



# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

## FNHA Public Health Response

March 8, 2021

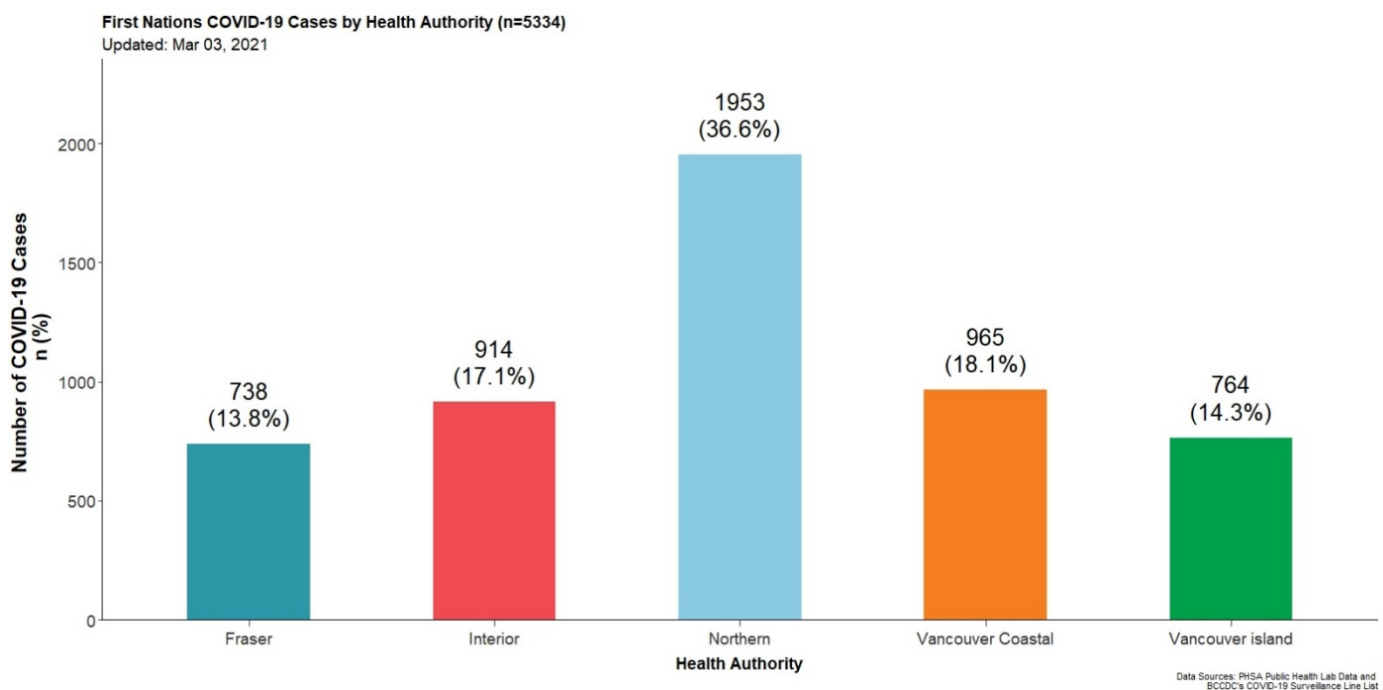
Note: Changes from the previous Community Situation Report are in red.

### COVID-19 Updates

#### First Nations Cases in BC

As of **March 3, 2021**

- Total **5,345** First Nations COVID-19 cases (**5,212** lab diagnosed cases and **133** epi-linked cases). This is an increase of **108** cases since **March 4, 2021** report.
- Geographical information (In or near community/ off reserve) is available for **5,243** cases. Of these **5,243** cases, **2,384 (45.5%)** cases are in or near community and **2,859 (54.5%)** are off reserve.
- **348** active First Nations COVID-19 cases, **133 (38.2%)** of the active cases are in or near community and **207 (59.5%)** are off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for **8** active cases.
- Sadly, there have been total **93** COVID-19 related deaths reported among First Nations living in BC since the beginning of the pandemic. **3** additional deaths are reported after **March 4, 2021** report.
- There have been a total **568 (10.6%)** First Nations people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since March 1, 2020. Of these **262** hospitalizations are individuals who live in or near community and **305** off reserve. Information on in or near community/off reserve is not available for 1 case.



