

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 16 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>	<b>As of Sept 15</b>	<b>As of Sept 16</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,376	7,498	<b>122</b>
Currently in intensive care	20	23	<b>3</b>
Total deaths in BC	219	219	<b>0</b>
Total recovered in BC	5,548	5,646	<b>98</b>
Currently hospitalized in BC	63	60	<b>-3</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Sept 15</b>	<b>As of Sept 16</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	2,608	2,660	<b>52</b>
Fraser Health	3,784	3,835	<b>51</b>
Island Health	195	195	<b>0</b>
Interior Health	479	485	<b>6</b>
Northern Health	225	237	<b>12</b>
Out of Canada	85	86	<b>1</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,376	7,498	<b>122</b>
Total individuals tested in BC	441,279	447,721	<b>6,429*</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Sept 15</b>	<b>As of Sept 16</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total individuals tested	2,986	3,020	<b>34</b>
Total confirmed cases	15	15	<b>0</b>
Recovered cases	15	15	<b>0</b>
Negative results	2,913	2,959	<b>46</b>
Pending results	58	46	<b>-12</b>

\*The BCCDC reported 6,429 new COVID-19 tests on September 16<sup>th</sup>, which does not align with the difference in test numbers for September 15<sup>th</sup>.

<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>	<b>As of September 14</b>	<b>As of September 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	528	535	7
Currently hospitalized	46	46	0
Total deaths	9	9	0
Total recovered	443	453	10
Total confirmed cases in BC	103	104	1

## **LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix released the following joint statement regarding updates on the COVID-19 response in B.C.<sup>5</sup>
  - “Beginning today, the BCCDC website will link to regional health authorities' school notification pages, providing the date and type of notification (outbreak, cluster or exposure) for impacted schools. Fraser Health’s school notification page is available now and the other regional health authorities will have theirs ready soon.”
  - “As we learn more and better understand where the risks exist, we will continue to adjust our COVID-19 approach and response in B.C. to protect those who are most vulnerable. This is our priority for not only COVID-19, but the second equally concerning pandemic of overdose deaths.”
  - “As we work to support each other, one of the biggest concerns with COVID-19 is the unidentified spread of the virus in our communities. This is why getting tested as soon as you have symptoms is so important.”
  - “Large gatherings have been a steady source of transmission. However, many of the new cases we are seeing in the past weeks are from small gatherings where people see different groups of friends on different days – inadvertently spreading the virus to many people.”
  - “Let’s not forget that if we are close enough, doing enough and with enough different people, the likelihood of transmitting the virus significantly goes up. That is why it is so important to make our social interactions a ‘small and safe six,’ keeping to our immediate households and the same close friends only.”
- Today, FNHA released the following information regarding wildfire smoke and COVID-19:<sup>6</sup>
  - When the skies are smoky, stay indoors as much as possible, avoid exercising outdoors, and avoid doing activities that may cause further indoor or outdoor air pollution.
    - N95 masks should be reserved for health care professionals during the pandemic and are not a primary means of reducing smoke exposure.

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0052-001765>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/information-on-wildfire-smoke-and-the-covid-19-pandemic>

- The FNHA recommends First Nations communities create cleaner air spaces, where individuals can find relief from wildfire smoke.
  - FNHA Environmental Health Officers can support First Nations communities in identifying these spaces, which may already exist in your community.
  - If you are at high risk and are unable to access a community cleaner air space due to mobility or access issues, the FNHA can support with procurement of HEPA (“High Efficiency Particulate Air”) filters or provide information on how to build your own air cleaner. Contact your Environmental Health Officer for more information at [environmental.health@fnha.ca](mailto:environmental.health@fnha.ca)

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, the Government of Yukon released the following updates for the Yukon public on measures being taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:<sup>7</sup>
  - Yukon has developed the following guidance based on three colour zones to help parents and guardians know when to keep children home from school or daycare.
    - **“Green”** means the child is well, has no symptoms and can attend school. This green zone includes situations where they have symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition and which are not unusual for that child.
    - **“Yellow”** means the child has symptoms such as a runny nose, a headache or fatigue. The yellow zone means the child should stay at home for 24 hours and see whether the symptoms progress or resolve.
      - If a child has a runny nose or nasal congestion that persists beyond 24 hours but it is mild and doesn’t progress and the child is otherwise well, then the child may go back to school or daycare.
    - **“Red”** means the child has a new cough, fever or difficulty breathing. In these situations, we recommend that they are tested for COVID-19 and are assessed by a health care provider as needed.
  - Travellers who are required to self-isolate must complete their entire 14-day isolation when they arrive back in Yukon. This includes people who spent time in BC, the NWT or Nunavut after they travelled from other regions of Canada or internationally.
    - People must also be reachable at the phone number and address they’ve provided on their declaration form throughout their period of self-isolation. They may receive a spot check call from the Government of Yukon. These spot check calls are separate from the Public Health Agency of Canada checks that are for people who have been outside the country.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/september-16-2020-covid-19-update>

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, issued the following statement regarding COVID-19:<sup>8</sup>
  - “Today, I would like to call attention to the over six million Canadians who have been tested for COVID-19 over the past months, including the over 300,000 people currently being tested each week across Canada. I would like to thank all Canadians who made the decision to get tested.”
  - “One of the most important public health measures we can take if we have symptoms or think we have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, is to get tested. For assistance in deciding whether and how to be tested for COVID-19, you can access COVID-19 self-assessment tools online.”
  - “Testing enables local public health agencies to interrupt chains of transmission and prevent further spread of the virus through case detection and contact tracing, and isolation and quarantine, respectively.”
  - “Being tested for COVID-19 is an act of kindness, and frankly, bravery -- it means you are choosing not only to protect yourself, but also to protect those around you. If the test is positive, that starts the process of local public health authorities notifying others who may have been exposed so they can take steps to self-isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms.”
  - “Another way you can help break the cycle of infection is to download the Government of Canada’s free COVID Alert app on your phone. While protecting your privacy, the app can alert you of a possible exposure before any symptoms appear. If you have downloaded the app and you test positive for COVID-19, you will get a one-time key from your provincial or territorial health care authority that you can enter into the app. The app will then notify other app users you may have come into close contact with while you were infectious. The app works without collecting personally identifiable or location data.”
- Today, Melanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada, announced \$2.2 million in federal funding to help innovative small businesses in BC’s clean tech sector grow and create jobs.<sup>9</sup>
  - This investment will support seven innovative organizations across the province, most notably the Alacrity Foundation of BC – a leading not-for-profit with a mandate to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship in BC.
  - This funding will create 100 new, well-paying jobs through the British Columbia Clean Tech Market Development Initiative, which will assist small businesses across Western Canada, both in the immediate term and as they scale-up in the years to come.

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

<sup>8</sup><https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/09/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-september-16-2020.html>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2020/09/government-of-canada-supports-british-columbias-clean-technology-sector.html>