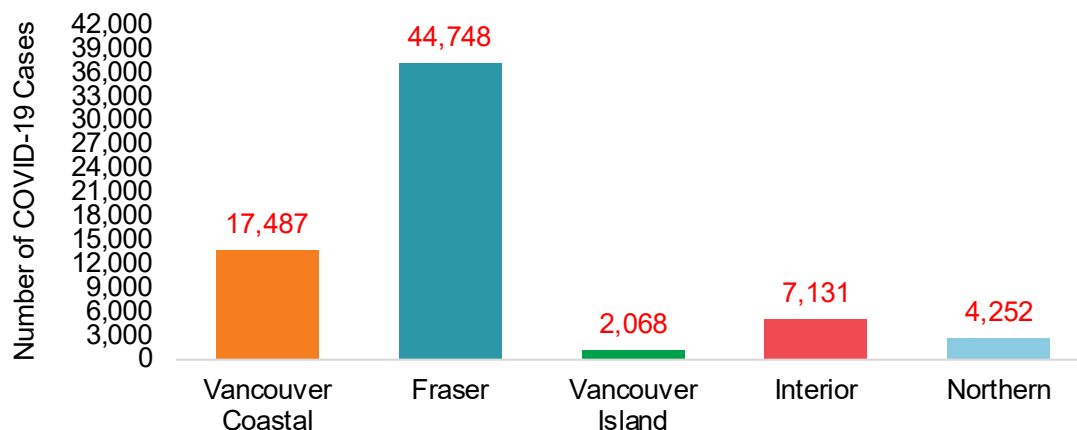
Note: Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

COVID-19 Updates

Provincial COVID-19 Cases – Updated as of February 19, 2021 at 4:30pm

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 75,835 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,327 deaths from COVID-19. There are 4,486 active cases in the province, 217 people are hospitalized and, of those, 61 people are in intensive care (ICU). 7,699 people are under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure. Of the total number of cases, 69,970 (92%) people have fully recovered.

Regional breakdown of total number of COVID-19 cases in BC



Active Outbreaks (as of February 19, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 14 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 6 outbreaks

Vaccine Distribution

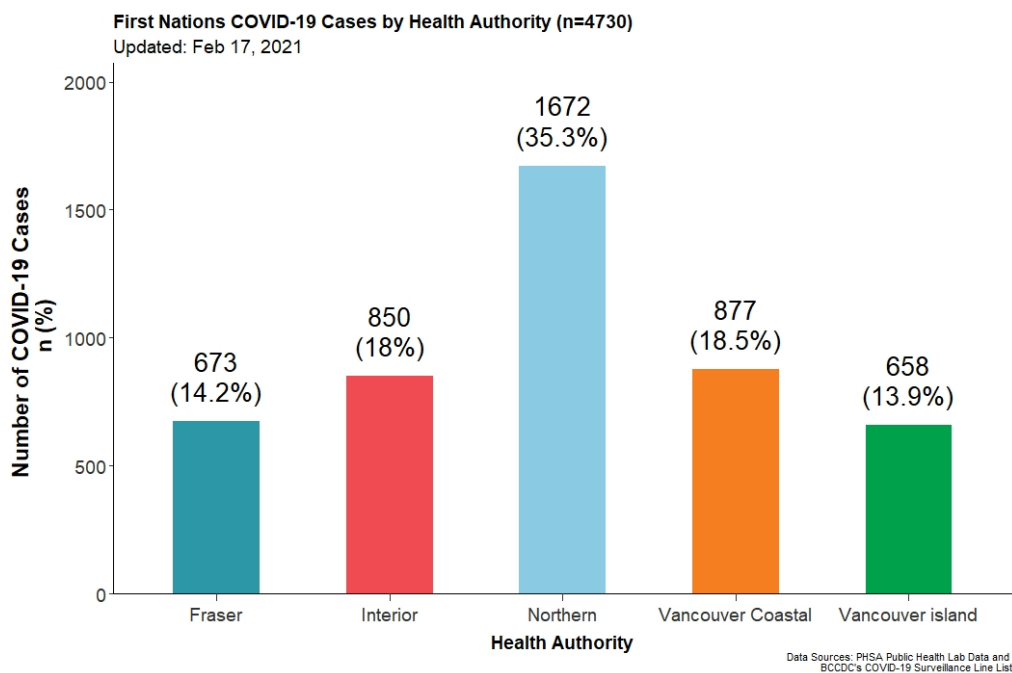
- Remote and isolated First Nations communities have been identified as a priority for vaccination and the first doses arrived on December 29. As of February 17, 2021, more than 18,100 First Nations individuals have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 2,700 people have also received a second dose. This includes vaccines administered in First Nations communities, as well as vaccines administered by the Regional Health Authorities outside of communities.
- As of February 19, a total of 192,942 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC, 36,923 of which are second doses.

