

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE – 12 May 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 federally, 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 May 11</b>	<b>As of May 12</b>	<b>Change</b>
Currently hospitalized in BC	66	63	-3
Currently in intensive care	18	16	-2
Total deaths in BC	130	131	1
Total recovered in BC	1,719	1,832	113
<b>Total confirmed cases in BC</b>	<b>2,353</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of May 11</b>	<b>As of May 11</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	873	874	1
Fraser Health	1,118	1,124	6
Island Health	125	125	0
Interior Health	180	180	0
Northern Health	57	57	0
<b>Total confirmed cases in BC</b>	<b>2,353</b>	<b>2,353</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total individuals tested in BC</b>	<b>111,498</b>	<b>112,994</b>	<b>*1,496</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of May 11</b>	<b>As of May 12</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Total individuals tested</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total confirmed cases</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
Recovered cases	11	11	0
Negative results	1,073	1,077	4
Pending results	10	18	8

\*The BCCDC has reported 1,122 new tests but this does not align with the difference in total test numbers between May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</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>

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- The Province of BC has announced a program to supply vulnerable people, including those experiencing homelessness, with smart phones to better connect them with services distributed by the social service organizations that support them.<sup>4</sup>
  - Through the Homelessness Community Action Grant program and a partnership with 7-Eleven, the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) has been able to secure 3,500 smartphones to be distributed by community organizations who provide services and support for vulnerable people.
  - The smartphones can connect to Wi-Fi and include a pre-loaded \$10 7-Eleven data card, so people have instant access to internet.
  - The smartphones provide vulnerable people better access to vital online resources and services, including arranging medication and safe supply delivery and virtual doctor meetings.
  - To date, 1,000 smartphones have been distributed, 200 of which will help ensure that people who transitioned from Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver and are transitioning from Pandora Avenue and Topaz Park encampments in Victoria have access to basic communication and the connections they need as they move into safer temporary accommodations.
  - SPARC BC will distribute the additional 2,500 smartphones to organizations and community response networks throughout the province.
- Today, a provincewide survey – called Your story, our future – has been launched to hear about personal experiences and actions in the COVID-19 pandemic so far.<sup>5</sup>
  - The survey can be accessed over the phone at 1-833-707-1900 (toll-free) or through the BC Centre for Disease Control website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>
  - The information gathered will help inform the decisions the Province makes in the weeks ahead.
  - The survey is also an opportunity to express interest in participating in two important future initiatives: serology blood testing to determine immunity in B.C. and using technology to co-ordinate information sharing for contact tracing.
- The B.C. government is providing \$300,000 to support the province’s farmers and food and beverage processors overcome some lost sales during the COVID-19 pandemic by moving their products online.
  - The funding is under the Ministry of Agriculture’s Buy BC Partnership Program.
  - It helps farmers, ranchers and food and beverage processors market their products as locally grown, raised, harvested or produced, making it easy for British Columbians to *Buy BC*.

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0028-000858>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0026-000866>

## 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

- Today the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley has provided the following update:<sup>6</sup>
  - While the number of cases of COVID-19 remains low, the statistics on new cases and testing will now be updated weekly, rather than daily.
  - With no new cases announced since April 20, we must work together to keep COVID-19 out of the territory. We can do this by continuing to control our borders and maintaining the requirement for people arriving in Yukon to self-isolate for 14 days.

## 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

- The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced a series of additional measures to help Canadian seniors and provide them with greater financial security in this time of crisis.<sup>7</sup> These measures include:
  - Providing additional financial support of \$2.5 billion for a one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).
  - This measure would give a total of \$500 to individuals who are eligible to receive both the OAS and the GIS, and will help them cover increased costs caused by COVID-19.
  - Expanding the New Horizons for Seniors Program with an additional investment of \$20 million to support organizations that offer community-based projects that reduce isolation, improve the quality of life of seniors, and help them maintain a social support network.
  - Temporarily extending GIS and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed.

<sup>6</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/may12-2020-covid-19-update>

<sup>7</sup> <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/12/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-canadian-seniors>

- This will ensure that the most vulnerable seniors continue to receive their benefits when they need them the most.
- To avoid an interruption in benefits, seniors are encouraged to submit their 2019 income information as soon as possible and no later than by October 1, 2020.
- The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) today announced a collaboration with CanSino Biologics Inc. (CanSinoBIO) to advance bioprocessing and clinical development in Canada of a candidate vaccine against COVID-19.<sup>8</sup>
  - Referred to as Ad5-nCoV, the vaccine candidate received Chinese regulatory approval earlier this year, allowing CanSino Biologics to move ahead with human clinical trials in China.
  - It is one of only a handful of vaccine candidates in the world against COVID-19 so far approved for initial safety testing in humans, and was the first candidate vaccine to begin conducting Phase II human clinical trials.
  - This collaboration will allow the NRC to advance a scale-up production process for the vaccine candidate, using its proprietary HEK293 cell line.
  - As a preparatory step, the Government of Canada has already announced \$44 million in funding to support upgrades to the NRC's facilities in Montreal to enable compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards, to ensure readiness for Canadian bioprocessing of potential vaccine candidates as they become available.
- The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) today announced a collaboration to work together to accelerate the development and production of a candidate COVID-19 antigen in mammalian cells.<sup>9</sup>
  - VIDO-InterVac has identified a recombinant protein antigen that will serve as a primary part of a vaccine candidate against COVID-19.
  - The antigen against COVID-19 has been produced at laboratory scale, and animal studies at VIDO-InterVac are ongoing to determine the effectiveness of the laboratory-scale antigen.
  - The NRC will now explore the use of its proprietary HEK293 mammalian cells to develop a robust and efficient process to scale up production of the vaccine antigen for future pre-clinical and clinical studies.
- The Government is announcing, effective immediately, a new, temporary policy that will drastically reduce the time it takes for a temporary foreign worker to start a new job.<sup>10</sup>
  - With this policy a worker who is already in Canada and has secured a new job offer can get approval to start working in their new job, even while their work permit application is being fully processed.

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

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/national-research-council/news/2020/05/the-national-research-council-of-canada-and-cansino-biologics-inc-announce-collaboration-to-advance-vaccine-against-covid-19.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/national-research-council/news/2020/05/the-national-research-council-of-canada-and-usasks-vido-intervac-collaborate-to-advance-development-of-vaccine-against-covid-19.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/05/government-announces-help-for-employers-to-meet-their-labour-needs.html>