

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 17 August 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 August 14	As of August 17	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	4,358	4,594	236*
Currently in intensive care	4	3	-1
Total deaths in BC	196	198	2
Total recovered in BC	3,533	3,653	120
Currently hospitalized in BC	12	4	-8

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of August 14	As of August 17	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	1,354	1,419	65
Fraser Health	2,276	2,425	149
Island Health	150	154	4
Interior Health	399	405	6
Northern Health	107	117	10
Total confirmed cases in BC	4,358	4,594	236*
Total individuals tested in BC	300,230	310,960	10,730

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of August 13	As of August 14	Change
Total individuals tested	2,112	2,156	44
Total confirmed cases	15	15	0
Recovered cases	15	14	0**
Negative results	2,037	2,083	46
Pending results	60	58	-2

*The BC Government reported 100 new COVID-19 cases August 15th, 88 cases August 16th and 48 cases August 17th (236 total). The discrepancy in Total Confirmed Cases in BC and the number of Confirmed Cases by Region is due to the method used to count epidemiologically linked cases.

** The Yukon has announced a correction for the August 13th results whereby the number of recovered cases has been updated to 14 from 15.

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 August 13	As of August 14	Change
Total confirmed cases	425	425	0
Currently hospitalized	34	34	0
Total deaths	6	6	0
Total recovered	399	399	0
Total confirmed cases in BC	68	68	0

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, the BC Government announced updates to the School District Operational Guidelines to ensure a consistent provincewide approach in keeping schools safe for all students, teachers, and staff this fall.⁵
 - Updates to the guidelines include:
 - Mask requirements for staff and students (excluding elementary students)
 - When in high traffic areas
 - When outside learning groups
 - Whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained
 - Exceptions to the mask requirements will only be made for medical reasons.
 - Physical distancing requirements will exist between learning groups.
 - Increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces.
 - Installation of transparent barriers, where appropriate.
 - Increased hand hygiene requirements.
 - The Province is providing an additional \$45.6 million to school districts for enhanced cleaning, handwashing stations, reusable masks, and other safety measures.
- Today, the BC Government announced the extension of the Province’s temporary COVID-19 Crisis Supplement for people on income or disability assistance and low-income seniors who are not receiving federal benefits like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶
 - The Supplement will be extended for an additional four months with \$300 automatically applied to cheques distributed September 23, October 21, November 18, and December 16, 2020.
 - No action is required from recipients to apply for this extension.

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Yukon Territory.

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

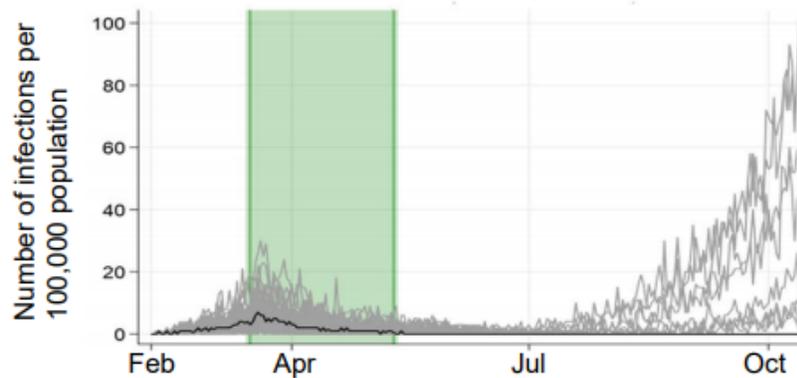
⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0045-001542>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0041-001511>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

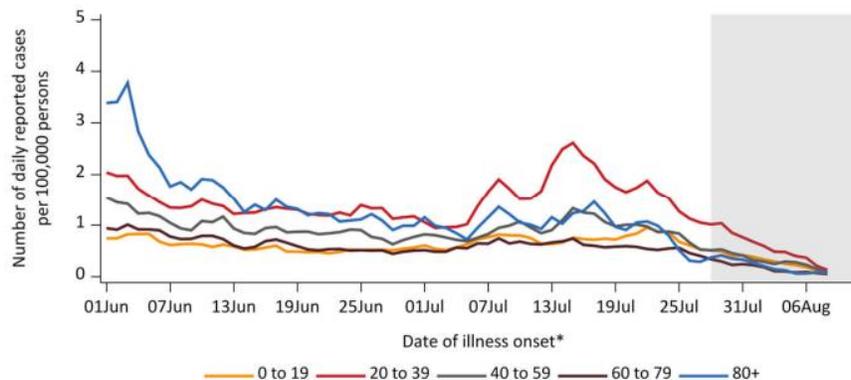
- On August 14th, the Government of Canada released new modelling data for COVID-19 in Canada:⁷ Findings from the modelling data include the following:
 - **Controls:** The number of Canadians infected over the course of the pandemic will depend on the degree to which we:
 - Rapidly detect and isolate cases.
 - Rapidly trace and quarantine contacts.
 - Adhere to physical distancing and personal protective measures.
 - Lifting population-based measures, including business and school closures, and stay at home requirements, without strengthening other controls will likely cause the epidemic to rebound (See *Figure 1*).