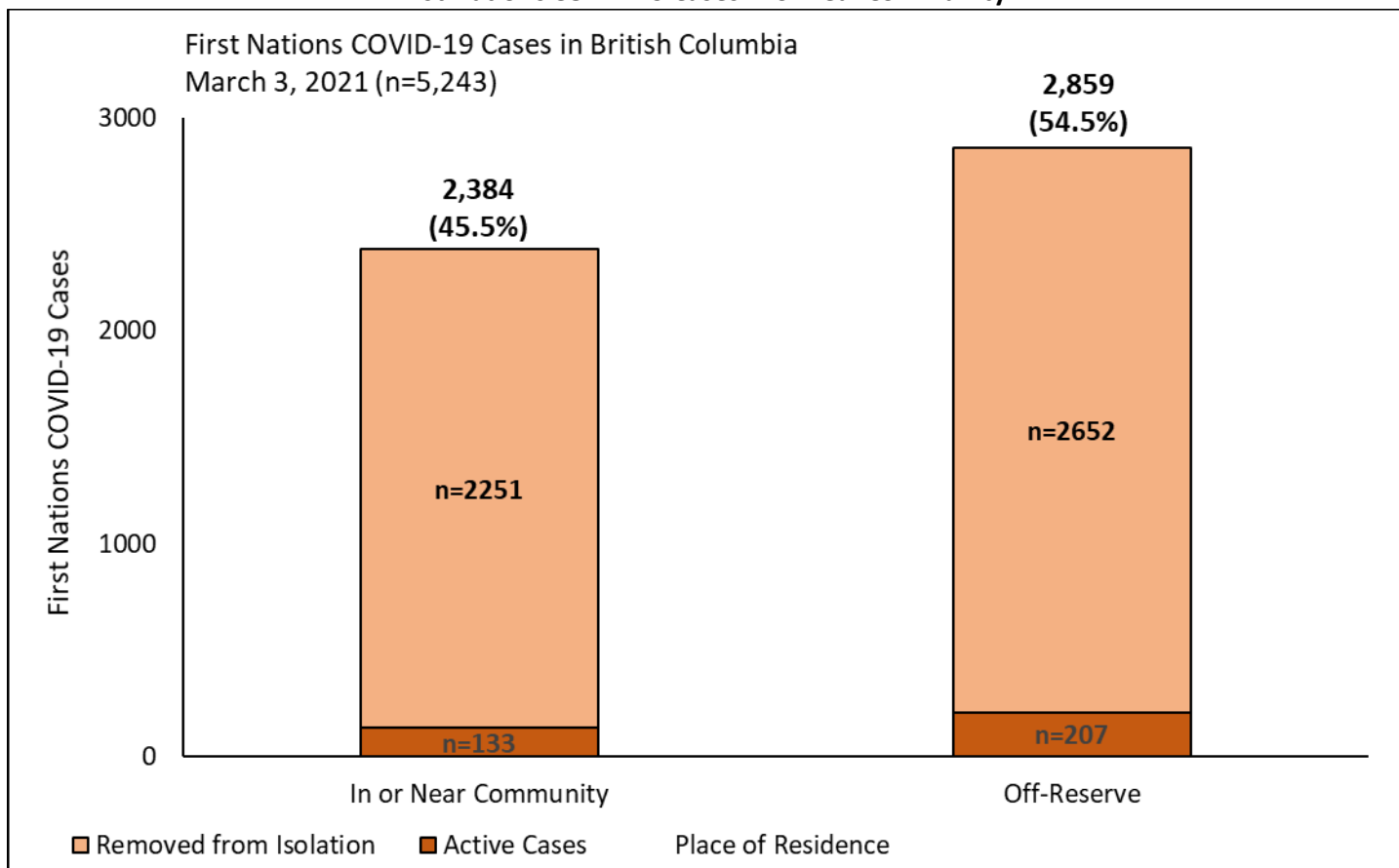
\*Total number of cases (n=5,345) includes five (5) COVID-19 cases reported as residents of Yukon, one (1) case reported as "Out of Canada" resident and five (5) cases reported as "Out of BC – Alberta" residents. Above figure provides regional distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=5,334) reported as BC residents.