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

First Nations Cases in BC

As of **February 17, 2021**

- Total **4,739** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**4,617** lab diagnosed cases and **122** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **83** cases since **February 18, 2021** report.
- Geographical information (In or near community/ off reserve) is available for **4,644** cases. Of these **4,644** cases, **2,122 (45.7%)** cases are in or near community and **2,522 (54.3%)** are off reserve.
- **278** active First Nations COVID-19 cases, **94 (33.8%)** of the active cases are in or near community and **179 (64.4%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **5** active cases.
- Sadly, there have been total **78** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **8** additional deaths are reported after **February 18, 2021** report.
- There have been a total **514 (11.1%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these **238** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **275** off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 1 case.



*Total number of cases (n=4,739) includes five COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon, one case reported as "Out of Canada" resident and three cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=4,730) reported as BC residents.

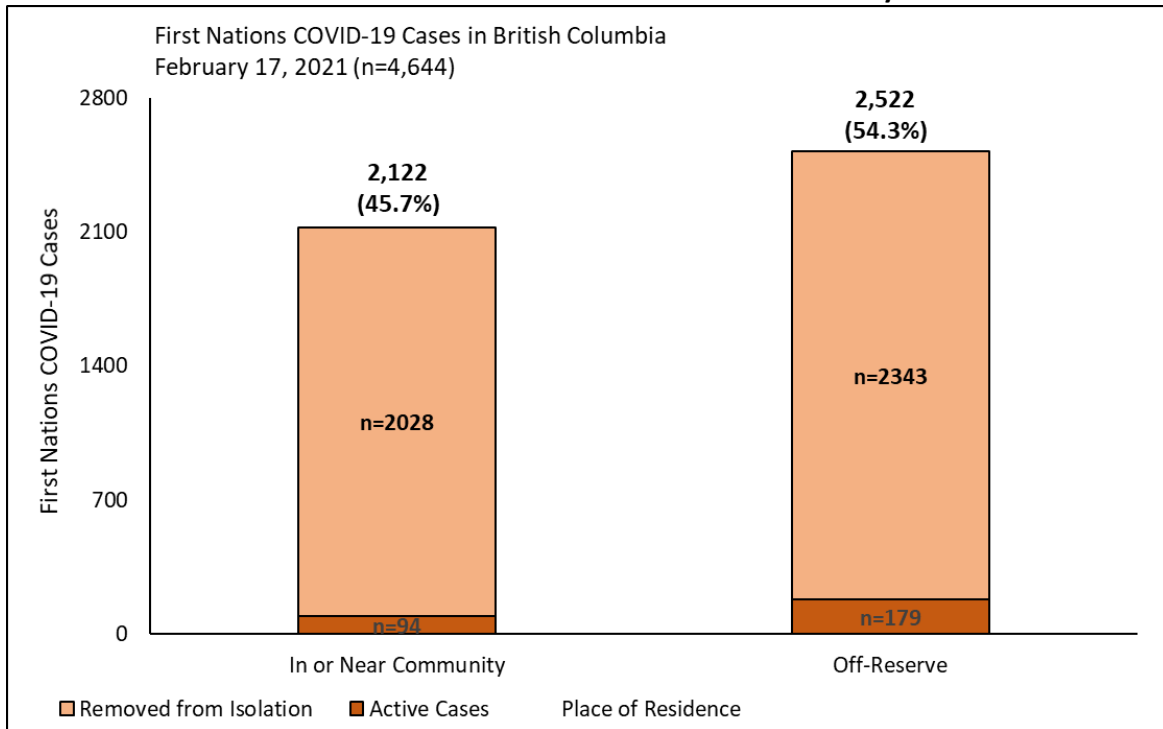
Regional Active cases and Testing data as of **February 17, 2021**

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 Cases*	31	44	117	37	46	278
Total persons tested**	7,162	7,458	8,825	7,172	7,156	37,800
Cumulative Percentage Positivity (%)	6.50%	8.81%	14.05%	7.90%	7.23%	9.04%
Testing Rate (Total tests per 100,000 First Nation Population)	41,779.1	30,617.7	29,556.2	49,020.8	26,651.6	33,817.1

*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.

**Geographical Information (RHAs) for 27 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available and these 27 people are tested Negative.

