

3 NATIONS COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE – 23 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

STATUS OF CASES IN BC¹	As of April 22	As of April 23	Change
Currently hospitalized in BC	103	103	0
Currently in intensive care	46	44	-2
Total deaths in BC	90	94	4
Total recovered in BC	1,079	1,092	83
Total Confirmed Cases in BC	1,795	1,824	29

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of April 22	As of April 23	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	745	755	10
Fraser Health	747	760	13
Island Health	110	111	1
Interior Health	153	156	3
Northern Health	40	42	2
Total Confirmed Cases in BC	1,795	1,824	29
Total individuals tested in BC	66,977	68,553	1,576*

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of April 22	As of April 23	Change
Total individuals tested	878	881	3
Total confirmed cases	11	11	0
Recovered cases	8	8	0
Negative results	851	862	11
Pending results	16	8	-8

* The BCCDC has reported '1,440 new tests' but this does not align with the difference between statistics released for April 22nd and 23rd.

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

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

³ <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, the provincial government announced that the \$1,000 B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers (BCEBW) is opening on May 1, 2020 for British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected by COVID-19.⁴
 - The BCEBW is a one-time, tax-free \$1,000 payment.
 - To be eligible for the BCEBW, people must:
 - Have been a resident of British Columbia on March 15, 2020;
 - Meet the eligibility requirements for the CERB;
 - Have been approved for the CERB, even if they have not received a benefit yet;
 - Be at least 15 years old on the date of application;
 - Have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return; and
 - Not be receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance.
- Today, the First Nations Health Authority shared some information for supporting land-based wellness and healing during the ongoing COVID-19 situation.⁵ This includes:
 - amendments to the Land-based Treatment and Healing Program for both sub-regional pilot projects and community grants.
 - Communities may amend projects to align with the requirements of social distancing and to support communities in land-based healing during this critical time.
 - Ideas for supporting land-based healing during the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Support local knowledge keepers to provide online classes/workshops with:
 - Storytelling
 - Language/Song/Drumming Lessons
 - online ceremonies, teachings, prayers, songs
 - Development of online land-based skill shares
 - Develop land-based curriculum and resources for children, youth, and adults to supplement existing programs once restrictions are lifted.
 - Support land-based isolation activities and food security.
 - Support land-based healing by encouraging and supporting community members to spend time out on the land.
 - Plan ahead for warmer days
 - Utilize funds in creative ways, for example, honorariums to knowledge keepers, gas cards, buying camping supplies, canoes, fishing tackle, etc.
 - Support individuals with addiction or in recovery to access the land for healing combined with cultural and mental wellness supports.
- On April 22nd the Province of B.C. announced that:
 - Companies, societies, and co-operatives will be allowed to meet electronically during the Province's state of emergency.⁶
 - Funding will be distributed through Community Living BC (CLBC) to ensure people with developmental disabilities stay supported and safe during the pandemic.⁷

⁴ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0023-000743>

⁵ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/good-medicine-ideas-for-supporting-land-based-healing-and-wellness-during-the-pandemic>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0022-000733>

⁷ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0013-000730>

- \$35.6 million will be available over three months from CLBC to support service providers to continue delivering residential services, including group homes, home sharing and supported independent living.

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

- The Government of Yukon has extended the deadline for property tax payments from July 2 to September 2, 2020 for citizens and businesses.⁸

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

- Today, the Prime Minister announced more than \$1 billion in support for a national medical research strategy to fight COVID-19 that includes vaccine development, the production of treatments, and tracking of the virus.⁹ This includes:
 - The establishment of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force that will operate under the direction of a leadership group, which will include Dr. David Naylor, Dr. Catherine Hankins, Dr. Tim Evans, Dr. Theresa Tam, and Dr. Mona Nemer.
 - The task force will establish priorities and oversee the coordination of a series of country-wide blood test surveys that will tell us how widely the virus has spread in Canada and provide reliable estimates of potential immunity and vulnerabilities in Canadian populations.
 - \$40 million for the Canadian COVID-19 Genomics Network (CanCOGeN), led by Genome Canada, to coordinate a COVID-19 viral and host genome sequencing effort across Canada. This research will help track the virus, its different strains, and how it makes people sick in different ways, providing valuable information to public health authorities and decision-makers as they put in place measures to control the pandemic.
 - \$23 million for the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) to accelerate development of a vaccine against COVID-19. This funding will support pre-clinical testing and clinical trials of a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

⁸ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/property-tax-payment-deadline-extended-september-2>

⁹ <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/23/prime-minister-announces-new-support-covid-19-medical-research-and>

- \$29 million for the National Research Council of Canada to begin the second phase of critical upgrades to its Human Health Therapeutics facility in Montréal.
 - \$600 million, through the Strategic Innovation Fund, over two years to support COVID-19 vaccine and therapy clinical trials led by the private sector, and Canadian biomanufacturing opportunities.
 - \$10 million for a Canadian data monitoring initiative so we can coordinate and share pandemic-related data across the country to enhance Canada’s response to COVID-19.
 - \$10.3 million over two years, and \$5 million ongoing, to support the Canadian Immunization Research Network in conducting vaccine-related research and clinical trials, and to enhance Canada’s capacity to monitor vaccine safety and effectiveness.
 - \$114.9 million through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for research projects that will accelerate the development, testing, and implementation of medical and social countermeasures to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19, as well as its social and health impacts.
- On April 22nd the Prime Minister announced \$9 billion in financial aid for post-secondary students and recent graduates affected by COVID-19.¹⁰

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

¹⁰ <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/22/support-students-and-new-grads-affected-covid-19>