

3 NATIONS COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE – 6 July 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

STATUS OF CASES IN BC¹	As of July 3	As of July 6	Change
Currently hospitalized in BC	19	16	-3
Currently in intensive care	2	4	2
Total deaths in BC	177	183	6
Total recovered in BC	2,608	2,629	21
Total confirmed cases in BC	2,947	2,978	31*

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of July 3	As of July 6	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	995	1,008	13
Fraser Health	1,553	1,570	17
Island Health	132	132	0
Interior Health	202	203	1
Northern Health	65	65	0
Total confirmed cases in BC	2,947	2,978	31
Total individuals tested in BC	202,907	204,396	1,489

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of July 3	As of July 6	Change
Total individuals tested	1,295	1,306	11
Total confirmed cases	11	11	0
Recovered cases	11	11	0
Negative results	1,280	1,287	7
Pending results	4	8	4

*The BC Government reported 15 new COVID-19 cases July 1st, 9 new cases July 2nd, 13 new cases July 3rd, 9 new cases July 4th, 15 new cases July 5th, and 7 new cases July 6th (68 total).

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

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

³ <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE CASES IN CANADA⁴	As of June 29	As of July 3	Change
Total confirmed cases	297	312	15
Currently hospitalized	30	30	0
Total deaths in BC	6	6	0
Total recovered in BC	250	273	23
Total confirmed cases in BC	42	42	0

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) released data showing that the illicit drug toxicity crisis among BC First Nations individuals is rising this year.⁵
 - This spike in illicit drug toxicity deaths can be attributed to unintended consequences of COVID-19 safety measures that have resulted in:
 - Limited access to harm reduction resources for substance users.
 - An increase in individuals using substances alone.
 - A disruption to the drug supply, making the current supply more toxic.
 - Dr. Shannon McDonald, Acting Chief Medical Officer of the First Nations Health Authority stated:
 - “These numbers are telling us we need to do more to support our people with harm reduction and access to safe supply because the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing vulnerability to poisoned drugs.”
 - Judy Darcy, BC Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, stated:⁶
 - “We have learned that barriers can come down when health-care services are culturally safe and community led. Addressing the root causes and underlying factors of addiction is a key part of our shared work.”
 - “The Province, together with the FNHA, is making investments of \$40 million to build and renovate First Nations-run treatment centres throughout B.C.”
 - “Reconnecting to land, history and culture is the focus of an additional \$23 million that we are investing in land-based healing programs and services.”
 - “First Nations designed and delivered programs and services have also received \$30 million to flow directly to First Nations communities to meet their peoples’ needs in their communities.”
 - Dr. Bonnie Henry added:
 - “The increase in overdose deaths amongst Indigenous people in B.C. is deeply concerning. We need people living with substance use and addiction to know

⁴ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581964230816/1581964277298>

⁵ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-pandemic-sparks-surge-in-overdose-deaths-this-year>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0033-001225>

that there are still supports in place to keep people safe and prevent overdoses.”

- A summary of programs and actions taken by the FNHA to prevent overdoses in 2019-2020 can be found here:
<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-pandemic-sparks-surge-in-overdose-deaths-this-year>
- Today, the Government of BC announced that the Province is extending federal employment insurance (EI) exemptions and the provincial temporary Crisis Supplement.⁷
 - This will ensure people on income or disability assistance and low-income seniors will continue to have access to necessary supports during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - It should be noted:
 - For those who are not eligible for the federal benefits, the Province’s temporary COVID-19 Crisis Supplement will be extended another two months.
 - The \$300 Crisis Supplement will continue to be automatically applied to cheques distributed July 22 and August 26, 2020.
- On July 3, 2020, the Government of BC announced funding for 24 projects in Northern BC under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan.⁸
 - The funding is intended to build resilience in communities by:
 - Strengthening local economies during the pandemic.
 - Helping ensure access to services and cultural networks.
 - Examples of some projects include:
 - The Saulteau First Nations will build a new community centre to provide residents with a gathering space and fitness centre.
 - The Taku River Tlingit First Nation will build a new wastewater treatment facility to serve the community and surrounding Atlin area.
 - Various other projects including improvements to community centres, health centres, storm water management systems, drinking water, and wastewater facilities, cultural facilities, and social support hubs.
- On July 3, 2020, the Government of BC reminded passengers on BC’s inland Ferry System to adhere to Transport Canada’s COVID-19 safety protocols.⁹
 - This includes:
 - All passengers travelling by vehicle must remain in vehicle for the duration of the trip to help protect the safety of passengers and crew.
 - All COVID-19 safety guidelines are set by Transport Canada to reduce the risks of COVID-19 and are in effect until further notice.
 - Walk-on passengers, cyclists and motorcyclists with symptoms of COVID-19 are not permitted aboard the inland ferries.