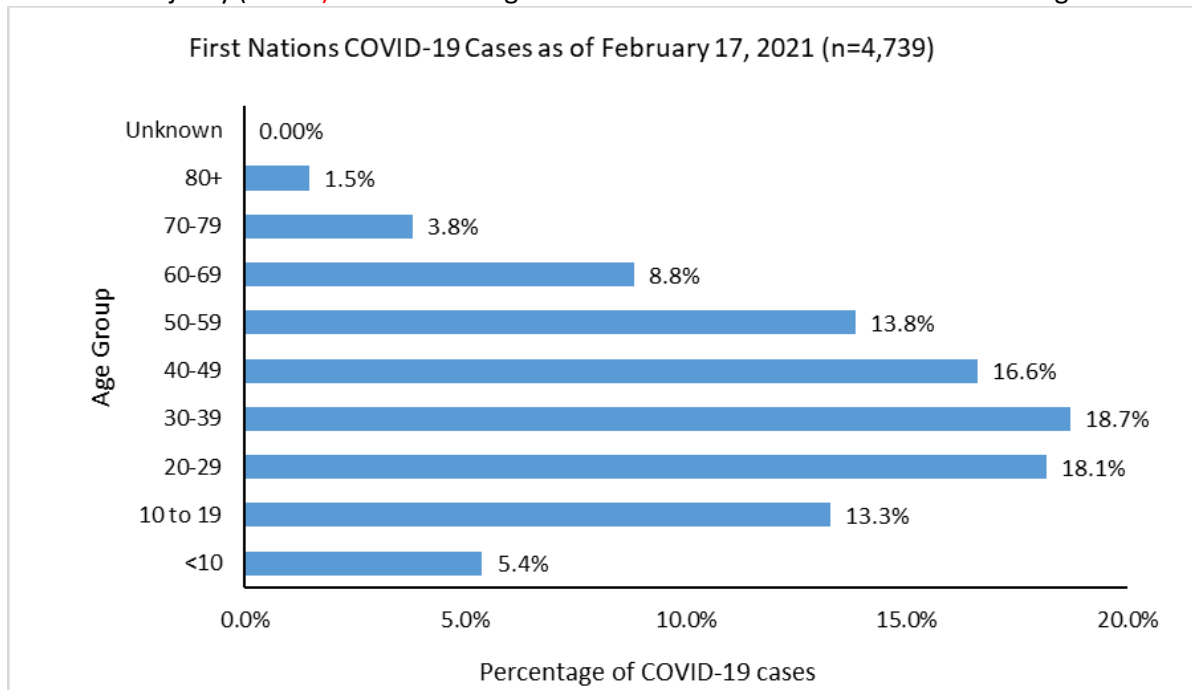
First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community*



* In or near community analysis is not available for 5 active case.

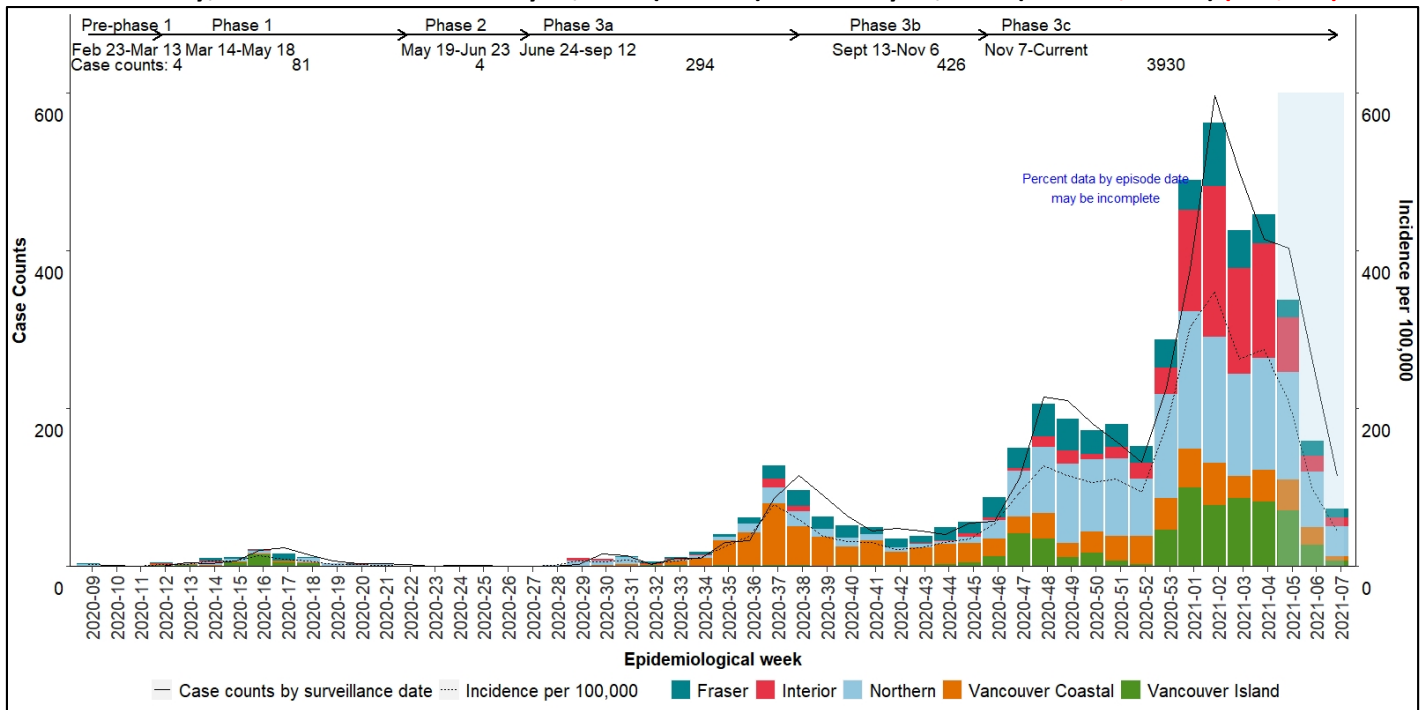
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of February 17, 2021, there were 94 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.**

