



# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

FNHA Public Health Response

March 28, 2022

Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

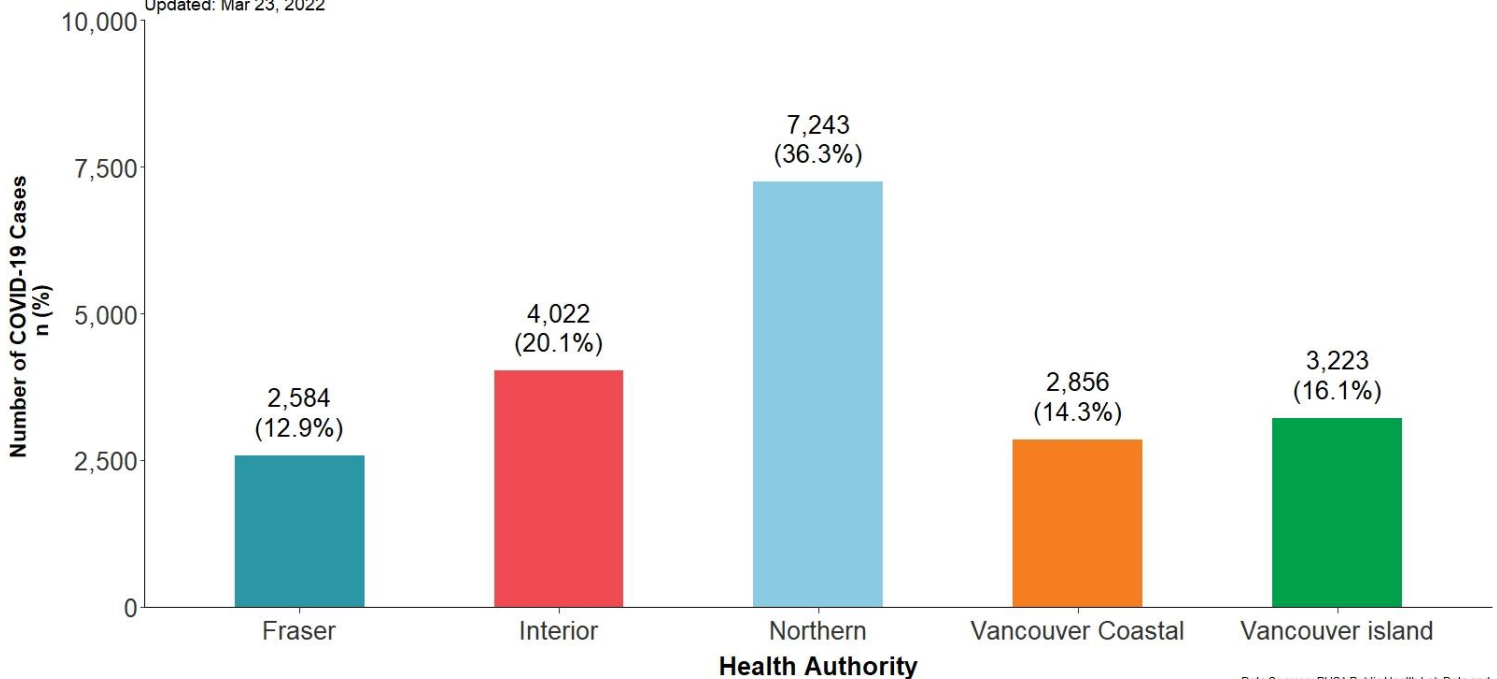
## COVID-19 Updates

### First Nations Cases in BC – As of **March 23, 2022**<sup>1</sup>

- There have been a total of **19,972** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**19,696** lab diagnosed cases and **276** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **88 cases among First Nations people in BC** since the last published report.
- Out of the **19,972** cases, **8,548 (42.8%)** are in or near community; **10,670 (53.4%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **754 (3.8%)** cases.
- There is a total of **134** active First Nations COVID-19 cases in British Columbia. There are **49** active COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.
- Sadly, there have been a total of **257** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **No** additional deaths have been reported since **the last published** report.
- There have been a total of **1,919 (9.6%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these, **848** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **1,068** off reserve. Information on in or near community/ off reserve is not available for **three (3)** cases.