⁷ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0036-001223>

⁸ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/canada-and-british-columbia-invest-in-infrastructure-in-northern-british-columbia-to-create-jobs-and>

⁹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TRAN0098-001211>

- On July 3, 2020, the Government of BC announced that the BC Business COVID-19 Support Service has served more than 4,200 businesses by phone, chat, and email since its launch in April 2020.¹⁰ This service provides:
 - Access to the various services offered by the provincial and federal governments, and industry and community partners, during the pandemic.
 - Free and low-cost resources to help businesses succeed, including webinars and customized business advice, and an online non-medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Marketplace.
 - For access to the BC Business COVID-19 Support Service, please visit: <https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca/hc/en-us>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Yukon Territory.

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, the Government of Canada announced that seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), or allowances, will receive a one-time, tax-free payment this week without needing to apply.¹¹
 - Seniors eligible for the OAS pension will receive a payment of \$300, and seniors also eligible for the GIS will receive an additional \$200, for a total of \$500.
- On July 2, 2020, the Government of Canada launched calls for proposals for Canada's forest sector to create and maintain jobs in First Nations and rural communities across the country.¹²
 - The calls for proposals have been launched for the following programs:
 - The Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT) Program to invest almost \$83 million to bridge the gap between new product development and commercialization and ensure a more competitive and resilient forest sector.
 - The Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI) to invest almost \$13 million to support Indigenous participation in forestry-related opportunities, businesses, careers, and governance.
 - The application process is now open and organizations are encouraged to apply at: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-data/funding-partnerships/funding-opportunities/forest-sector-funding-programs/13123>

¹⁰ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020JEDC0034-001218>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/07/canadian-seniors-to-receive-one-time-tax-free-payment-this-week.html>

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/07/support-for-canadas-forest-sector-economic-recovery.html>

- On July 2, 2020, the Government of Canada announced proposed amendments to the *Income Tax Regulations*.¹³
 - This would help employers who sponsor a Registered Pension Plan (RPP) or salary deferral leave plan for their employees to manage and maintain their benefit obligations through the crisis.
 - The proposed draft regulations will support the effective administration of such plans through the COVID-19 pandemic, providing temporary relief from various registration rules and other conditions that must be complied with under the Income Tax Regulations.
- On June 30, 2020, the Government of Canada extended until August 31st the Emergency Order for travellers entering Canada to undergo mandatory isolation and quarantine.¹⁴
 - It should be noted:
 - Anyone entering Canada whether by air, land, or sea, will continue to be required to isolate for 14 days, whether displaying COVID-19 symptoms or not.
 - For any individuals exempt from quarantine, a non-medical mask or face covering must be worn in public if physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Border measures restricting all non-essential travel, including tourism and recreation, across the Canada-US border remain in effect until July 21, 2020.

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

¹³<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/07/relief-measures-for-registered-pension-plans-and-deferred-salary-leave-plans.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/06/canada-extends-mandatory-requirements-under-the-quarantine-act-for-anyone-entering-canada.html>