Rapid Review: What factors may help protect Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and internationally from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts?

Prepared by: The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools and The National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health

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The authors declare they have no conflicts of interest to report.

October 16, 2020
Executive Summary

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pervasive socio-economic and health inequities, creating challenges for Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and around the world. Indigenous peoples and communities are responding to COVID-19 using practices, knowledges and assets that may provide some protection from the pandemic and its impacts.

This rapid review was produced to support public health decision makers’ response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. This review identifies, appraises, and summarizes emerging evidence to support evidence-informed decision making.

This rapid review includes evidence available up to October 8, 2020 to answer the question: **What factors may help protect Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and internationally from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts?**

Key Points

- Indigenous peoples and communities have experience with pandemics and disease outbreaks and have learned effective ways of responding and protecting family and community members, despite socio-economic challenges and pervasive inequities resulting from historic and ongoing colonization.
- Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and internationally draw on community strengths and protective factors to reduce the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks and impacts. Indigenous community resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic is exemplified through many factors, most of which can be found across evidence from Canada and the USA, Australia, New Zealand and other international jurisdictions. Prominent protective factors (described in more detail under Overview of Evidence) include:
  - Community strengths
  - Indigenous knowledges and practices
  - Caring for family and community members
  - Community-centred communication
  - Community-driven and controlled public health measures

Overview of Evidence and Knowledge Gaps

- Protective factors are multifaceted and likely work in combination. The identification of specific factors in this review is not meant to suggest that they operate independently from other community assets and actions.
- The specific relationships between certain protective factors and COVID-19 outcomes remain under-explored in the research literature. Most of the available evidence is of moderate quality, in the form of published expert opinion or grey literature sources. Sources that describe and analyze the effectiveness of the protective factors to influence COVID-19-related outcomes would add to the knowledge base in this field.

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1 In Canada the term ‘Indigenous’ is a collective term used to refer to the original inhabitants of Canada and their descendants, including First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples as defined under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution of 1982.

October 16, 2020
Specific protective factors include:

- **Community strengths**
  - Community leadership, in roles as advocates, trusted messengers and coordinators.
  - Self-determination and community autonomy, as a basis for community decision-making about appropriate ways to share messages and implement protective practices.
  - Elder and youth engagement in decision making and communication.
  - Working with chosen partners, including health services and governments, to ensure appropriate care, provide access to protective equipment and resources, and to address inequities.
  - Data sovereignty, to oversee the collection and uses of relevant, community owned and controlled data for decision-making during the pandemic.
  - Indigenous workforce development and deployment.
  - Humour as a way of managing distress and delivering communication about the pandemic.

- **Indigenous knowledges and practices**
  - Indigenous knowledges and practices (e.g., ceremonies and protocols) are protective. Distanced and virtual approaches are being explored in creative ways.
  - Traditional medicines continue to be used to maintain health.
  - Food sharing, gardening, hunting, harvesting and protection of food sources is critical for Indigenous communities.
  - Traditional arts and dance are used for healing and community expression.

- **Caring for family and community members**
  - Caring for family and community members, including special attention for Elders, children, those with underlying health concerns and those isolating or quarantining, using kinship practices and traditional ways of caring, delivered through distanced and sometimes virtual means.

- **Community-centred communication**
  - Consistent, culturally relevant public health messaging developed in and with communities and delivered in community languages by trusted leaders and health professionals.

- **Community-driven and controlled public health measures**
  - Isolation is a traditional practice for some Indigenous communities that has increased relevance in response to the pandemic.
  - Rules on community entry, checkpoints, roadblocks, travel restrictions and curfews have been employed through community coordination to maintain boundaries against transmission of COVID-19.
  - Contact tracing has been facilitated, when required, through community connections.
  - Places and spaces provide the space for individuals to self-isolate by living on the land and/or a place for trailers or housing within a community for people who are isolating.
Methods

Research Question

What factors may help protect Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and internationally from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts?

