

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 25 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 24	As of August 25	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	5,184	5,242	58
Currently in intensive care	5	7	2
Total deaths in BC	203	203	0
Total recovered in BC	4,068	4,114	46
Currently hospitalized in BC	18	22	4
CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of August 24	As of August 25	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	1,651	1,683	32
Fraser Health	2,739	2,762	23
Island Health	166	168	2
Interior Health	425	425	0
Northern Health	127	128	1
Out of Canada	76	76	0
Total confirmed cases in BC	5,184	5,242	58
Total individuals tested in BC	336,726	338,756	2,030
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of August 24	As of August 25	Change
Total individuals tested	2,378	2,423	45
Total confirmed cases	15	15	0
Recovered cases	15	15	0
Negative results	2,249	2,356	107
Pending results	14	52	38

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 21	As of August 24	Change
Total confirmed cases	429	437	8
Currently hospitalized	35	35	0
Total deaths	6	6	0
Total recovered	409	411	2
Total confirmed cases in BC	70	71	1

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, released the following statement regarding COVID-19 in response to the BC Coroners Service’s monthly report on illicit drug toxicity deaths for July 2020:⁵
 - “COVID-19 measures continue to have devastating, unintended consequences for people who use substances. A heart-wrenching 175 people lost their lives in July due to an illegal drug supply that is more toxic than it has ever been in B.C.”
 - “Prior to COVID-19, overdose deaths were coming down in B.C. for the first time since 2012. Several years of efforts to save lives were making a difference. But these efforts have strained against the challenges of COVID-19.”
 - “Social isolation, disconnection from community and in-person supports, financial pressures, growing mental health challenges, and a drug supply that is becoming more and more toxic, have all contributed to an increase in substance use and increased risk. B.C. is not alone. The impacts of a toxic drug supply are being felt across Canada. In the Yukon, overdose deaths so far in 2020 are double that of all 2019.”
- Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, released the following statement in response to the BC Coroners Service’s report on illicit drug toxicity deaths for July 2020:⁶
 - “What the latest numbers show us is that the overdose crisis has been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented tragedy of death and loss to families in our province continues,”
 - “The toxicity of drug supply is extreme, and I implore anyone who may be using drugs to not do it alone. For friends and family members who are concerned about loved ones, reach out and connect with them and let them know they are not alone.”

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Government of Yukon.

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

⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0044-001578>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0048-001580>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller announced \$82.5 million in mental health and wellness supports to help Indigenous communities adapt and expand mental wellness services, improving access and addressing growing demand, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷
 - The pandemic has had disproportionate effects on women, who are more likely to be asked to take on more responsibilities in the home, and who have reported increased rates of family violence during these times of increased isolation.
 - The pandemic has further isolated Indigenous youth and those in the 2SLGBTQQIA community.
 - Access to many mental wellness services for Indigenous communities has been disrupted or has shifted to virtual and telehealth approaches, while many remote communities struggle with limited connectivity.
 - The funding announced today responds to the advocacy of many Indigenous leaders who have pushed for enhanced mental supports, and will help partners and communities to adapt mental wellness services to the current COVID-19 context, including:
 - expanding access to culturally appropriate services such as on the land activities, community-based health supports and mental wellness teams;
 - adapting mental health services, such as virtual counselling, to meet increased demand; and
 - supporting Indigenous partners in developing innovative strategies to address substance use and to improve access to treatment services.

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

⁷ <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-is-responding-to-immediate-indigenous-mental-wellness-demands-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>