

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE – 17 April 2020

*The information contained in this report is based on recent updates and current information available at the time the report was finalized. It is not inclusive of all actions or measures taken to date by health officials provincially or locally.*

### COVID-19 CASE COUNTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE YUKON

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN BC<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of April 16</b>	<b>As of April 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Currently hospitalized in BC	120	119	-1
Currently in intensive care	56	52	-4
Total deaths in BC	78	78	0
Total recovered in BC	983	966*	-28
<b>Total Confirmed Cases in BC</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>43</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of April 16</b>	<b>As of April 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	670	680	10
Fraser Health	630	661	31
Island Health	94	94	0
Interior Health	149	150	1
Northern Health	32	33	1
<b>Total Confirmed Cases in BC</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Total individuals tested in BC</b>	<b>59,185</b>	<b>60,668</b>	<b>1,284**</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of April 15</b>	<b>As of April 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Total individuals tested</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total confirmed cases</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
Recovered cases	6	7	1
Negative results	823	839	16
Pending results	10	4	-6

\*Recovery criteria for Vancouver Health Authority have been updated to more accurately reflect recovery. New methods include consideration for specific patient symptomology. This has resulted in the decrease in patients considered recovered<sup>4</sup>

\*\*The number presented by BCCDC of new individuals tested (1,284) is different than the variance between the reported number of total tests completed for the past two days (1,483).

\*\*\*Other errors that occurred in the April 16 data have been corrected.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

<sup>2</sup> <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

<sup>3</sup> <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0133-000713>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0133-000713>

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- The Province has published new modelling data on the COVID-19 outbreak. Some key findings of this work include:
  - BC’s epidemic curve has been well below projections based on other jurisdictions’ experience and data.
  - BC’s COVID-19 cases have plateaued and started to decline.
  - Deaths continue to be seen particularly amongst those who are elderly and/or frail.
  - BC’s actual case rate and actual intensive care unit (ICU) admission rate has been far below what was potential based on other jurisdictions’ experience and data.
  - BC is experiencing a slowing in the rate of new diagnoses and stabilization of COVID-19 patients in hospital/ICU.
  - This difference between what could have been and what has happened is because of the collective action of BC citizens.
  - This slowdown is due to public health action, not herd immunity – and what happens next will also be due to public health action. This is an important message.
  - A summary of the data can be found here:
    - [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19\\_Update\\_Modelling-BROADCAST.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Update_Modelling-BROADCAST.pdf)
- Developed in collaboration with B.C. educators, the Ministry of Education and University of British Columbia and mental health professionals the free, virtual WE Well-being program was recently launched as part of the new WE Schools @home program.<sup>6</sup>
  - Accessible for grades K-12 in both English and French, the program is aimed at youth who are experiencing anxiety and social isolation.
  - It places a special emphasis on WE Well-being online learning, including social-emotional learning and resiliency.
  - Provides educators with curriculum resources for students in elementary schools that cover self-awareness and personal responsibility, with plans to expand to high schools.
  - Also available to parents and caregivers is the new EASE (Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators) at Home program.
    - Activities focus on tips and strategies parents can use with their children to create calming routines, help them talk about difficult emotions and manage their anxiety.
    - Kits have been developed for grades K-3 and 4-7 and provide five weeks of activities, with a different game or story for each day.
    - Activities are research based and proven to help younger children calm themselves, learn relaxation techniques and understand their worries.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0029-000709>

## Terrace

- No significant updates from the City of Terrace.

## Smithers

- No significant updates from the Town of Smithers.

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley has shared the following updates on measures being taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>7</sup>
  - Each case in Yukon so far can be traced to its origin and there continues to be no known community transmission in the territory.
  - The Chief Medical Officer of Health office is continually re-examining the testing strategy for Yukon to ensure there are mechanisms in place to protect the territory's most vulnerable citizens as well as to look for signs of community transmission.
  - Within the next couple of weeks Yukon expects to have a GeneXpert rapid test kit set up and running.
    - This will be for testing within a hospital setting rather than for general use and can provide results quickly on site.
  - The Government of Yukon will also continue to send tests to the BC Centre for Disease Control by air transport.
  - The Government of Yukon has produced a new guide called *Guidance for the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in Communal Living Settings* to help operators prevent and manage COVID-19 in communal settings such as homeless shelters, women's shelters, youth shelters, transition homes, group homes and hostels.
    - The guidance includes topics such as education, cleaning, personal protective equipment and monitoring and reporting.
- Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health has directed that the Government of Yukon to reduce the number of children in licensed childcare spaces while ensuring that those childcare services are available to critical or essential workers who are currently performing vital services.<sup>8</sup>
  - Yukoners whose occupations are not considered critical or essential are not permitted to use licensed childcare spaces at this time.
  - Licensed childcare will continue to be available for children with parents or guardians that are employed as critical or essential service workers, and for vulnerable families.
- A new Border Control Measures Order to strengthen enforcement at all Yukon borders during the COVID-19 emergency is now in force.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/april-17-2020-yukons-chief-medical-officer-health-provides-update-covid-19>

