

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 2 September 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

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN BC<sup>1</sup></b>	As of September 1	As of September 2	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	5,848	5,952	<b>104</b>
Currently in intensive care	10	14	4
Total deaths in BC	209	209	0
Total recovered in BC	4,505	4,605	100
Currently hospitalized in BC	31	33	2
<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	As of September 1	As of September 2	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	1,922	1,974	52
Fraser Health	3,072	3,112	40
Island Health	175	178	3
Interior Health	440	445	5
Northern Health	160	164	4
Out of Canada	79	79	0
Total confirmed cases in BC	5,848	5,952	<b>104</b>
Total individuals tested in BC	369,162	374,409	<b>5,247</b>
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	As of September 1	As of September 2	Change
Total individuals tested	2,603	2,643	40
Total confirmed cases	15	15	0
Recovered cases	15	15	0
Negative results	2,538	2,571	33
Pending results	50	57	7

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

<b>STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE CASES IN CANADA<sup>4</sup></b>	As of August 31	As of September 2	Change
Total confirmed cases	445	450	5
Currently hospitalized	37	37	0
Total deaths	6	6	0
Total recovered	418	418	0
Total confirmed cases in BC	75	75	0

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- On September 1, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) announced they are working closely with Northern Health and the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA) on a suspected COVID-19 exposure in the Nass Valley.<sup>5</sup>
  - Nisga'a Valley Health has requested that all attendees at recent gatherings between August 21st and 25th, contact the NVHA Clinic in their community to identify as a potential contact.
  - If you are experiencing potential COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolate, and immediately contact your Doctor, Health Director or Primary Care Provider or call the Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic & Info Line (1-844-645-7811).
    - The top priority is to ensure individuals have the support they need to access testing, treatment, and to isolate close to home or close to advanced care.
    - Public health contact tracing is under way, and health teams are reaching out to individuals who may have been exposed.
    - Close contacts of any confirmed cases will be informed by public health officials, and supported in actions they should take, such as self-monitoring or self-isolating.
  - Community members who are not contacted directly should continue to follow public health advice for preventing the spread of illness and reducing the risk of COVID-19 to themselves, their families and community.
- Today, the B.C. government announced the delay of implementation dates to April 2021 for changes to provincial sales tax (PST) deadlines and B.C.'s carbon tax, to help businesses and families through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.<sup>6</sup>
  - The carbon tax rate will remain at its current level of \$40 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e until April 2021, when it will increase from \$40 to \$45 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
    - The carbon tax will increase to \$50 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e in April 2022.

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-alert-northwest-bc>

<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0049-001647>

- Two other planned tax changes are also being delayed until April 2021:
  - Elimination of the PST exemption for carbonated beverages that contain sugar, natural sweeteners or artificial sweeteners.
  - Addition of new PST registration and collection requirements for e-commerce businesses located outside B.C.
- The employer health tax (EHT) 2020 quarterly instalment dates are also being extended.
- Today, The B.C. government announced a further \$2 million in funding for school-based wellness programs and supports to help with emotional effects during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>7</sup>
  - School districts and independent schools will receive \$3.75 million this year to promote mental wellness and provide additional supports for students, families and educators.
  - Funds may be used for:
    - Enhanced staff training
    - Student workshops
    - Family information nights
    - Development of new resource materials for educators and families

## **LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY**

- Today, the Government of Yukon released the following updates on measures being taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>8</sup>
  - From August 27, to September 1, 109 people were tested at the Respiratory Assessment Centre in Whitehorse.
    - There are no confirmed active cases in the territory
  - Businesses can still apply for support for the Yukon Business Relief Program in partnership with CanNor's Northern Business Relief Fund through the Government of Yukon.
  - The territory-wide Community Wellbeing Survey is closing on September 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - The COVID-specific questions within the survey will be used to inform next steps in the pandemic response.
  - Travellers who choose to go past the Canadian border station at Fraser or Beaver Creek, must be aware of the federal rules for re-entering Canada at the time of departure.
    - If you cross into Alaska, you will be subject to federal rules, which include a mandatory 14-day quarantine.
    - The federal requirements are separate from the territorial border measures.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0049-001632>

<sup>8</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/september-2-2020-covid-19-update>

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, provided the following statement regarding sexual health during COVID-19:<sup>9</sup>
  - “Sexual health is an important part of our overall health. However, sex can be complicated in the time of COVID-19, especially for those without an intimate partner in their household or whose sexual partner is at higher risk for COVID-19.”
  - “If you choose to engage in an in-person sexual encounter with someone outside of your household or close contacts bubble, there are some steps you can take to reduce your risk:”
    - Establish a trusting relationship with your sexual partner.
    - Monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19 and not having sex if you or your partner is experiencing symptoms;
    - Limit your use of alcohol and other substances so you and your partner(s) are able to make safe decisions;
    - Skip kissing and avoiding face-to-face contact or closeness;
      - Consider using a mask that covers the nose and mouth;
    - Be aware if you or your partner may be at higher risk for more severe outcomes of COVID-19. This includes:
      - People of any age with underlying medical conditions;
      - People with compromised immune systems; and
      - People living with obesity.”
  - “Current evidence indicates there is a very low likelihood of contracting the novel coronavirus through semen or vaginal fluids. However, even if the people involved do not have symptoms, sexual activity with new partners does increase your risk of getting or passing COVID-19 through close contact, like kissing. Remember as with all social interactions, try to keep your number of close contacts low if possible.”

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

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/09/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-september-2-2020.html>