Search

On October 8, 2020, the following databases were searched using key terms “Indigenous”, “Inuit”, “Métis”, “First Nations”, “Native”, “Aboriginal”, “American Indian”, “Alaskan Native” and “Maori”:

- Pubmed’s curated COVID-19 literature hub: LitCovid
- Trip Medical Database
- World Health Organization’s Global literature on coronavirus disease
- COVID-19 Evidence Alerts from McMaster PLUS™
- Public Health +
- COVID-19 Living Overview of the Evidence (L-OVE)
- McMaster Health Forum
- Cochrane Rapid Reviews Question Bank
- Prospero Registry of Systematic Reviews
- NCCMT COVID-19 Rapid Evidence Reviews
- MedRxiv preprint server
- NCCIH Updates on COVID-19
- NCCDH Equity-informed Responses to COVID-19
- NCCEH Environmental Health Resources for the COVID-19 Pandemic
- NCCHPP Public Health Ethics and COVID-19
- NCCID Public Health Quick Links
- NCCID Disease Debrief
- Institute national d’excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS)
- COVID-19 and Mental Health (CMH) Initiative
- Public Health Ontario

A copy of the full search strategy is available at this link.

In addition to the databases searched above, a list of evidence sources curated by the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) was screened for inclusion. This curated resource list was generated through the NCCIH’s search of webpages for relevant organizations and search for grey literature using the terms “COVID-19”, “Indigenous” and “resilience”.
Study Selection Criteria

The search results were first screened for recent guidelines and syntheses. Single studies and expert opinion sources were included if no syntheses were available. English-language, peer-reviewed sources and sources published ahead-of-print before peer review were included. Expert opinion sources were included as relevant to the question. Surveillance sources were excluded. Audio sources, such as podcasts and webinar recordings, were excluded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion Criteria</th>
<th>Exclusion Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Indigenous populations from any country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Protective factors, strengths, resiliency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sources limited in focus to deficits, risks, concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparisons</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>COVID-19 outbreaks and disease outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Extraction and Synthesis

Data relevant to the research question, such as study design, setting, location, population characteristics, interventions or exposure and outcomes were extracted when reported. We synthesized the results narratively due to the variation in methodology and outcomes for the included studies.

Appraisal of Evidence Quality

We evaluated the quality of included published and submitted research evidence using critical appraisal tools as indicated by the study design below. Sources of any design that drew on expert opinion for their presentation of protective factors were appraised using the JBI Text and Opinion tool, with modifications described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Design</th>
<th>Critical Appraisal Tool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expert Opinion</td>
<td>Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Checklist for Text and Opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Checklist for Qualitative Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quality assessment was completed by one reviewer and verified by a second reviewer. Conflicts were resolved through discussion.

NCCIH identified most of the grey literature sources from their COVID-19-related database, with credibility of these sources identified at time of entry into the database. As such, grey literature sources were not critically appraised for this rapid review.
We adapted the JBI Text and Opinion tool for this review to reflect that the ‘field of expertise’ is knowledge of Indigenous peoples/community and the ‘affiliations of interest’ include affiliation with Indigenous peoples and community. Although this tool has been adapted to better reflect elements of knowledge relevant to Indigenous peoples, it is important to note that the tool is situated in a Eurocentric paradigm that does not necessarily reflect Indigenous knowledges and community experiences. Specific modifications to certain questions within the tool are noted below.

5. Is there reference to the extant literature and/or to Indigenous knowledges and/or other community-based evidence or knowledge?
   If there is reference to the extant literature/knowledges, is it inclusive of or representative of community experiences, or is it a non-critical description of content specifically supportive of the line of argument being put forward? These considerations will highlight the robustness of how cited literature/Indigenous knowledges were managed. If there is no reference to Indigenous knowledges and/or other community-based evidence or knowledge, answer no.

6. Is any incongruence with the literature/sources logically defended?
   Does the author(s)’ perspective(s) align with the Indigenous knowledges/community-based evidence they provided? Is the author(s)’ experience(s) and position clear? Is there any reference provided in the text to ascertain if the opinion expressed has wider community support? Consider also if the author demonstrated awareness of alternate or dominant opinions in the literature and how it relates to other or similar discourses. If the author differs from literature, Indigenous knowledges, or other cited evidence, but does not explain why, answer no.

