

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE – 15 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 14</b>	<b>As of May 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Currently hospitalized in BC	58	51	-7
Currently in intensive care	12	12	0
Total deaths in BC	135	140	5
Total recovered in BC	1,885	1,908	23
<b>Total confirmed cases in BC</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of May 14</b>	<b>As of May 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	878	878	0
Fraser Health	1,149	1,164	15
Island Health	126	126	0
Interior Health	181	181	0
Northern Health	58	58	0
<b>Total confirmed cases in BC</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total individuals tested in BC</b>	<b>116,764</b>	<b>118,335</b>	<b>*1,571</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of May 14</b>	<b>As of May 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Total individuals tested</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total confirmed cases</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
Recovered cases	11	11	0
Negative results	1,098	1,102	4
Pending results	10	11	1

\*The BCCDC has reported 1,839 new tests but this does not align with the difference in total test numbers between May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<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 has released of the initial set of WorkSafeBC guidelines that will help businesses and organizations develop their plans to reopen safely in Phase 2.<sup>4</sup>
  - WorkSafeBC has released industry-specific guidelines and resources for the following sectors:
    - Restaurants, cafes and pubs
    - Salons and personal services
    - Museums, art galleries and libraries, real estate
    - Education
    - Health services
    - Retail
    - In-person counselling
    - Parks and outdoor spaces
    - Office space
  - Businesses in all sectors are required to use these guidelines and resources to develop their COVID-19 safety plans and post those plans for employees and customers as they resume operations.
  - Businesses in sectors under health orders limiting service (such as restaurants, pubs, salons and personal services) will not be able to open until those orders are lifted or modified.
- The Province has announced that in Phase 2 parents will have the choice of bringing their children back to class on a part-time basis this school year.<sup>5</sup>
  - The number of students in school each day will be reduced, with most receiving in-class instruction part time.
  - School districts will determine scheduling for classes and transportation arrangements.
  - For kindergarten to Grade 5, most students will go to school half time (such as alternating days), while grades 6 to 12 will go to school about one day a week.
  - Children of essential service workers and students needing additional supports will have the option to attend school full time.
  - Families that decide not to send their children to class may continue learning from home.
  - All boards of education and independent school authorities will be required to implement strict provincial health officer and WorkSafeBC health and safety measures to reduce the risk COVID-19 transmission.
    - Each school district and independent school must have its return-to-class and safety plans approved by the ministry before moving to the next stage.
    - The plans will be posted on each district's website for families to access.
    - School leaders will contact families to make arrangements for children to return to in-class instruction.

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020LBR0015-000895>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0026-000890>

- If parents have not heard from their schools by May 22, 2020, they are asked to contact their principal.
- Parents and caregivers are advised to follow the schedule provided for their child to ensure a safe and orderly restart.
- The Ministry of Education has developed a five-stage approach to operate schools, depending on risk of transmission.
- Schools will also have plans in place for each stage, ensuring they are ready to make changes if there is a risk of transmission, a second wave or a community outbreak.
- The Province has the goal of returning to full-time classes in September 2020, provided it is safe to do so.
- The Provincial Government has announced that agriculture, seafood, and food processing businesses in British Columbia can begin to access consulting and planning services to help with COVID-19 response and recovery, through B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program.<sup>6</sup>
  - The program is open to applications and has been expanded to include aquaculture and seafood companies in developing COVID-19 business recovery plans.
  - B.C. agriculture, seafood and food processing business owners are encouraged to apply if their revenues have decreased by at least 30% as a result of COVID-19.
  - The funding available includes up to \$5,000 in business planning services and coaching for individuals, and up to \$20,000 for groups, from a qualified business consultant, to develop an immediate and long-term recovery plan.
  - Eligible applicants may also apply to the specialized business planning stream of the program to further strengthen their business.
  - Funding for activities related to fish, seafood and aquaculture companies will be provided by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture through the B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program.

## 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 and the Chief Medical Officer of Health have released *A Path Forward: Yukon's plan for lifting COVID-19 restrictions*.<sup>7</sup>
  - *A Path Forward* presents a gradual and phased approach to lifting COVID-19 restrictions, with a focus on protecting communities and vulnerable residents, and on preventing the re-introduction and spread of COVID-19 in Yukon.
  - The plan lays out the principles that will guide decisions on easing restrictions.

