

Temporary accommodation:

Referring people living in rural or remote areas / First Nations communities

June 2021

The [Remote/Rural and First Nations Communities COVID-19 Response Framework](#) (RRFW) supports people to self-isolate in communities with a higher level of acute care services. This document covers transportation, accommodation, and coordination of supports. An intake form is also included.

How to refer someone for temporary accommodation:

1. Read this page: Do they meet eligibility criteria? Are you the right person to refer them?
2. Gather their intake information (see questions provided on following pages)
3. For individuals belonging to a First Nations community, please forward your isolation support request to FNHA covid19.northern@fnha.ca and/or First Nations Health Benefits at transportation@fnha.ca.
4. All other requests please forward to Northern Health Emergency Management BC, available **7 days a week, 8 am to 4 pm**
 - a. **1-855-554-3622 OR**
 - b. HEMBC@northernhealth.ca ***If emailing, follow guidelines at end of this document***

Who's eligible? People living in rural, remote or First Nations communities who meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. COVID-positive or symptomatic and need to be close to urgent care if needed
2. Need testing outside their home communities, and accommodation is needed until test result is known
3. Vulnerable and at high risk of requiring urgent medical support:
 - Elders (60+)
 - Those with pre-existing chronic conditions (e.g., cancer, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, asthma, renal disease, heart disease, etc.)
 - Those who are immunocompromised due to disease and/or treatment (e.g., cancer treatments, organ transplants, etc.)
 - Infants and young children (0-5 yrs)
 - Pregnant women

Coordinated supports may include:

- Transportation options
- Housing options
- Culturally safe contact tracing that respects privacy in small communities
- Access to the FNHA's [Virtual Doctor of the Day](#) service

Clinical supports will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the receiving team. NH Clinical Intake will facilitate the transfer of current prescriptions to a local pharmacy

- **People are expected to supply their own medications**
- **People currently on home oxygen must bring their oxygen supply with them**

Who can refer someone for temporary accommodation?

1. Primary care health provider

2. Public health official from Northern Health (Medical Health Officer or Communicable Disease Team) or a communicable disease nurse or Medical Officer from FNHA
3. First Nations Health Director: Health Director identifies individual(s) who are unable to self-isolate safely in the community, or individual(s) self-identify to the Health Director that they are struggling to self-isolate safely and would like to choose the option of self-isolating out of community.

Intake Questions

RRFW Isolation Support Request – Intake Questions	
Request received from:	<Name, Site & Contact information (email & telephone #)>
Date supports required to begin:	
Name:	
First Nations Status # (if applicable):	
DOB(s):	
Contact Number (cell preferred):	
Emergency contact name & number	
Home community:	
Local (primary) health contact:	<for independent health authority> ie. CSFS, Nisga'a
Current location:	
Isolation community requested:	
Primary Care Provider (MRP):	
Date of COVID test + result:	
Date of end of isolation period:	
Accommodation to be secured by:	<NH or FNHB or BC Housing>
Hotel room type: (include # of beds)	<to be confirmed by the organization securing accommodation> E.g., standard room bar fridge/microwave or kitchenette
Room #	<to be confirmed by the organization securing accommodation>
Restaurant on site?	Yes or No
Do they have a personal means of obtaining meals/ groceries?	Yes or No – please describe
Meals/ groceries arranged by:	Hotel, NH, FNHB, FNHA or other

Do they have a personal means of transportation to their isolation location?	Yes or No Please describe
Transportation arrangements or requirements:	Self, family/friend, BCEHS, NH, FNHA HB etc.
Transportation arranged by:	NH, FNHB, FNHA, or other
Other medical supports required; include type & frequency. (E.g., home support, wound care, mobility support etc.)	Yes or No Please describe
Other medical supports arranged by:	NH, FNHB, FNHA or other (explain)
Additional comments or considerations:	E.g., special dietary needs, social supports

Forwarding your request:

1. Paste the information above into the body of an email (**don't attach it**, because attachments are lost when emails are replied to).

For individuals belonging to a First Nations community, please forward your request to:

First Nations Health Authority

- Covid19.northern@fnha.ca
- 1-866-399-3642

First Nations Health Authority Health Benefits

- transportation@fnha.ca
- 1-888-305-1505 or 1-855-550-5454

All other requests:

- HEMBC@northernhealth.ca
- 1-855-554-3622 (available 7 days/week 8 – 4pm)

2. The subject line of initial email should follow this pattern:

- Isolation Request - <Initials>, <home community> - <isolation community>

- Example: **Isolation Request – MB, Tachie - Fort St. James**
3. The organizations receiving the request will respond to everyone on thread.
 4. Additional members and/or organizations, such as BC Housing, may be added to the email thread as needed to support communication and the requested support requirements.