

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 4 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

STATUS OF CASES IN BC¹	As of Sept 3	As of Sept 4	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	6,041	6,162	121
Currently in intensive care	11	12	1
Total deaths in BC	210	211	1
Total recovered in BC	4,644	4,706	62
Currently hospitalized in BC	34	31	-3
CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Sept 3	As of Sept 4	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	2,012	2,077	65
Fraser Health	3,155	3,201	46
Island Health	178	180	2
Interior Health	450	451	1
Northern Health	167	174	7
Out of Canada	79	79	0
Total confirmed cases in BC	6,041	6,162	121
Total individuals tested in BC	380,144	386,121	5,975*
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Sept 3	As of Sept 4	Change
Total individuals tested	2,685	2,720	35
Total confirmed cases	15	15	0
Recovered cases	15	15	0
Negative results	2,606	2,644	38
Pending results	64	61	-3

*The BCCDC reported 5,975 new tests today but this does not align with the difference in total test numbers between Sept 3rd and 4th.

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

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

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

STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE CASES IN CANADA⁴	As of September 1	As of September 3	Change
Total confirmed cases	450	459	9
Currently hospitalized	37	38	1
Total deaths	6	6	0
Total recovered	418	417	-1
Total confirmed cases in BC	75	75	0

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Adrian Dix and Dr. Bonnie Henry released the following joint statement regarding the COVID-19 response in British Columbia.⁵
 - “COVID-19 continues to affect our province and this long weekend is no different. Whether you’re celebrating the Canucks game tonight or meeting friends for a barbecue or camping, let’s make it a safe, small-group long weekend.”
 - “Remember, we have a playbook⁶ to guide our good times on weekends to keep things fun and safe, and we can’t let our end goal out of sight: keeping COVID-19 low and slow. Your actions this weekend and every day make a difference.”
 - “We have the tools and we can make the right choices. To be successful in this next phase, we need to step back to safely move forward. So let’s all make choices that will keep our communities, our Elders, our loved-ones and ourselves safe.”
- Today, Dr. Shannon McDonald, Acting Chief Medical Officer at First Nations Health Authority, issued the following statement regarding staying COVID-safe this long weekend:⁷
 - “Although long weekends are typically times of gathering, I want to remind everyone to continue to practise the measures that we were asked to follow six months ago when the pandemic was declared. Each of us needs to do our part, including frequent hand washing, physical distancing of at least two metres and wearing masks when that is not possible.”
 - “This is not the time to let our guard down: we strongly recommend against unnecessary travel and large gatherings. We must draw on our resilience as Indigenous people to stay strong and stay safe for the sake of others, especially our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, young children and those with chronic disease. Since time immemorial, our ancestors did what's right for the protection of their communities. Like them, we have the tools and knowledge to keep each other safe.”
 - “Remember, getting COVID-19 is not a matter of who didn't wash their hands long enough, who touched their face too much, or who didn't physically distance enough. These are necessary measures to take, but we could still do everything right and become infected with COVID-19. There is no “fault” when it comes to this virus.”

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

⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0049-001678>

⁶ <https://goodtimes.gov.bc.ca/>

⁷ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/stay-covid-safe-over-the-labour-day-long-weekend>

- Today, the **Nisga’a Lisims Government declared a state of local emergency** on Nisga’a Lands and in all four Nisga’a Villages, due to known occurrences of the COVID-19 virus on Nisga’a Land and the threat of further infection through contact if the situation is not contained (the “Declaration”). This Declaration allows NLG to use extraordinary powers under the Act to support the COVID-19 pandemic response on Nisga’a Lands. The state of local emergency will be in effect for 7 days, but may be extended or rescinded as necessary. The orders made under the Declaration:
 1. prohibit travel to and from Nisga’a Lands except as required for an essential purpose;
 2. require residents of Nisga’a Lands and individuals permitted to enter or exit Nisga’a Lands for an essential purposes to provide information for the purposes of contact tracing and to self-isolate if those persons have come into contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID19; and
 3. prohibits gatherings on Nisga’a Lands unless authorized by NLG and, if authorized, limits gatherings to only 20 people or less for cultural or ceremonial purposes.
- On September 3, the Nisga’a Lisims Government confirmed 3 positive cases of COVID-19 in the Nass Valley.⁸
 - Nisga’a Valley Health Authority (NVHA) is requesting that all attendees of any of the indoor services that took place between **August 21-25, 2020** continue the **14-day isolation period** beginning August 29, 2020.
 - NVHA has increased testing capacity and released a COVID-19 test schedule for September 5 – 11.⁹ Citizens experiencing cold, flu or COVID-19-like symptoms (even mild ones) are to call their local health center to speak to a nurse and book testing.
 - Citizens can now contact the NVHA COVID-19 HOTLINE on 250-633-5048 or 1-888-233-2212 ext 5048 from Monday to Friday between 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.
- Today, Michelle Mungall, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness, issued the following statement on the release of Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey for August 2020:¹⁰
 - “The monthly labour force numbers for August show that B.C.’s safe restart plan continued to make positive job gains for the fourth month in a row, with 15,300 jobs created in British Columbia last month – 87% of which were full-time jobs.”
 - “Added to the employment gains we saw in May, June and July, B.C. has now recovered 246,900 jobs, and total employment now stands at 94% of the pre-pandemic level in February.”
 - “Our province’s unemployment rate fell for the third month in a row to 10.7%, but we still have a long way to go as many British Columbians are still struggling.”
 - “Our focus on restarting B.C.’s economy in a safe, responsible manner has strongly supported our efforts to battle the pandemic as well as get our economy back on its feet. We are committed to building a recovery that works for everyone, and the next steps in B.C.’s recovery plan will be announced later this month.”