**First Nations COVID-19 Cases by Health Authority (n=19,928)**

Updated: Mar 23, 2022



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

\*Total number of cases (n=19,972) includes twenty seven (27) cases reported as Out of BC – Alberta residents, two (2) cases reported as Out of Canada – USA residents, eight (8) cases reported as Out of BC – Saskatchewan residents, three (3) cases reported as Out of BC – Ontario resident, one (1) case reported as Out of Canada - Country other resident, one (1) case reported as Out Of BC – Quebec resident and two (2) case reported as Out Of BC - Northwest Territories/Nunavut resident.

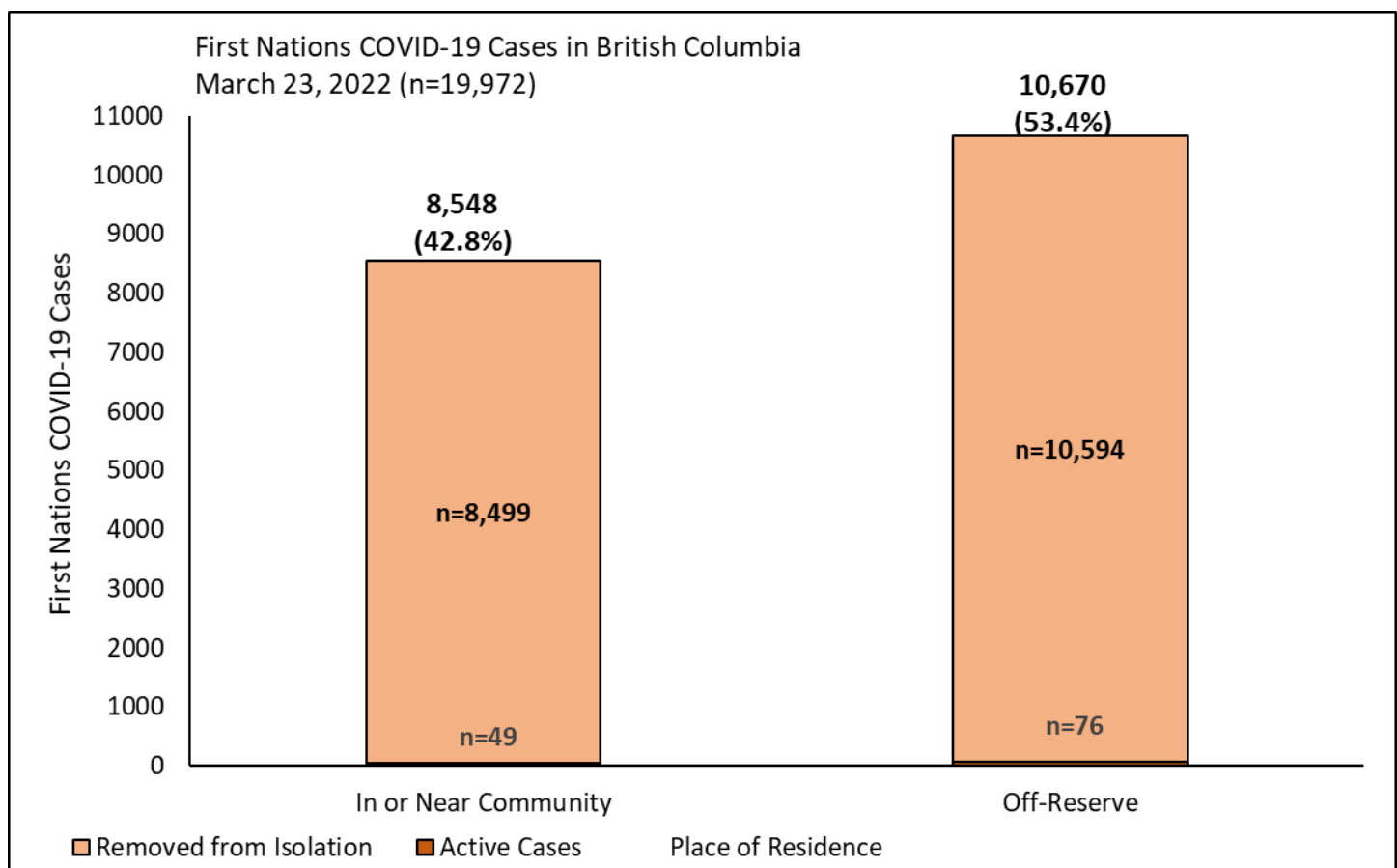
<sup>1</sup> Case counts in this report are likely an underestimate of the true number of COVID-19 cases due to changes in testing strategies driven by the Omicron variant (<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>). The number of COVID-19 cases reported herein are based on laboratory confirmed cases from the public health laboratory dataset and epi-linked COVID-19 cases from regional health authority line list datasets. These case counts do not include people who only tested positive by rapid antigen tests and self-reported through the provincial COVID-19 positive test result reporting form (<https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca/>).