Completed quality assessments for each included study are available on request.
Findings

Summary of Evidence Quality

This document includes one single study, 18 expert opinion sources and 22 grey literature sources, for a total of 41 publications included in this review. The overall quality of evidence is summarized below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Quality of Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single studies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expert opinion sources</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4 High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey literature</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Not appraised</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Warning

Given the need to make emerging COVID-19 evidence quickly available, many emerging studies have not been peer reviewed. As such, we advise caution when using and interpreting the evidence included in this rapid review. Where possible, make decisions using the highest quality evidence available.
## Table 1: Single Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Date Released</th>
<th>Study Design</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Summary of findings</th>
<th>Quality Rating:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iwuoha, V.C. &amp; Aniche, E.T. (2020). Covid-19 lockdown and physical distancing policies are elitist: towards an indigenous (Afro-centred) approach to containing the pandemic in sub-urban slums in Nigeria. Local Environment, 25(8), 631-640.</td>
<td>Aug 5, 2020</td>
<td>Qualitative Descriptive</td>
<td>Low-income workers and households in suburban slums</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>This article presents reasons for which lockdown and physical distancing are not productive in preventing COVID-19 transmission in Nigeria and calls for an Indigenous Afro-centred approach. The authors also highlight traditional Indigenous herbal mixtures for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and recommends that these remedies be validated and encouraged.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that this information is not available in both official languages because the source of the information is not subject to the Official Languages Act.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Date Released</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Summary of findings</th>
<th>Quality Rating:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Moodie, N., Ward, J., Dudgeon, P., Adams, K., Altman, J., Casey, D., ... Yap, M. (2020). *Roadmap to recovery: Reporting on a research taskforce supporting Indigenous responses to COVID-19 in Australia.* *Australian Journal of Social Issues.* Epub ahead of print. | Sep 22, 2020 | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities | Australia | Four key recommendations were made specific to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities. These recommendations included:  
- Self-determination and coordination as key attributes of the success of the COVID-19 Indigenous response. This includes use of local task groups that developed local and culturally relevant response plans that included protective activities such as prohibiting access permits for non-essential travel, social distancing messages, local, community developed preparedness plans, travel restrictions, mental health supports and use of isolation facilities where housing stock was limited.  
- Equitable needs-based funding to support local/community-based responses to the pandemic. This includes collaboration between governments and the Indigenous community health sector and recognition of the need for sustainable funding to Indigenous organizations. Of immediate importance is access to housing.  
- COVID-19 Indigenous data sovereignty principles to support data sharing and decision making  
- Workforce review and development (increasing and retaining Indigenous health practitioners, upscaling of Indigenous public health and infectious disease expertise and surge planning. | High |
| Akuhata-Huntington, Z., Foster, S., Gillon, A., Merito, M., Oliver, L. Parata, N., ... Naepi, S. (2020). *COVID-19 and Indigenous resilience.* *Higher Education Research & Development.* Epub ahead of print. | Sep 22, 2020 | Māori | Aotearoa New Zealand | This report highlights the challenges of Indigenous students at the personal, institutional and national level. It highlights protective measures utilized to build resilience including:  
- Online/virtual meetings to share and provide support  
- Seeking of support from colleagues, supervisors and peers  
- Providing support to communities with clarity, and empathy  
- Care packages to support community members with correct supplies  
- Creation of check-points within communities  
- Shift to the “digital sphere” to stay connected with communities | Moderate |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages/Volume</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Risk Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 21, 2020</td>
<td>Richardson, L. &amp; Crawford, A.</td>
<td>COVID-19 and the decolonization of Indigenous public health. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 192(38), E1098-1100.</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples Canada</td>
<td>Indigenous self-determination, leadership and knowledge have been successful in protecting Indigenous communities in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples of protective measures implemented include:  • Articulating and enforcing rules on who can enter their communities  • Strict measures on closures and checkpoints  • Indigenous-specific COVID data with clear data sovereignty agreements related to access, control, ownership and possession of data. Indigenous public health must be self-determined, adapted for the needs of specific nations and grounded in local Indigenous language, culture and ways of knowing; developed, implemented and led by Indigenous peoples and informed by ongoing monitoring of data as governed by appropriate data sovereignty agreements.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 18, 2020</td>
<td>Saini, A. (2020).</td>
<td>The Bru redemption: group work during the covid-19 pandemic in an internally displaced people’s relief camp in Tripura, India. Social Work with Groups. Epub ahead of print.</td>
<td>Bru people Ashapara, India</td>
<td>This study reports on how displaced Indigenous people in a makeshift relief camp protected their members from COVID-19. Factors that were identified as contributing to positive outcomes included:  • Organization of a task group to coordinate and provide education, support, and supplies (clean water, firewood, and food) to the community consistently  • Cooperation and community goal setting  • Access to government support: relief rations/cash dole  • Consistent communication strategies and messaging (including messaging to counter rumors and superstition)  • Places to isolate  • Psychosocial factors (resilience, enhancing dignity, trust-building)</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 1, 2020</td>
<td>The Lancet Diabetes &amp; Endocrinology. (2020).</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples: resilience in the face of adversity. The Lancet Diabetes &amp; Endocrinology, 89, P731.</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples Global</td>
<td>This editorial highlights the successful strategies that Indigenous peoples all over the world have implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their communities and resilience in the face of the grave threat of COVID-19. Examples include closing borders, imposing curfews, testing, making face masks, providing sanitation, and providing education in local languages.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Publication Details</td>
<td>Abstract/Content</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Saini, A. (2020). | “A stitch in time”: group work during the covid-19 scare in the Nicobar Islands, India. | Social Work with Groups. Epub ahead of print. | This study reports on how the tribespeople of the isolated Nicobarese archipelago protected their communities from COVID-19. Factors that were identified as contributing to positive outcomes included:  
- Natural protection due to remoteness of the Nicobar Islands; adoption of a strict travel policy with screening and contact tracing, and restriction to essential travel only  
- Imports restricted to essential commodities only  
- Organization of a group to sew masks and provide them to the most vulnerable in the communities  
- Accurate and simplified communication |
The author describes finding respite in the traditional dances performed by First Nations dancers in North America and shared online. |
Several communities have established blockades where volunteers screen visitors for symptoms. |