The majority (**72.1%**) 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 **9.04%** as of **February 17, 2021**. The rate of positive cases was **2,918.9 per 100,000** people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was **1,437.6 per 100,000** people.

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episode date (coloured bar)^a, surveillance date (line) and health authority, British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – February 17, 2021 (Week-7, 2021*) (n=4,739)



^a 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).

^b Data source: BCCDC’s line list data received from RHAs and PHSAs’s public health lab data (up to February 17, 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.

On First Nations reserves in all provinces, as of February 19, 2021, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of:

- 19,633 confirmed positive COVID-19
 - 1,254 active cases
 - 908 hospitalizations
 - 18,164 recovered cases
 - 215 deaths
- Case numbers per region:
- British Columbia: 2,122
 - Alberta: 5,698
 - Saskatchewan: 5,322
 - Manitoba: 5,123
 - Ontario: 802
 - Quebec: 556
 - Atlantic: 10

First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (February 18, 2021):

Access Restrictions: 140 (-1)	Security Checkpoints: 71 (+2)
Band Offices Inaccessible: 87 (-4)	State of Local Emergency: 75 (-5)
	EOC Activations: 113 (same)

FNHA Response

- FNHA is on Week 47 of Level 3 Emergency Response, which means that FNHA spends 80% on COVID-19 and 20% on FNHA operations.

Working with Partners:

- 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.

- FNHA continues to work with its partners, and First Nations communities to identify needs and develop plans at both the provincial, and regional level for the Rural, Remote and Indigenous Framework,

Working with First Nations:

- **The *Be a COVID-19 #VAXCHAMP* pledge portal is now live. Visit <https://fnha.wishpondpages.com/vaxchamp/> to share a photo and tell us why you are getting vaccinated against COVID-19.**
- Continues to 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.
- “*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.
- The First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service launched on August 25, 2020.
- FNHA continues to maintain operations team availability to respond to Isolation requests through the weekends during business hours.
- Site selection, training and deployment of Point of Care Testing for COVID-19 is underway.
- Supporting First Nations communities with the re-opening of their health centres.

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.
- PPE orders are received and shipped to all Regional Offices weekly basis.
- First Nations communities requiring personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 emergency can send their requests to the FNHA at the following email: COVID19needs@fnha.ca. Please refer to 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>

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>.

The COVID-19 Community Support Guide includes guidelines for eligible COVID-19 items for BC First Nations Communities: <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Community-Support-Guide.pdf>

The FNHA has published an updated Communicable Disease Emergency Response (CDER) plan template – a living document that is user friendly, easy to follow and adaptable to each community’s needs and strengths.

<https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/fnha-communicable-disease-emergency-response-plan.docx>

FNHA App:

<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-launches-mobile-app>. FNHA is here for you when you need us, putting helpful information directly into your hands. You can download the FNHA Mobile App today from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. View the Frequently Asked Questions to find out more, or visit [fnha.ca/app](https://www.fnha.ca/app).