**Regional Active cases and Testing data as of March 3, 2021**

	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Total N (%)
Active First Nations COVID-19 Cases*	33	41	132	66	73	348
Total persons tested**	7,537	7,782	9,378	7,431	7,580	39,733
Cumulative Percentage Positivity (%)	6.66%	8.95%	15.21%	8.22%	7.83%	9.54%
Testing Rate (Total tests per 100,000 First Nation Population)	44,759.5	32,488.6	31,681.3	51,826.1	28,766.0	36,111.4

\*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. Three (3) cases are "Out of BC" Residents.  
 \*\*Geographical Information (RHAs) for 25 BC First Nations people who are tested for COVID-19 is not available and these 25 people are tested Negative.

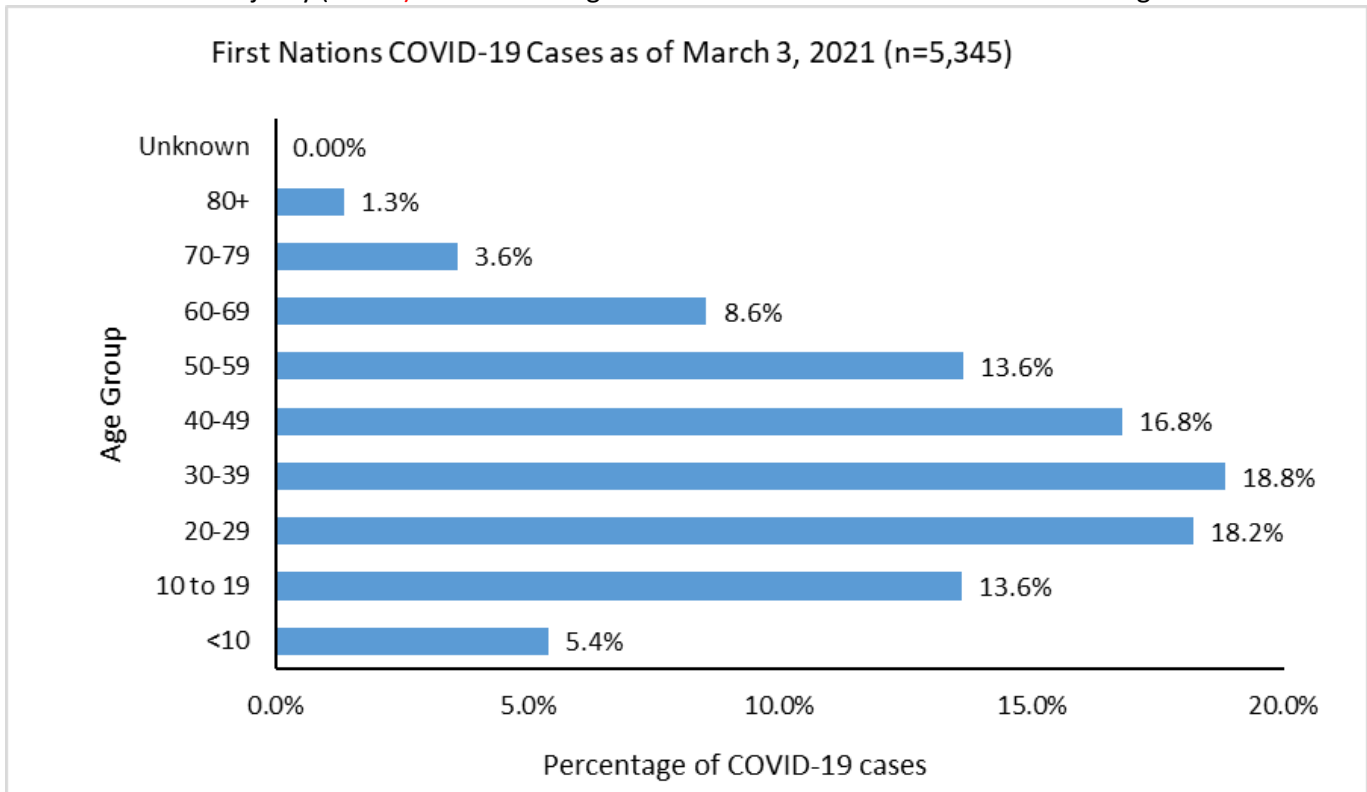
**First Nations COVID-19 Cases in or near Community\***