Aug 24, 2020  |  First Nations peoples  |  Canada  |  This article highlights the actions that First Nations communities have taken proactively in response to COVID-19. Many of these were strength-based strategies that mobilized communities, including:
  - Staying connected virtually
  - Setting up trailers for self-isolation
  - Making roadblocks to control access to their communities
  - Putting out special public health messages recognizing Indigenous strengths and sacrifices made by communities during lockdown
  - Putting on hold or modifying ceremonies, funerals and rites of passage
  - Going back to their “roots”, to the way it was years ago, with emphasis on caring about neighbors like they are family
  - Delivering of food hampers, prescriptions, and meals for Elders


Aug 7, 2020  |  Indigenous peoples  |  Global  |  Effects of climate change undermine Indigenous food security which in turn compromise the resilience of Indigenous populations to pandemics.

  This article highlights the need to support Indigenous populations by prioritizing the protection of key Indigenous food sources (e.g. tropical forests, Arctic ecosystems), by reinforcing and supporting the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems, in providing access to culturally safe health resources, and by safeguarding access and rights to land and natural resources. Addressing underlying structural inequalities and strengthening Indigenous knowledge systems offer opportunities for building resilience.
- Lobbying governments to close remote communities and help accessing personal protective equipment, testing and contact tracing
- Using social media videos to provide education
- Staff training
- Organizing the homeless in safe accommodation
- Focusing on Elders and those with serious illnesses
- Partnerships with government and non-government agencies to provide culturally relevant and appropriate services