### Regional Active Cases and Testing Data as of March 23, 2022

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 cases <sup>a</sup>	22	39	43	18	12	134
Total persons tested <sup>b</sup>	13,537	15,096	17,747	11,818	13,535	71,758
Cumulative percentage positivity (%) (Feb, 2020 to March 23, 2022)	9.2%	13.8%	22.5%	11.4%	13.4%	14.2%
Percentage positivity (%) over the past week (March 17, 2022 to March 23, 2022)	9.8%	22.4%	26.6%	3.1%	19.0%	17.6%
Testing rate (total tests per 100,000 First Nations people)	114,204.6	87,761.9	75,701.1	108,118.5	65,307.4	86,416.0

<sup>a</sup> Algorithm to define people who are removed from isolation was 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 25 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.

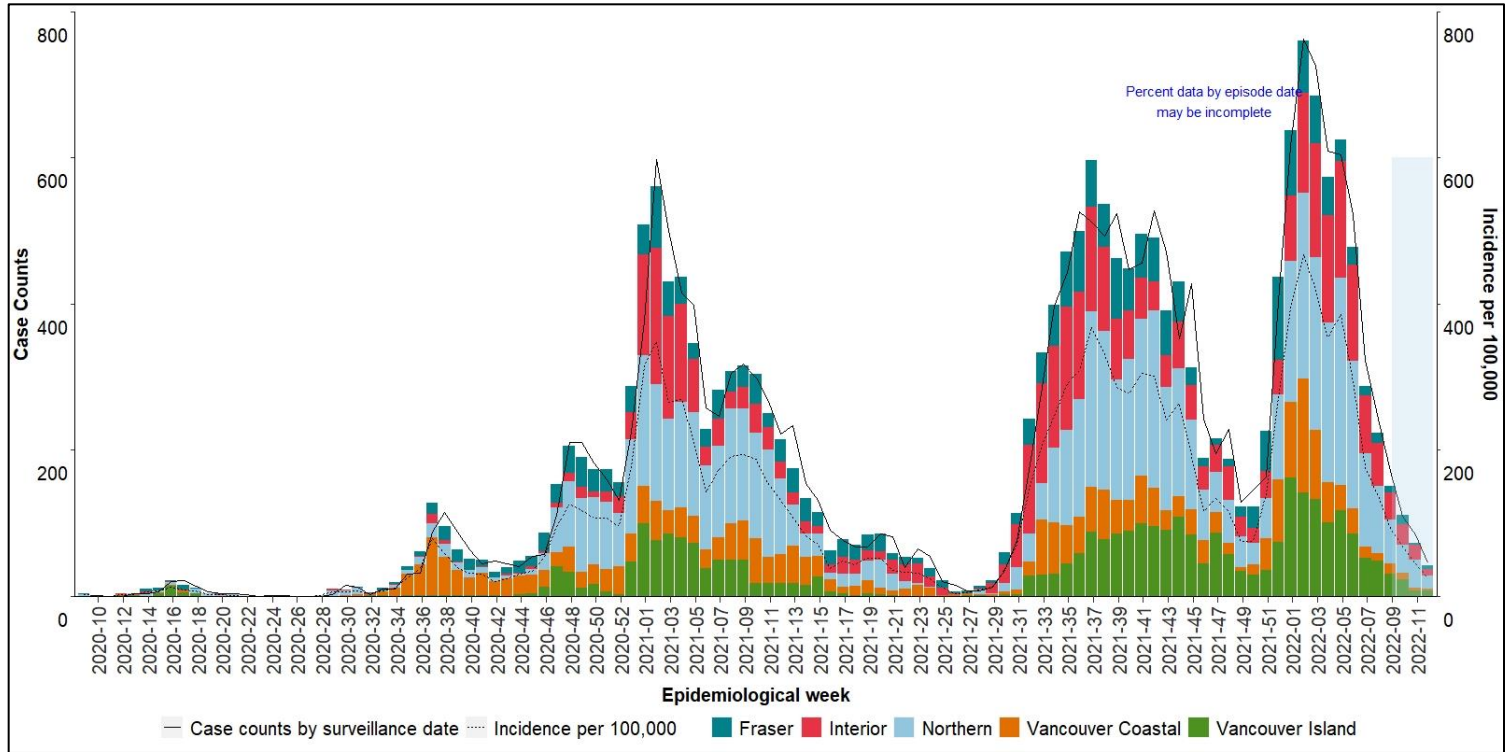


\*Total number of cases (n=19,972) includes 754 cases without information on LHA of residence and "In or Near Community" analysis. Information about in or near community analysis is not available for nine (9) active cases.

Note: Analyses for in or near community include lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including cases tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by health authority. **As of March 23, 2022, there were 49 active COVID-19 cases among First Nations people living in or near community.**

The cumulative percent positive for all COVID-19 tests completed for First Nations in BC was **14.2%** as of **March 23, 2022**. The rate of positive cases was **12,301.6 per 100,000** people among First Nations. The rate of positive cases among other residents of BC was **6,820.6 per 100,000** people.

Epidemic curve for COVID-19 cases among BC First Nations by episode date, surveillance date (line) and health authority (coloured bars),<sup>a</sup> British Columbia February 23, 2020 (Week-9) – **March 23, 2022 (Week-12, 2022\*)** (n=19,972)



<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 March 23, 2022) and PHSA's public health lab data (up to March 23, 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.