\* In or near community analysis is not available for 8 active case.

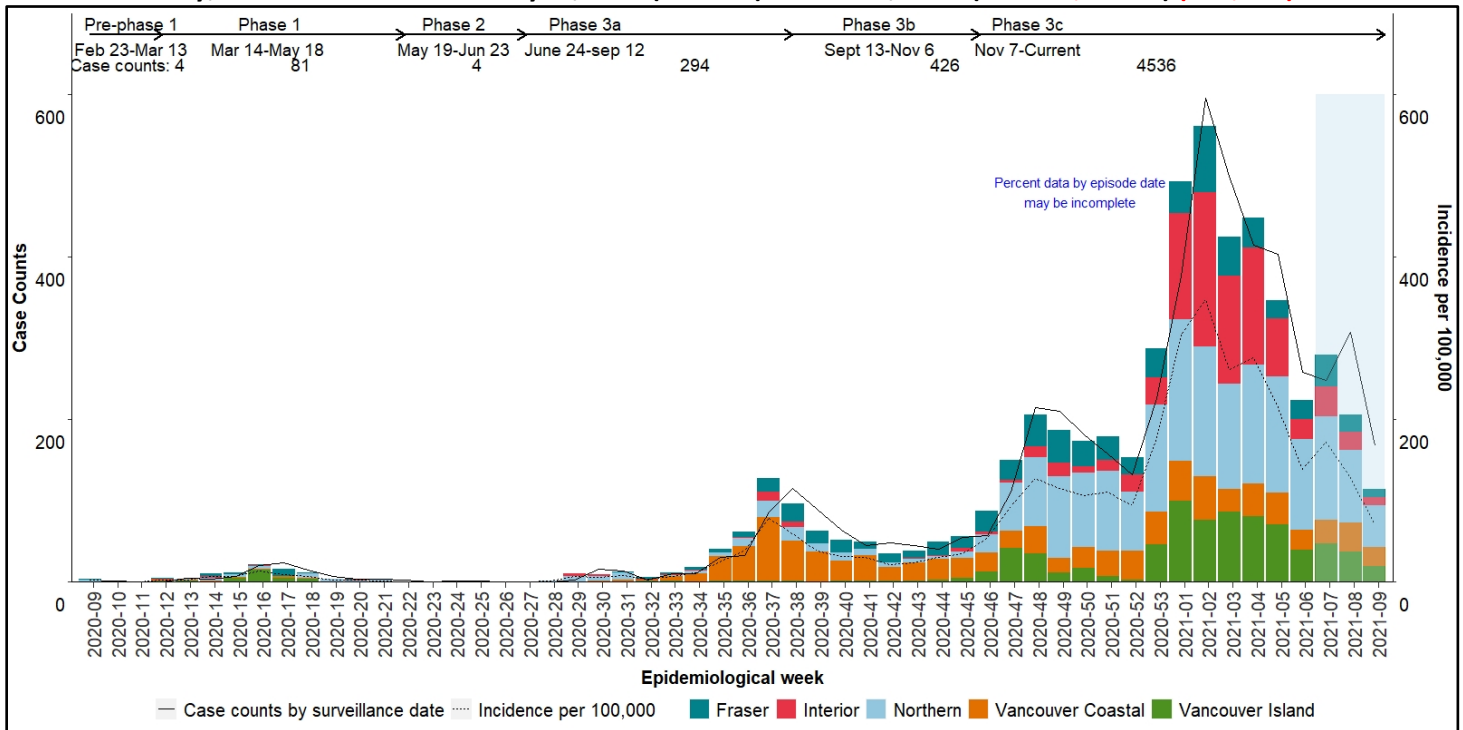
Note: Analyses for in or near community includes lab confirmed cases and epi-linked cases with known geographical information. Other cases (including case tested outside of BC) are included in the cases by Health Authority. **As of March 3, 2021, there were 133 active First Nations COVID-19 cases residing in or near community.**