The success of Australia’s First Nations-led response in managing COVID-19 demonstrates the effectiveness of giving power and capacity to Indigenous leaders. | Low |
| Close, R.M. & Stone, M.J. (2020). Contact Tracing for Native Americans in Rural Arizona. *The New England Journal of Medicine, 283*, e15. | Jul 2, 2020 | Native Americans | Arizona, USA | This study reports on how a critical access hospital provided public health services to identify, provide services and support members of the Native American community exposed to COVID-19. Strategies that were identified as contributing to positive outcomes included:
- Working in partnership with tribal leaders to support social-distancing measures
- Trust building with community members
- Aggressive contact tracing activities
- Focus on high risk persons with daily follow-up including point of care services in the home and clinical assessment of all individuals living in the setting with high risk persons
- Inter-hospital referral for persons who require a higher level of care | Moderate |
| Finlay, S. & Wenitong, M. (2020). Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations are taking a leading role in COVID-19 health communication. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 44*(4), 251-252. | Jun 24, 2020 | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities | Australia | This article outlines the role of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organizations in delivering scientifically valid, evidence-based, and culturally translated COVID-19 health communications messaging and measures to control the spread of infection among community members. A key factor in the success of their interventions is the trust placed in them by the communities they serve, as they are known and trusted to deliver culturally appropriate service. | Moderate |
### Strategies Utilized by Indigenous Communities to Prevent COVID-19

#### Indigenous People's Strategies

- **Returning to the land** – setting up and living in tents (individual and supply) in bush areas and returning to traditional practices.
- **Providing support to those self-isolating at home** (on and off-reserve) including food hampers and cleaning supplies.
- **Sharing of food sources** (purchasing of food, hunting, and gathering).
- **Offering incentives for children to stay home** (craft supplies, online puppet show competitions etc.).
- **Provision of 24-hour support** (phone and online).
- **Use of traditional arts in creative ways** (making masks, prayer and healing dances offered via social media, comedy, and story-telling videos).

#### Indigenous Rights Groups

Interviews with Tz'utujil activists highlight how Indigenous rights groups have advocated for their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes monitoring the enforcement of quarantine and curfews by federal police, reporting of human rights violations and distribution of food baskets.

#### Aboriginal Leaders

This article highlights how health communications messages that are delivered by trusted members of the community, who can act as cultural brokers between the medical advice and the community, have been shown to be more effective than mainstream public health campaign messaging.