<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AGRI0018-000886>

<sup>7</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/plan-ease-covid-19-restrictions-released-start-phase-i>

- They are based on public health advice and best practices across Canada adapted to fit Yukon’s local context.
- Phase I: Restart of A Path Forward begins today, following the easing of certain restrictions already announced during the previous “response phase” of the plan.
- The easing of restrictions is spread out over a number of phases.
- Moving to subsequent phases depends on meeting a set of clear criteria and conditions, including:
  - community engagement
  - keeping the “6 steps to staying safe” preventative measures in place
  - controlling importation risk through border restrictions
  - maintaining health system and public health capacity
  - and continuing close monitoring of the current spread of the virus in and outside Yukon.
- Decisions around the timing for moving between phases in the plan will depend on risk assessment and the ongoing evaluation of success in maintaining stability and security at each phase.
- Continued border controls are a key part of the plan.
  - With no active cases in the territory, importation of COVID-19 remains Yukon’s greatest risk.
  - By mitigating that risk and helping to ensure that COVID-19 does not enter the territory, it will be easier to relax restrictions for residents inside the territory.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to meet with First Nations governments and municipal governments to discuss the public health details and collaborate on the other aspects of the plan and ongoing response to COVID-19.
- All employers are now required to complete a COVID-19 Operational Plan to identify hazards and mitigate risks for staff and the public.
- Any organization wishing to have the plans of their event or activity reviewed by public health professionals can submit the details using an online form.
- Restaurants will continue to be restricted to take-out only pending additional public health assessment and the development of an approved COVID-19 Operational Plan by restaurant operators.
- Territorial campgrounds are on track to open on June 4 but remain closed at this time.
- Until there is a vaccine or effective and accessible treatments identified, measures will need to remain in place to limit the risk of infection in Yukon.

## **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 \$450 million in funding to help Canada's academic research community during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>8</sup> The investment will:
  - Provide wage supports to universities and health research institutes, so they can retain research staff who are funded from industry or philanthropic sources and are unable to access some of the government's existing COVID-19 support measures. This would apply even if their work has been temporarily suspended. The government will provide up to 75 per cent per individual, with a maximum of \$847 per week.
  - Support universities and health research institutes to maintain essential research-related activities during the crisis, and to ramp back up to full research operations once physical distancing measures are lifted. This will cover up to 75 per cent of total eligible costs and will support activities such as the safe storage of dangerous substances, and restarting data sets that were interrupted during the pandemic.
- Finance Minister Bill Morneau has announced that the Government of Canada will extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) by an additional 12 weeks to August 29, 2020.<sup>9</sup>
  - Minister Morneau also announced the approval of regulations to extend eligibility for the CEWS to the following groups:
    - Indigenous government-owned corporations that are carrying on a business, as well as partnerships where the partners are Indigenous governments and eligible employers
    - Indigenous government-owned corporations that are carrying on a business, as well as partnerships where the partners are Indigenous governments and eligible employersPartnerships that are up to 50-per-cent owned by non-eligible members
    - Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Associations
    - Registered Journalism Organizations;
    - Non-public colleges and schools, including institutions that offer specialized services, such as arts schools, driving schools, language schools or flight schools.
  - The Government also intends to propose legislative amendments to ensure that the CEWS continues to meet its objectives. These proposed amendments would:
    - Provide flexibility for employers of existing employees who were not regularly employed in early 2020, such as seasonal employees.
    - Ensure that the CEWS applies appropriately to corporations formed on the amalgamation of two predecessor corporations.
    - Better align the treatment of trusts and corporations for the purpose of determining CEWS eligibility.

<sup>8</sup> <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/15/prime-minister-announces-support-research-staff-canada>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2020/05/government-extends-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

- Today, the Minister of National Revenue is announcing that benefit payments will continue for an additional three months for those who are not able to file their 2019 returns on time.<sup>10</sup>
  - Eligible Canadians who are presently receiving the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) credit and/or the Canada child benefit (CCB) will continue to receive these payments until the end of September 2020.
  - If 2019 tax returns are not received and assessed by early September 2020, estimated benefits and/or credits will stop in October 2020 and the taxpayer will have to repay the estimated amounts that were issued as of July 2020.

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

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/05/benefits-payments-for-eligible-canadians-to-continue-until-fall-2020.html>