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/>

Better health through promotion protection and prevention. <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Includes: COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, COVID-19 for the Public, COVID-19 data, COVID-19 exposures, COVID-19 for health professionals,

Public Health Notices:

- Moving toward Vaccine Confidence <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/moving-toward-vaccine-confidence>
- COVID-19 Orders <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-New-COVID-19-Orders.pdf>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Hot Topics: FNHA Experts Answer Your Questions <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-vaccine-hot-topics-fnha-experts-answer-your-questions>
- Caution over COVID-19 Urged during Vaccine Rollout <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/caution-over-covid-19-urged-during-vaccine-rollout>
- After You Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-After-You-Get-Your-COVID-19-Vaccine.pdf>

- COVID-19 Vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) – How They Work <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-vaccines-pfizer-biontech-and-moderna-how-they-work>
- Early Access to COVID-19 Vaccine for Rural and Remote First Nations Communities <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/early-access-to-covid-19-vaccine-for-rural-and-remote-first-nations-communities>
- COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe, Effective and Will Save Lives <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-vaccines-are-safe-effective-and-will-save-lives>
- COVID-19 Testing and Positive Test Results <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/what-to-do-if-youve-received-a-covid-19-positive-test-result>
- What You Need to Know about the COVID-19 Vaccine <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-covid-19-vaccine>
- Immunizations Keep Adults Healthy Too! A message from Dr. Helena Swinkels, Office of the Chief Medical Officer and Marion Guenther, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Immunizations, CDPH office of the Chief Nursing Officer <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/immunizations-keep-adults-healthy-too>
- FNHA/FNHC/FNHDA Public Health Notice: Nations Urged to Protect Each Other by Cancelling or Postponing Gatherings and Ceremonies <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/the-fnha-fnhc-fnhda-urge-nations-to-protect-each-other-by-cancelling-or-postponing-gatherings-and-ceremonies>
- Expanded Prior Approval Coverage for Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/expanded-prior-approval-coverage-for-indian-residential-school-resolution-health-support-program>
- FNHA, FNHC, FNHDA Issue Statement Supporting Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond's Investigation into Systemic Racism <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-fnhc-fnhda-issue-statement-supporting-mary-ellen-turpel-lafonds-investigation-into-systemic-racism>
- COVID-19 Pandemic Sparks Surge in Overdose Deaths this Year <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-pandemic-sparks-surge-in-overdose-deaths-this-year>
- Update on COVID-19 Testing Protocols <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/update-on-covid-19-testing-protocols>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>

Protective Factors:

- Warning: Unsolicited Goods (PPE) <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/warning-unsolicited-goods-ppe>
- 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>
- Article: 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: 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

- COVID-19 Vaccine for Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/just-the-facts-covid-19-vaccine-for-pregnant-or-breastfeeding-women>
- Indigenous Youth and Mental Health: Culture and Tradition Go Virtual in a Good Way <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/indigenous-youth-and-mental-health-culture-and-tradition-go-virtual-in-a-good-way>
- Good Medicine: Wellness Champion Megan Metz draws on Haisla culture to support youth mental health and wellness <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-wellness-champion-megan-metz-draws-on-haisla-culture-to-support-youth-mental-health-and-wellness>

- FNHA Tackles BC's Dual Public Health Crises with Overdose Prevention Campaign and New Virtual Health Service <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-tackles-bcs-dual-public-health-crises-with-overdose-prevention-campaign-and-new-virtual-health-service>
- Honouring our Elders Today and Every Day. <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/honouring-our-elders-today-and-every-day>
- 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>
- 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>.
- 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>
- Young Wisdom on Mental Health and Wellness <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/young-wisdom-on-mental-health-and-wellness>
- 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>
- 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: 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:

- FNHA Webinar: Substances & Stigma <https://firstnationshealthauthority.createsend1.com/t/i-l-mxdikk-l-k/>
- 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>

FNHA Videos:

- COVID-19 Update https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJsgaTfP3IQ&feature=emb_title (Dr. McDonald, Jan.21/21)
- Using Compassion to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCfOmg> (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 17)
- The Overall Wellness Impact of COVID-19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L48JSAtoHwk&feature=youtu.be> (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)
- Responding to Overdose with Compassion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYWFzc8oikY&feature=youtu.be> (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)
- Mental Health and COVID-19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOXZtv0HFw&feature=youtu.be> (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 11)
- How Has COVID-19 Affected People Who Use Substances? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79G2QKCfOmg> (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4)
- Stay Connected <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfTWHcdX0&feature=youtu.be> (Dr. Nel Wieman, September 4)