Having Aboriginal leaders provide reliable information is recommended in order to reassure communities, deliver supportive health advice and address community anxiety in culturally appropriate ways.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaplan, H.S., Trumble, B.C., Stieglitz, J.S., Mamany, R.M., Cayuba, M.G., Moye Lic, L.M., ... Gurven, M.D.</td>
<td>October 16, 2020</td>
<td>Tsimane of Bolivia Amazon Rainforest</td>
<td>Voluntary collective isolation as a best response to COVID-19 for indigenous populations? A case study and protocol from the Bolivian Amazon. <em>The Lancet</em>; 1727-1734.</td>
<td>Indigenous communities in Bolivia may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 for a variety of reasons, including health vulnerabilities and socioeconomic conditions. Specific collective cultural practices, such as sharing beverages, may also pose risk of infection. As part of a COVID-19 response, these issues were discussed with community leadership and members, increasing their knowledge about COVID-19 and building local control of responses. A COVID-19 strategy is presented, based on two principles: 1) preventative measures before mass infection; 2) collaborative effort among all stakeholders, involving Indigenous populations. This prevention and containment plan has two phases: 1) awareness and prevention; 2) COVID19 containment and patient management. The plan outlines detailed implementation strategies along with local considerations (see Table in document). Collective isolation of Indigenous communities has been effective in response to past pandemics and may be an effective response for COVID-19, if movement into and out of communities can be restricted before cases are present. Isolation supports would be needed to make this strategy workable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power, T., Wilson, D., Best, O., Brockie, T., Bourque, Bearskin, L., ... Lowe, J.</td>
<td>May 15, 2020</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples Global</td>
<td>COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples: an imperative for action. <em>Journal of Clinical Nursing</em>, 29(15-16), 2737-41.</td>
<td>This article describes examples of resiliency in Indigenous peoples. Tribes in New Zealand have distributed food to older people isolated in their homes. First Nations in Canada have gathered bundles for medicine, food, childbirth and death. They have also made protective facemasks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
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<th>Setting</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revisiting Indigenous Peoples’ resilience. (2020, August 9). The Morung Express.</td>
<td>Aug 9, 2020</td>
<td>Naga Indigenous peoples</td>
<td>Nagaland, India</td>
<td>Community elders have revived traditional practices, including self-isolation, quarantine and observation of traditional taboos related to activities that may spread disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Environment Facility Communications. (2020, August 7). Global Environment Facility. (2020). Indigenous peoples and COVID-19: Response and resilience.</td>
<td>Aug 7, 2020</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>This article highlights examples of how Indigenous peoples’ rights, values and traditions are guiding their responses to the COVID-19 challenge in the Americas. In Peru, Indigenous rural farmers have revived the ancestral tradition of helping family, friends and community members get the support they need by providing shipments of nutritious food to families living in major Peruvian cities through the Apachicuy Initiative, while a nonprofit organization involved in conservation work helps an isolated community in northern Peru acquire cleaning supplies and seeds to grow its own food. In Mexico, an alliance between two Indigenous communities helps address food insecurity through an exchange of locally grown products. In Guatemala and Belize, Indigenous rights and control over their natural resources helps address food insecurity through an exchange of locally grown products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature. (2020, August 7). Strengthening Indigenous rights and leadership in the face of global challenges – COVID-19, climate change and environmental degradation.</td>
<td>Aug 7, 2020</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>The article highlights innovative solutions from Indigenous organizations and communities to address COVID-19 related challenges, including use of Indigenous medicine to boost the immune system; increasing care and protection of community members who are more susceptible to severe health outcomes from COVID-19; local solutions to address violence against Indigenous women; local restrictions on travel, self-quarantining, social distancing and self-isolation across Indigenous organizations and communities globally; Indigenous public health communication initiatives to ensure culturally relevant COVID-19 messaging; Indigenous youth activism as agents to convey prevention messages; Indigenous efforts to strengthen traditional food systems of food production, exchange and reciprocity; and Indigenous responses to build economic resilience, address existing gaps in infrastructure and pandemic preparedness, and strengthen traditional governance systems to manage natural resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Author/Source</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 7, 2020</td>
<td>Tribal Link. (2020, August 7).</td>
<td><em>A day to recognize the resilience of Indigenous peoples.</em></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>To commemorate the 2020 International Day of the World’s Indigenous peoples, this article recognizes the resilience of Indigenous peoples during the COVID-19 pandemic and briefly highlights unique Indigenous solutions to prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19. This includes village closures implemented by the Karen people of Thailand and several Lenca and Maya Chorti communities in Honduras; media prevention campaigns in Indigenous languages; and Indigenous youth engagement in community decision-making, enforcement of restrictions and lockdowns, and distribution of essentials and health equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3, 2020</td>
<td>Hard hit by COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous peoples’ input must be part of response, recovery strategies. Secretary-General says in observance message. (2020, August 3). Reliefweb.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>In this press release for the International Day of the World’s Indigenous peoples, the UN Secretary-General acknowledges the extraordinary resilience of Indigenous peoples to the many threats that the COVID-19 pandemic imposes on their lives and livelihoods. This resiliency is rooted in Indigenous peoples’ autonomy over the management of their lands, territories and resources, enabling them to ensure food security and care through traditional crops and medicine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2020</td>
<td>Task Group on Healthy Living. (2020, July).</td>