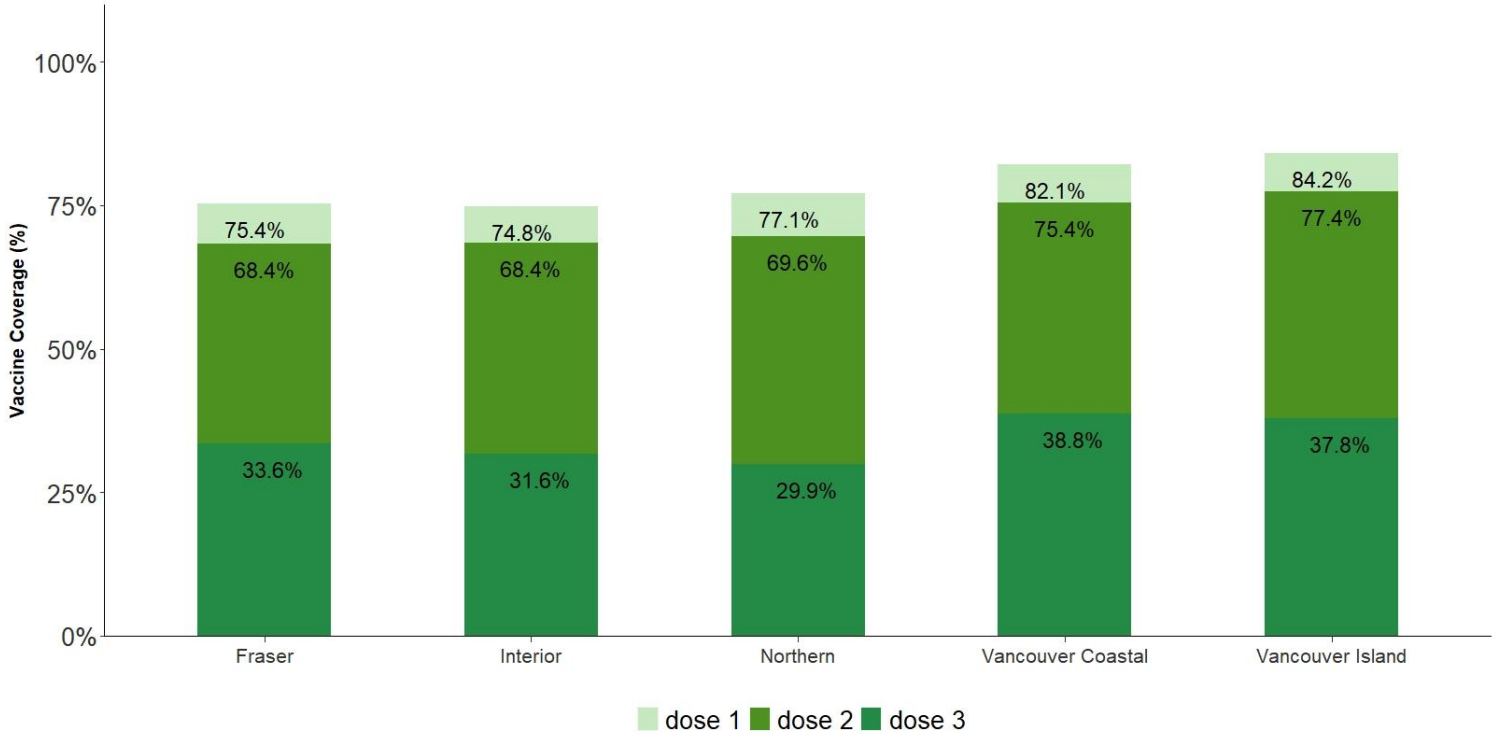
### Vaccine Distribution

- As of March 23, more than 121,100 individuals 18+ years of age and more than 20,100 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 110,900 First Nations people 18+ years of age and more than 15,100 First Nations individuals 5-17 years old have received at least two doses. Of these individuals, more than 57,900 First Nations people 5+ years of age have received third doses.
- As of March 23, 84.5% of 18+ years and 79.4% of 5+ years status and status-eligible First Nations people in BC have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>2</sup>
- As of March 24, 90.8% (4,526,648) of eligible people 5+ years in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 87.1% (4,343,349) have received their second dose.

<sup>2</sup> The data is subject to change due to continuous quality assurance processes and data lag.

