

3 NATIONS COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE – 28 MARCH 2020

COVID-19 CASE COUNTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE YUKON

STATUS OF CASES IN BC	As of March 27	As of March 28	Change
Total Confirmed Cases in BC	792	884	92
Currently hospitalized in BC	73	81	8
Currently in intensive care	46	52	6
Total deaths in BC	16	17	1
Total recovered in BC	275	396	121
Total individuals tested in BC	36,643	38,697	2,054

Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/21904> and BC CDC

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION	As of March 27	As of March 28	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	391	444	53
Fraser Health	262	291	29
Island Health	57	60	3
Interior Health	70	77	7
Northern Health	12	12	0
Total Confirmed Cases in BC	792	884	92

Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/21904>

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON	As of March 27 ¹
Total individuals tested	603
Total confirmed cases	4
Negative results	556
Pending results	43

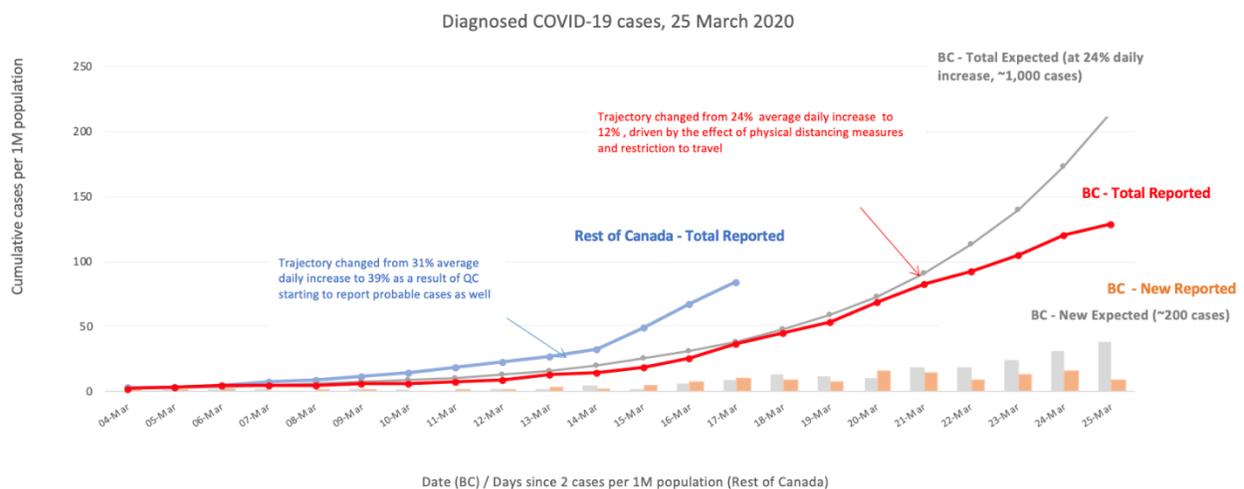
Source: <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

¹ Last update provided at March 27, 2020 – 11:50

CRITICAL CARE AND ACUTE CARE HOSPITALIZATION MODELLING FOR BC

On March 27, Dr. Henry, BC's Provincial Health Officer, shared critical care and acute care hospitalization modelling information². The model shows that B.C.'s rate of growth is being positively impacted by the public health measures adopted over the past few weeks. Notably the trajectory, as displayed below, has changed from 24% average daily increase to 12%, driven by the effect of physical distancing measures and restrictions to travel.³

COVID-19 Cases in B.C.



Rates on 25 March: Total reported = 130 cases per 1M population; Expected = 215.

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- On March 26, the BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General issued a series of ministerial orders to ensure a co-ordinated response to COVID-19 across all levels of government by⁴:
 - Establishing a new Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit to co-ordinate goods and services distribution.
 - Banning the secondary resale of food, medical supplies, cleaning and other essential supplies; and restricting quantities of items purchased at point of sale.
 - Enabling municipal bylaw officers to support enforcement of the provincial health officer's orders.
 - Ensuring all passenger and car-ferry services provide minimum service levels.
 - Supporting critical services for vulnerable people, like food banks and shelters.

² https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Technical_Briefing_Condensed.pdf

³ https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Technical_Briefing_Condensed.pdf

⁴ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0020-000568>

Latest Advice and Measures in British Columbia (cont.)

- Suspending local states of emergency specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, except for the City of Vancouver.
- These orders do not override First Nations jurisdiction. Local states of emergency issued by First Nations for their communities continue to apply.⁵
- The Province is not issuing orders that affect travel into or out of First Nations communities.
- First Nations Health Authority, Emergency Management BC and Indigenous Services Canada have been working with First Nations to secure essential supplies and equipment.⁵
- Emergency Management BC is holding regular regional public health co-ordination calls on COVID-19 for local governments and First Nations across all regions.⁵
- The First Nations Health Authority has several recommendations for community leaders, including:⁶
 - Review your existing Communicable Disease Emergency Plan (Pandemic Plan) and update it as needed. Make sure all of the contact information is correct and that people are aware of what is expected of them.
 - Review the community's supply of essentials.
 - Where there is one, check to see if the community health centre or nursing stations require additional support to prepare for possible coronavirus patients.
 - Train and prepare staff to cover for each other as people may need time off to care for their families or for themselves.
 - Follow the First Nations Health Authority communications channels for timely and reliable information on the outbreak.
 - Involve the whole community in efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by sharing tips on how to prevent its spread, as well as how to recognize the symptoms in each other.
- The First Nations Health Authority has an application process for communities to request Personal Protective Equipment such as hand sanitizer, masks and gloves.⁷