Figure 1: Controls: Lifting Population-based measures



- **Trends:** Since early July, the highest incidence of COVID-19 has been reported among individuals aged 20 to 39 years (See *Figure 2*).

Figure 2: Trends: Number of Cases per 100,000 population by date of illness onset and age group (3-day moving average)

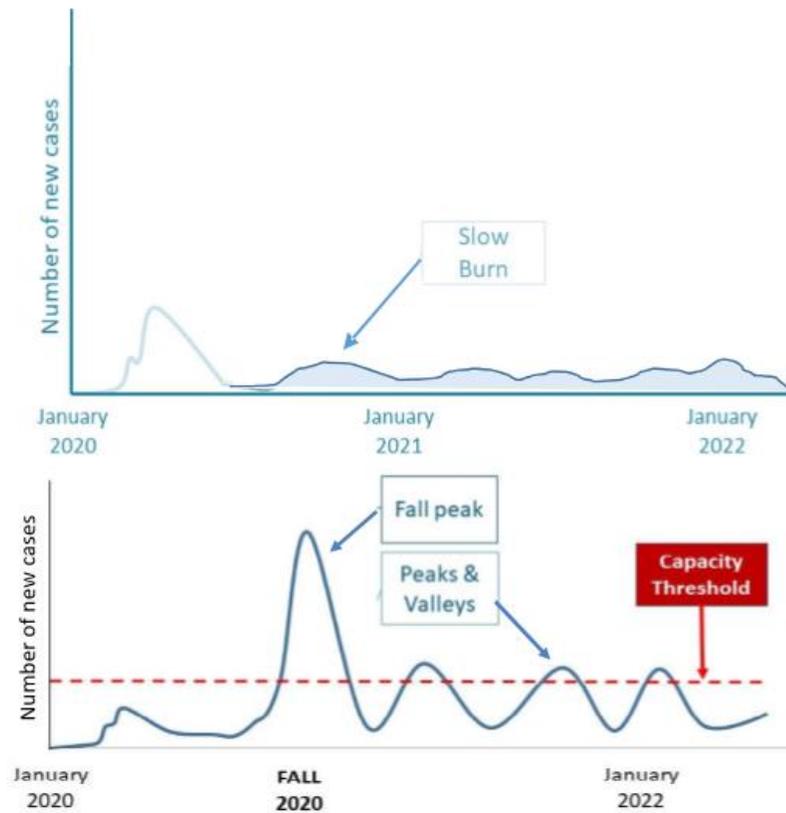


*Data as of August 11, 2020. Cases may not yet be reported in shaded area due to reporting lag.

⁷https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases-maladies/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/epidemiological-economic-research-data/update_covid_19_Canada_epidemiology_modelling_20200814.pdf

- **Modelling Scenarios:**
 - The Government of Canada is:
 - Aiming for the “Slow Burn” scenario whereby case rates are kept low and within the health and public health system’s capacity to manage.
 - Planning for the reasonable worst-case scenario comprised of a large “Fall Peak”, followed by ongoing “Peaks and Valleys” in which resource demands intermittently exceed the public health system’s capacity to manage (See Figure 3).

Figure 3: Modelling Scenarios: Best and Worst-Case Scenarios



- Other findings from the new modelling data include:
 - The Federal Government expects additional surges in case reporting moving forward as economic and social activities open.
 - Our collective responsibility is to limit their size and impact.

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, made the following statement regarding new modelling data that was released on August 14th:⁸
 - “Our epidemic modelling simulations, and the future scenarios that they predict, are influenced by the number of close contacts between individuals. The fewer close contacts people have, the lower the overall number of cases.”
 - “The shape of our national epidemic curve over time, including what impact COVID-19 might have this fall, will be influenced by our collective commitment and actions to keep infection rates low.”
 - “Our modelling shows us that public health authorities can’t control COVID-19 alone. Individual Canadians remain our first line of defense to limit the spread and impact of COVID-19.”
 - “Currently, our efforts indicate that we are keeping COVID-19 spread under manageable control but the virus is still circulating in Canada and we must not let down our guard.”
- Today, the Government of Canada announced that the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has released an online course, *Pandemic Planning: Reopening for Business*, to help organizations across Canada safely return to work during the pandemic.⁹
 - Topics covered in the course include:
 - Symptoms of COVID-19
 - Employer and worker duties
 - How to manage the workplace and prepare workers for a safe return.
- Today, Canada’s Minister of National Revenue, announced that the Canada Revenue Agency has opened applications for Period 5 of the enhanced Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).¹⁰ Enhancements to the CEWS Program include:
 - The extension of the CEWS, including redesigned program details, until November 21, 2020.
 - Increased eligibility, including eligible employers who have experienced a revenue drop can now qualify for a base subsidy.

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

⁸<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/08/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-august-17-2020.html>

⁹<https://www.canada.ca/en/centre-occupational-health-safety/news/2020/08/online-course-provides-guidance-on-returning-to-work-safely-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>

¹⁰<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/08/canada-revenue-agency-opens-applications-for-enhanced-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>