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

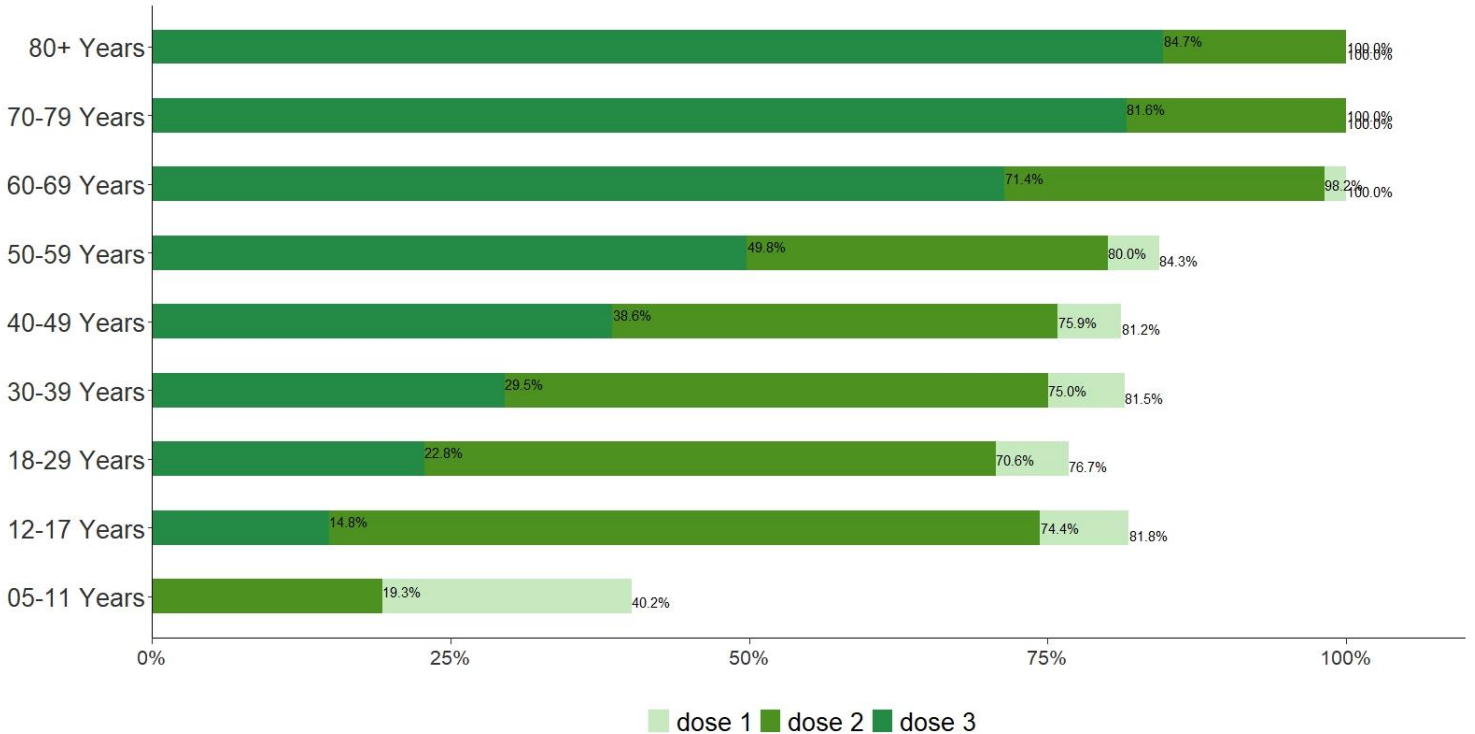
Doses 1, 2 and 3 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 120,908, dose 2= 110,278, dose 3= 52,193), 5+ years, up to March 23, 2022



\* Health authority information was not available for 1,999 clients for dose 1, 1,426 clients for dose 2 and 350 clients for dose 3.  
 \*\*These analyses were only possible for status and status-eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations  
 Please note that the coverage rates shown include 5-11 year olds and cannot be directly compared to previous rates for 12+ years as the total population eligible for vaccination is now larger.

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

Doses 1, 2 and 3 (PHSA e-form, PIR, dose 1= 122,907, dose 2= 111,704, dose 3= 52,543), 5+ years, up to March 23, 2022