⁸ <https://www.nisgaanation.ca/news/3-confirmed-cases-covid-19-nass-valley>

⁹ <https://www.nisgaanation.ca/news/nvha-covid-19-test-schedule>

¹⁰ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020JEDC0038-001667>

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Government of Yukon.

LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, provided the following remarks on COVID-19 in Canada as we approach the long weekend:¹¹
 - “For many, the Labour Day weekend marks the unofficial end of Summer and start of Fall. And we all know that Fall brings colder weather, as well as a number of important holidays where we traditionally gather with our loved ones. Most of us spent the Spring holidays in a small household contact bubble, physically distanced from many of our friends and extended family.”
 - “Canada faces a different COVID-19 situation in September, than it did in February and March. Governments, businesses and Canadians themselves have adapted and worked to put measures into place that help keep COVID-19 in Canada on the slow-burn path that we need. With Fall and Winter approaching, families and friends once again want to know if it's safe to gather together indoors.”
 - “No individual and no family faces the same set of circumstances, and we will need to make decisions for ourselves. Canadians should ask themselves some "quick check" questions, two about their risk factors and two about the location of the event or activity they are thinking of attending.
 - **The first two questions that address your own risk, and the risk of those in your household or social bubble are:**
 1. Are you at high risk of developing serious complications if you become infected **or** if you would have to self-isolate, would this seriously disrupt your upcoming plans, priorities and responsibilities?
 2. Are there people at high risk of developing serious complications of COVID-19 in your household or in-person contact bubble that you could unintentionally infect?
 - **Then ask yourself two questions about the location of the event:**
 1. Has the host made changes to the location to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, including making it easy to maintain a physical distance from others while indoors and requiring others to wear face masks?
 2. Are you able to adjust your plan at the event or activity, for example by stepping away if it gets crowded, wearing a mask and washing your hands?
 - **Finally, know that there are things you can do before you go to an event or activity that can reduce your risk, and the risk to your loved ones:**
 - If you have any symptoms, even mild ones, stay home, stay away from others and get tested;
 - keep up with effective public health practices such as physical distancing, hand washing and wearing masks or face coverings; and

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/09/remarks-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-on-covid-19-september-4-2020.html>

- limit the number of locations and events or activities you attend in the days and weeks before a planned important activity to reduce the risk of spread during the event. This will provide layers of protection to keep you and those you care about safer.”
- “It is important to remember that just because you know the people at an event outside your household and contact bubble, it does not mean the risk is in any way reduced.”
- Today, the Government of Canada released the following update on COVID-19 for Indigenous Peoples and communities:¹²
 - Unfortunately, multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Squamish, BC this week. Working with the FNHA, recent cases are being monitored to ensure necessary supports are in place.
 - When compared to the general Canadian population, the infection rate, hospitalization rate, and death rate were lower in First Nations communities on reserve. For example, the rate of COVID-19 reported among First Nations individuals living on reserve is currently one-quarter the rate of the general Canadian population.
 - While data to make this comparison is currently only available for First Nations living on reserve, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities have all taken many positive measures to protect their populations in the face of COVID-19 and have done a successful job in responding and preventing outbreaks.
 - In order to keep flattening the curve and the infection rate low, we must all remain vigilant in employing measures to protect ourselves, our families and our communities from the spread of COVID-19. Individuals can help by:
 - avoiding all non-essential trips in the community;
 - limiting the size of group gatherings;
 - maintaining physical distancing of at least 2 arm-lengths (approximately 2 meters or 6 feet);
 - limiting contact with people at higher risk, such as seniors, those in poor health, or with underlying health conditions;
 - wearing a non-medical mask when physical distancing is not possible; and
 - following the recommended public health guidelines outlined by your province or territory of residence.

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

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/09/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities.html>