Terrace

- The City of Terrace activated their Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on March 12th where city staff have been in constant contact with the province.⁸
- Terrace now has the only airport accepting traffic in the Northwest.⁸
- City playgrounds and sports courts are closed, and bylaw officers are providing reminders about appropriate physical distancing.⁸

⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/first-nations-emergency-program-act-orders-for-covid-19-response>

⁶ <https://www.fnha.ca/AboutSite/NewsAndEventsSite/NewsSite/Documents/FNHA-Coronavirus-Info-Important-Steps-for-Communities-to-Take.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Accessing-Personal-Protective-Equipment-for-First-Nations-Communities.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.terrace.ca/discover-terrace/news/2020-03-27-covid-19-update-city-terrace>

Latest Advice and Measures in British Columbia (cont.)

Smithers

- The Smithers Regional Airport will remain open to Charter flights and Medevac flights, but Air Canada has suspended flights until May.⁹
- All Town-owned parks, playgrounds and tennis courts are closed to the public.⁹
- The Municipal Hall reception counter remain open but public visitors must maintain social distancing and are not permitted into employee only areas.⁹

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- On March 27th, the Government of Yukon declared a state of emergency under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*, preparing the government to take rapid action if needed, and allow for easier deployment of resources.¹⁰
 - Yukoners flying into Canada **with symptoms** must quarantine at their arrival destination for 14 days before travelling home to the Yukon.¹¹ This is aligned with federal regulations under the Quarantine Act.¹²
 - Yukoners flying into Canada **who do not have symptoms**, must self-isolate for 14 days when they arrive home.¹³
 - Everyone arriving in Yukon, via land or air, must self-isolate for 14 days.¹³
 - This includes workers at Placer or Hard Rock mines, exploration camps or conducting any other business or duty associated with the mining and exploration industry. Workers cannot carry out their regular duties in a camp or at a mine while they're self-isolating.¹³
- The Territory's dental practices are to suspend all non-urgent treatment until further notice.¹³

Whitehorse

- On March 26, Whitehorse has restricted maximum transit ridership in the city at 12 to align with social distancing guidelines.¹⁴

Watson Lake

- No COVID-19 information for this community is currently available.

⁹ <http://www.smithers.ca/news/detail/news-releases-covid-19-updates>

¹⁰ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/yukon-declares-state-emergency-response-covid-19>

¹¹ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/march-27-2020-yukons-chief-medical-officer-health-provides-update-covid-19>

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/03/new-order-makes-self-isolation-mandatory-for-individuals-entering-canada.html>

¹³ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/march-27-2020-yukons-chief-medical-officer-health-provides-update-covid-19>

¹⁴ <https://www.whitehorse.ca/residents/covid-19>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN THE REST OF CANADA

- Under the *COVID-19 Economic Response Plan* the following initiatives are being provided by the federal government:¹⁵
 - For individuals and families:
 - Increasing the Canada Child Benefit
 - Special Goods and Services Tax credit payment
 - Extra time to file income tax returns
 - Mortgage support
 - For people facing unemployment:
 - The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) for those with low incomes:
 - A taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months to support workers who lose their income as of result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Available to Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, taking care of someone who is sick, parents, and workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation.
 - For people who are sick, quarantined, in directed self-isolation or are unable to work:
 - The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)
 - Improved access to Employment Insurance sickness benefits
 - For BC First Nations \$41.1 million through the Indigenous Community Support Fund.¹⁶ This fund may be used to address immediate needs and support:
 - Elders and vulnerable community members
 - Measures to address food insecurity
 - Education and other support for children
 - Mental health assistance and emergency response services
 - Preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19
 - Regional, urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations will receive access to a separate \$15 million through an upcoming call for proposals on the Indigenous Community Support Fund webpage.

¹⁵ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585189335380/1585189357198>

Latest Advice and Measures in the Rest of Canada (cont.)

- As of 9am Pacific Time, Monday, March 30th, travel will be restricted for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms on domestic flights and inter-city trains. This includes a requirement for all air operators to:¹⁷
 - Conduct a health check of travellers before they board a flight within Canada or departing from Canada.
 - Refuse boarding to a passenger that presents COVID-19 symptoms.

The same above requirements apply for inter-city passenger rail companies and passengers (commuter trains excluded).

- On March 27th the Government announced additional support for businesses including:¹⁸
 - Deferring Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) remittances and customs duty payments to June 30, 2020.
 - Deferral of Customs Duty and Sales Tax for Importers; payment deadlines for statements of accounts for March, April, and May are being deferred to June 30, 2020.
 - Launch of the new Canada Emergency Business Account which is a \$25 billion program will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits.
 - New loan guarantee and co-lending programs for small and medium-sized businesses.
 - CRA suspending audit activities.
- The Prime Minister announced a 75% wage subsidy to support small and medium businesses with the intent that they retain or rehire employees for the duration of the crisis.¹⁹
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs organized a call with several international counterparts.²⁰ At this meeting principles agreed upon included:
 - The importance of maintaining the flow of essential goods and supplies.
 - The need to preserve maritime routes and air bridges.

This summary was compiled by [CCEM Strategies Ltd.](#) at the request of the 3 Nations Society.

¹⁷ <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-new-domestic-transportation-measures.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/additional-support-for-canadian-businesses-from-the-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html>

¹⁹ <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/27/prime-minister-announces-support-small-businesses-facing-impacts>

²⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-partners-on-covid-19.html>