

3 NATIONS COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE – 29 MARCH 2020

COVID-19 CASE COUNTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE YUKON

**Note – updates to the Case Counts for BC and Yukon were not published today. The numbers are current as of March 28.

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 <https://yukon.ca/en/novel-coronavirus>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- The provincial government is providing a \$3-million emergency grant to Food Banks British Columbia.² Food Banks British Columbia will distribute the money province-wide to support:
 - Immediate needs to buy and distribute food.
 - Pay employees.
 - Other costs essential to the delivery of their food programs.
- The Provincial Health Officer and the BC government provided grocery and retail food stores with clarification on how to operate during the pandemic. While these stores are not ordered to follow the mandate of 50 persons or less in a gathering, they are being asked to take the following precautions:³
 - Enhancing the premise's sanitation plan and schedule, and ensuring staff are practising proper hygiene.
 - Placing hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% ethyl alcohol in dispensers near doors, pay stations and other high-touch locations.
 - Ensuring washrooms are always well stocked with liquid soap and paper towels, and that warm running water is available.
 - Providing clean carry-out bags for purchased food and grocery products; customers should not use their own containers, reusable bags or boxes.
 - Ensuring cones or tape markers are in place every two metres to provide customers with visible queues that support physical distancing.
 - Not sell bulk items, except via gravity feed bins or where staff dispense the bulk items.
- The Province is introducing new guidelines for school leaders and a new website to support B.C.'s K-12 students while in-class education is suspended.⁴
- 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 informative documents:⁵
 - For community leaders:
 - <https://www.fnha.ca/AboutSite/NewsAndEventsSite/NewsSite/Documents/FNHA-Coronavirus-Info-Important-Steps-for-Communities-to-Take.pdf>
 - FAQs for individuals:
 - <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>
- The First Nations Health Authority has an application form for communities to request Personal Protective Equipment such as hand sanitizer, masks and gloves.⁶
 - <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-COVID-19-BC-First-Nations-Community-Guide-for-Additional-Supports-Needed.pdf>

² <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0049-000583>

³ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMB0015-000587>

⁴ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0026-000580>

⁵ <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus>

⁶ <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Accessing-Personal-Protective-Equipment-for-First-Nations-Communities.pdf>

Terrace

- No updates from the City of Terrace since March 27th
- The City of Terrace activated their Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on March 12th where city staff have been in constant contact with the province.⁷

Smithers

- No updates from Smithers since March 26th when a FAQ was released. It is available here:⁸
 - http://www.smithers.ca/uploads/2020-08_COVID-19_UPDATE_FREQUENTLY_ASKED_QUESTIONS.pdf

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No update since March 27th when the Government of Yukon declared a state of emergency under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*.⁹
 - Several orders were implemented to ensure adherence to the federal regulations under the *Quarantine Act* regarding travel back to Canada and back to the Yukon.¹⁰ The orders require self-isolation for 14 days upon arrival for those individuals who **do not have symptoms of COVID-19**, and a 14-day quarantine for arriving travelers **with COVID-19 symptoms**.

Whitehorse

- No updates from Whitehorse since March 26th when transit ridership in the city was limited to 12 people to align with social distancing guidelines.¹¹

Watson Lake

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

⁷ <https://www.terrace.ca/discover-terrace/news/2020-03-27-covid-19-update-city-terrace>

⁸ <http://www.smithers.ca/news/detail/news-releases-covid-19-updates>

⁹ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/yukon-declares-state-emergency-response-covid-19>

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/03/new-order-makes-self-isolation-mandatory-for-individuals-entering-canada.html>

¹¹ <https://www.whitehorse.ca/residents/covid-19>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN THE REST OF CANADA

- The Prime Minister announced this morning new financial measures to support vulnerable Canadians:¹²
 - \$157.5 million to address the needs of Canadians experiencing homelessness.
 - \$50 million to women’s shelters and sexual assault centres.
 - \$7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide young people with mental health support.
 - \$9 million through United Way Canada for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors.
- As of 9am, Monday March 30th, travel will be restricted for anyone with Covid-19 symptoms on domestic flights and inter-city trains.¹³
- Under the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan the following initiatives are being provided by the federal government:¹⁴
 - For BC First Nations \$41.1 million through the Indigenous Community Support Fund. This fund may be used to support: Elders and vulnerable community members; food insecurity; education and support for children; mental health assistance and emergency response services; preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - 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 available to those 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.
 - For people who are sick, quarantined, in directed self-isolation or are unable to work the CERB and improved access to Employment Insurance sickness benefits.
 - 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.
- 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.¹⁵

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

¹² <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/29/prime-minister-announces-support-vulnerable-canadians-affected-covid>

¹³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-new-domestic-transportation-measures.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

¹⁵ <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-new-domestic-transportation-measures.html>