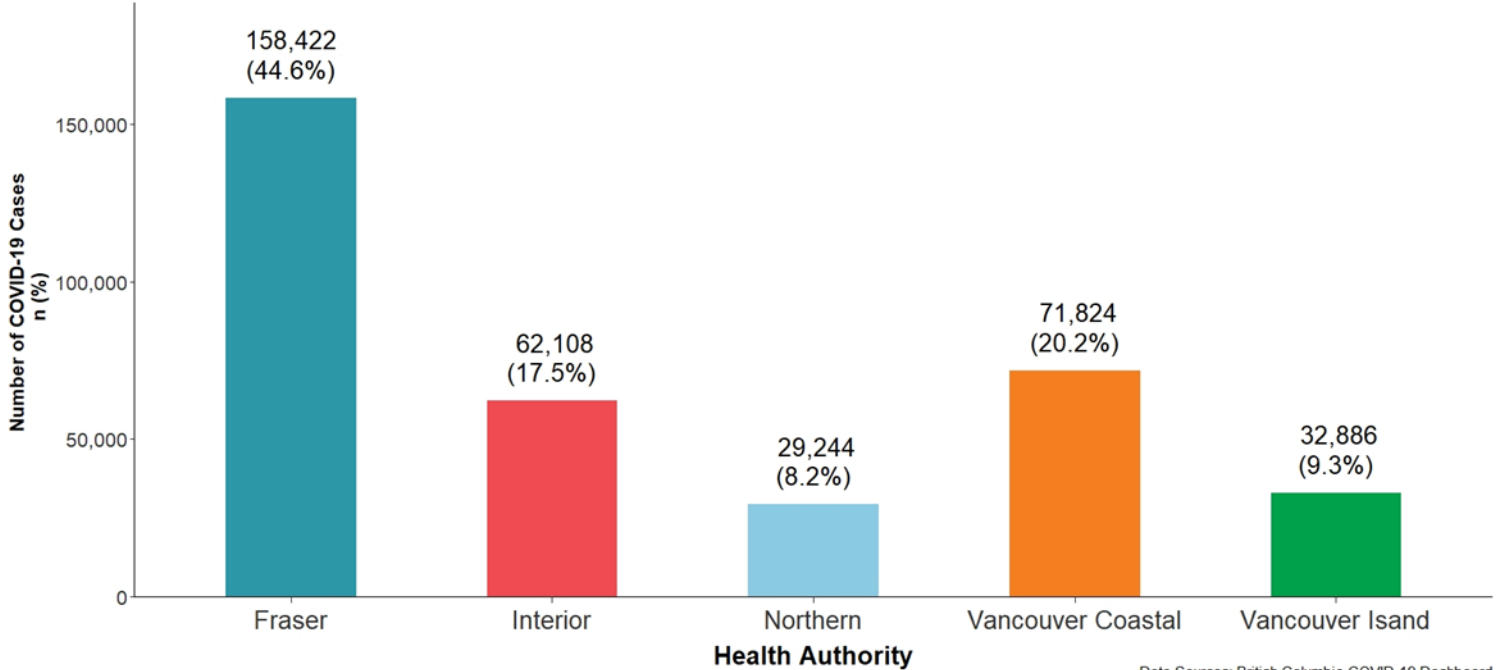
\* These analyses were only possible for status and status-eligible First Nations, and do not include non-status First Nations.  
 \*\* Please note that coverage rates are approximations and are capped at 100%.

**Provincial COVID-19 Cases** – updated as of March 25, 2022, 3 p.m.

- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 355,092 confirmed cases in BC, and 2,983 deaths from COVID-19
- There are 260 people currently hospitalized and 50 people in intensive care

**Reginal Breakdown of Total Number of COVID-19 Cases in BC (n=354,484)**

Updated: Mar 24, 2022



Data Sources: British Columbia COVID-19 Dashboard

\*Total number of cases (n=354,874) include 390 cases reported as “Out of Canada” residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=354,484) reported as BC residents.

**Active Outbreaks** (as of March 25, 2022)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres/independent living/mental health and substance use facility: 6 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 1 outbreaks

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

**First Nations Community Statistics from Indigenous Services Canada (March 24, 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**

- [Singing in the Rain and Bringing Light through a Dark Pandemic](#). March 21, 2022.
- [FNHA Statement on the Societal Consequences of BC’s COVID-19 Response](#). March 11, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Mask Mandates and Other Restrictions Easing in BC](#). March 11, 2022.
- [“It Wasn’t My Time to Go”: Personal and Cultural Survival during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). February 23, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Restrictions in BC Eased But Masks, Vaccine Cards Essential](#). February 15, 2022.
- [The COVID-19 Booster Vaccine Is Important in Reducing the Risk of Severe Illness with COVID-19 Infection](#). February 15, 2022.
- [Masks 101: Your Questions Answered](#). January 26, 2022.
- [Omicron – The Myth of Mildness That’s Putting People and Health Systems at Risk](#). January 19, 2022.
- [Boosters Best Way to Boost Protection against Omicron](#). January 19, 2022.
- [COVID-19 Rapid Tests Rolling Out – But Not Needed for Mild Cases](#). January 12, 2022.
- [Keep Your Guard Up Against the Dangerous Omicron Variant](#). January 7, 2022.
- [The Loss of Culture, Family, and Connection Due to COVID-19](#). January 4, 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.