



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

COVID-19 – Notice and Follow-up Process for a Confirmed Case in a First Nations Community

FNHA GUIDELINE

Pathway for disclosure in the event of a positive laboratory COVID-19 case in a First Nations community.

- The Medical Health Officer (MHO) of the Regional Health Authority (RHA) is informed of the positive test result directly by the provincial lab. The RHA MHO has the legal authority and responsibility for receiving Communicable Disease (CD) lab reports, making case determinations, and directing the appropriate CD management.
- Concurrently, the MHO from the RHA will notify the FNHA's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the positive test result, or the positive case would be identified through the FNHA's First Nations COVID-19 surveillance data linkage.
- The client is informed of the positive test results by the CD nurse from the RHA, primary health care provider, CHN, or health care provider who ordered the COVID-19 test.
- The RHA CD team will work directly with the First Nations community's nursing staff to support and provide CD follow-up for community member, in collaboration with the RHA and in accordance with staffing levels and capacity.
- The FNHA CMO notifies the FNHA's Communicable Disease Control (CDC) team of the positive case. The FNHA CDC team may be engaged by the RHA CDC team. The FNHA CDC team collaborate and liaise within the FNHA and with RHA colleagues to support CD follow-up within communities as requested.
- The FNHA CMO will notify the Regional Executive Director (RED) and the RED will notify the Chief and the community health director to inform them of a positive case in their community, emphasizing that no names or personal information will be provided.
- The circle of care (regulated health care professionals) and circle of support (community leaders, health directors) have information only on a need-to-know basis, and should not disclose personal information of a positive case. Privacy and confidentiality of personal health information will be upheld within the circle of care.

Personal information will not be disclosed by any employees or leaders without the express consent of the individual, unless the disclosure is permitted by law.

For First Nations individuals on release from Federal corrections facilities:

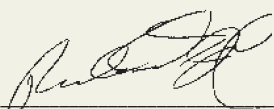
- Correctional Services Canada will inform the RHA MHO of the imminent release of a First Nations individual from their facilities, with details of the location where the individual intends to reside. The notification pathway above will be utilized to inform the appropriate First Nations community services.
- In the event that COVID-19 had been diagnosed in the facility before release, the individual on conditional release will be required to complete a monitored 14-day isolation period immediately. In the event that the individual had completed their warrant, a public health order would be put in to place to require that a similar supervised isolation period be completed.

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Circle of Care: *the group of health care providers (e.g., nurse, physician and any other health care practitioner providing care to the client) who need the client's personal health information in order to provide health care.*

Circle of Support: *the group of support individuals (e.g., community leaders, health directors and any other support system that supports the Circle of Care and community at large) responding to the needs of the overall community's health and wellness.*

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