<td>Core principles for good healthy living messages in First Nations, Inuit and Métis remote and isolated northern communities.</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>This report documents findings from an environmental scan of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communications material focused on COVID-19. It recommends utilizing the strengths of Indigenous peoples and communities, including traditions, land knowledge, cultural knowledge and teachings, and supportive families and communities, in developing health communication resources. It also highlights the need for a distinctions-based approach that involves local communities in the design of resources to ensure they are culturally appropriate, relevant, accessible, and reflect the diversity and wealth of Indigenous traditional knowledge on health and wellness, to ensure they are more effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 11, 2020</td>
<td>Hughes, G. 2020, June 11).</td>
<td>Resilience in a time of crisis: Indigenous communities and COVID-19. Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness.</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>This article highlights the collective strengths of Indigenous peoples in working together to respond to the pandemic. These strengths are reflected in Indigenous community knowledge and expertise, their reconstruction to the land, virtual social connections with communities, Elders sharing teachings online, and Indigenous communities asserting their sovereignty and responding to the pandemic with innovative solutions.</td>
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<td>Woods, J. (2020, May 28). Indigenous communities come together virtually during coronavirus despite barriers and inequities. The Conversation.</td>
<td>May 28, 2020</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples</td>
<td>This article summarizes examples of how Indigenous peoples have come together through virtual communities to promote connections and wellness during this time of crisis. This includes jingle dress dancers bringing virtual healing to communities, videos showcasing traditional foods and cooking, a website showcasing Indigenous stories of uncertain times, Indigenous youth building and inspiring community through a TikTok-based challenge, and Indigenous authors and podcasters bringing people together through dialogue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eghenter, C. (2020, May 22). How Indigenous Peoples practices can guide our recovery from COVID-19. IMPAKTER.</td>
<td>May 22, 2020</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples</td>
<td>This article calls for a new economic model that values nature and people over economics. Drawing on Indigenous peoples’ strengths in overcoming previous epidemics, including practice of sustainable management of natural resources, traditional knowledge, cultural practices and values, innovation and social solidarity, addressing issues of food security, and strengthening social relations and mutual support mechanisms.</td>
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<td>National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. (2020, April).</td>
<td>Apr 2020</td>
<td>First Nations, Inuit and Metis Canada</td>
<td>This fact sheet provides suggestions for how to maintain health and well-being of Indigenous children that are rooted in Indigenous cultures and values during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes ways to maintain community connectedness, cultural identity, and physical health.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forester, B. (2020, March 26). ‘Stay calm and move forward’: Indigenous doctors on strength, resilience in the face of pandemics. APTN National News.</td>
<td>Mar 26, 2020</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples Canada</td>
<td>This article emphasizes how despite colonization and intergenerational trauma, Indigenous peoples continue to be resilient and can draw on their strengths to help them navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. This resilient strength is rooted in communities coming together and utilizing their cultural and community assets and resources, such as using humour to help mitigate any distress individuals may feel, taking stock of and using locally available resources to help get public health messaging out, partnering with non-Indigenous organizations to address long-term health and infrastructure inequities, and exercising self-determination over how they are going to respond to the pandemic.</td>
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<td>Idle No More and Indigenous Climate Action. (2020, March 21). Highlights from a COVID-19 Fireside Chat with Indigenous health professionals.</td>
<td>Mar 21, 2020</td>
<td>Indigenous peoples Canada</td>
<td>This document highlights how various Indigenous strengths can be protective factors during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes using traditional medicines to strengthen immune systems; participating in gatherings and ceremonies to deal with stresses on well-being; eating traditional foods to give the body maximum strength to fight the virus; drawing on the strength of relationships with family and community to provide support and guidance; and the important role of Elders for their traditional teachings.</td>
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<td>Indigenous Motherhood. (2020, March 16). Traditional Indigenous kinship practices at home: Being child-centered during the pandemic.</td>
<td>Mar 16, 2020</td>
<td>First Nations Canada</td>
<td>This article highlights the strengths of traditional Indigenous kinship practices to family functioning and emphasizes the need for families to be mindful of these as they deal with the challenges of having children at home as a result of COVID-19. The article offers tips for disrupting colonial narratives of the role of children in families, drawing on strengths of cultural values, relationships to the land and strong family and community connections.</td>
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2020 First Nations Canada

Drawing on the many cultural strengths of First Nations people, this fact sheet provides tips for maintaining mental wellness among Elders and seniors during COVID-19. These tips are situated within the context of supportive families and communities, Indigenous perspectives of health and well-being, and connection to land and culture.


2020 First Nations Canada

Drawing on the many cultural strengths of First Nations people, this fact sheet provides tips for maintaining mental wellness among parents and children during COVID-19. These tips are situated within the context of supportive families and communities, Indigenous perspectives of health and well-being, and connection to land and culture.

Please note that this information is not available in both official languages because the source of the information is not subject to the Official Languages Act.
References


Hard hit by COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous peoples’ input must be part of response, recovery strategies, Secretary-General says in observance message. (2020, August 3). Reliefweb.


Tribal Link. (2020, August 7). A day to recognize the resilience of Indigenous peoples.