<sup>8</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/licensed-child-care-spaces-available-critical-and-essential-services-workers>

<sup>9</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/new-border-control-measures-come-force>

- Entry into Yukon is permitted for individuals providing acceptable evidence to an enforcement officer that they are:
  - Yukon residents
  - Non-resident family members of Yukon residents
  - Delivering a critical or essential service
  - Transiting through Yukon to a neighbouring jurisdiction (24-hour limitation);
  - Exercising an aboriginal or treaty right (for the time needed to exercise the right)

## Whitehorse

- No significant updates from the city of Whitehorse.

## Watson Lake

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

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- This morning the Prime Minister announced the government is:<sup>10</sup>
  - Investing \$1.7 billion to clean up orphaned or inactive wells in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan.
    - This includes up to \$120 million to the Government of British Columbia
  - Establishing a \$750 million emission reduction fund with a focus on methane.
  - These two initiatives are estimated to support 10,000 jobs.
  - \$1.7 billion to protect Canadian jobs and provide more support to businesses and organizations dealing with the economic impacts of COVID-19, including:
    - \$675 million to give financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures, through Canada's Regional Development Agencies.
    - \$287 million to support rural businesses and communities, by providing them with access to capital through the Community Futures Network.
    - \$500 million to establish a COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations to help affected organizations within these sectors.
    - \$250 million to assist innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access existing COVID-19 business support, through the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program.
    - \$20.1 million in support for Futurpreneur Canada to continue to support young entrepreneurs across Canada who are facing challenges due to COVID-19.
  - More information on this morning's announcement is available here:
    - <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-new-support-to-protect-canadian-jobs.html>

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<sup>10</sup> J. Trudeau via live press conference 08:30 4/17/2020

- The Minister of Transport has announced new measures requiring all air passengers to have a removable, non-medical mask or face covering to cover their mouth and nose during travel.<sup>11</sup>
  - These measures come into effect at noon EDT on April 20, 2020.
  - Marine passengers are encouraged to wear non-medical masks or face coverings whenever possible. Passengers could also be denied boarding by operators who can act to maintain safety of their operations.
  - Transport Canada is issuing guidance to ask passenger rail carriers to require travelers to wear a non-medical mask or face covering during their voyage when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
  - Passengers travelling by rail or motor carrier/bus modes of transportation are also strongly encouraged to wear non-medical masks or face coverings as much as possible.
    - Passengers may be asked by the transportation operator to cover their noses and mouths when physical distancing is not possible.
- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$1 million in new funding to connect workers with in-demand jobs in the agri-food sector to keep the nation's supply chains strong and store shelves stocked during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>12</sup>
- On April 16<sup>th</sup> the Minister of Indigenous Services, Marc Miller, issued a statement to announce that the Ministry:<sup>13</sup>
  - Recognizes the public health risks of holding an election during a pandemic and are working to ensure there are no gaps in governance.
  - Recommends that First Nations with upcoming elections not proceed with elections at this time, due to the current public health risks associated with large gatherings.
  - Have introduced a temporary regulatory option, the First Nations Election Cancellation and Postponement Regulations, that will allow First Nations leaders to continue exercising their roles and duties within their communities for up to six months, with a potential extension for an additional six months.
  - Recognizes that the final decision to hold or postpone their election ultimately lies with community leadership.

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

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/04/use-of-non-medical-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-canadian-transportation-system.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/04/canada-and-ontario-supporting-agri-food-sector-supply-chain-during-covid-19.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/04/statement-by-the-minister-of-indigenous-services-on-the-first-nations-election-cancellation-and-postponement-regulations-prevention-of-diseases-com.html>