The majority (72.9%) 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 9.54% as of March 3, 2021. The rate of positive cases was 3,292.7 per 100,000 people among First Nations. The rate of positive case among other residents of BC was 1,570.8 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) – March 3, 2021 (Week-9, 2021\*) (n=5,345)**



<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).

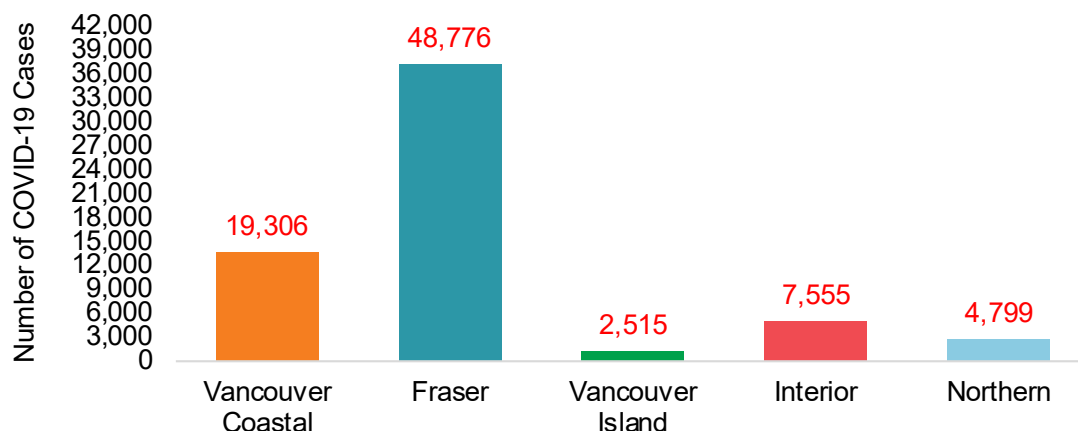
<sup>b</sup> Data source: BCCDC's line list data received from RHAs and PHSA's public health lab data (up to March 3, 2021).

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 March 5, 2021 at 4:02pm**

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 83,107 confirmed cases in BC, and 1,380 deaths from COVID-19.
- There are 4,901 active cases in the province, 255 people are hospitalized and, of those, 66 people are in intensive care (ICU).
- 8,861 people are under active public health monitoring due to an identified exposure.
- Of the total number of cases, 76,752 (92%) people have fully recovered.

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



### **Active Outbreaks** (as of March 5, 2021)

- Long-term care/assisted living centres: 10 outbreaks
- Acute care units: 8 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 March 4, more than 27,000 First Nations individuals have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 6,300 First Nations 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 March 5, a total of 311,208 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC, 86,865 of which 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 (March 4, 2021):**

Access Restrictions: 143 (+1)

Band Offices Inaccessible: 89 (+3)

Security Checkpoints: 73

State of Local Emergency: 75

EOC Activations: 113

## 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

- [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>