

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 18 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 17</b>	<b>As of Sept 18</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,663	7,842	<b>179*</b>
Currently in intensive care	22	20	<b>-2</b>
Total deaths in BC	220	223	<b>3</b>
Total recovered in BC	5,719	5,797	<b>78</b>
Currently hospitalized in BC	57	59	<b>2</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Sept 17</b>	<b>As of Sept 18</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	2,714	2,817	<b>103</b>
Fraser Health	3,937	4,007	<b>70</b>
Island Health	196	196	<b>0</b>
Interior Health	489	492	<b>3</b>
Northern Health	241	244	<b>3</b>
Out of Canada	86	86	<b>0</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,663	7,842	<b>179</b>
Total individuals tested in BC	455,395	461,154	<b>5,749**</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Sept 16</b>	<b>As of Sept 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total individuals tested	3,020	3,049	<b>29</b>
Total confirmed cases	15	15	<b>0</b>
Recovered cases	15	15	<b>0</b>
Negative results	2,959	2,995	<b>36</b>
Pending results	46	39	<b>7</b>

\*139 new cases were announced today plus an additional 40 historic cases that were tested between Aug. 11 and Sept. 16 for people who did not have personal health numbers. This brings the total to 7,842 cases in British Columbia.

\*\*The BCCDC has reported 5,749 new tests, but this does not align with the difference in total test numbers between September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

<b>STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE CASES IN CANADA<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of September 16</b>	<b>As of September 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	541	564	23
Currently hospitalized	49	49	0
Total deaths	9	9	0
Total recovered	453	476	23
Total confirmed cases in BC	107	110	3

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

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix released the following joint statement regarding the COVID-19 response in BC:<sup>4</sup>
  - “For schools, public health teams will contact individuals through contact tracing. Schools will continue to issue alerts when a school exposure has occurred and action is required. Supporting these protocols, the BCCDC website and health authorities are also publishing notifications.”
  - “We need to push the COVID-19 curve back down and we have the knowledge, the tools and resources to do just that. Always using your layers of protection and choosing to stick with your ‘safe six’ will help all of us this weekend and every weekend ahead.”
  - “The cases we are seeing today are a direct result of how we spent our Labour Day long weekend. Let’s break the chain of transmission and turn this trend around.”
  - “No one intends to pass the virus onto friends or family, but it is very easy to do. It can take up to two weeks for symptoms of COVID-19 to develop and in that time, we can inadvertently spread it to others.”
  - “That is why the actions we take as individuals today are so important to the well-being of our communities tomorrow. Let’s choose safe, let’s choose small and let’s choose to protect the people we care about most.”
- Today, Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, announced that early school attendance numbers show more than 85% of K-12 public school students returned for in-class learning, with increased staffing and supports, according to a Ministry of Education survey.<sup>5</sup>
  - Every school is following the strict provincial health and safety guidelines co-developed for K-12 with the teachers, school leaders, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, parents and Indigenous rightsholders. Each district is using additional provincial and federal funding to meet its local needs and configurations of its schools.
  - In preparation for the September restart, many school districts hired staff and added staff hours. Of the school districts that have responded to date, 1,526 new positions have been created.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581964230816/1581964277298>

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0053-001814>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0071-001798>

- The ministry has also provided funding for 1.5 million non-medical masks, enough for every public-school staff member and student to have at least two masks.
- The Province is making a first-of-its-kind, made-in-B.C. mouth rinse gargle sample collection available for school-aged students who require a COVID-19 test. This new saline method doesn't require a health-care professional to collect the sample, and it is intended to encourage more students to get tested if they have symptoms.
- Today, the B.C. government announced a one-year rent forgiveness package to help eligible outdoor adventure businesses, fishing and hunting lodges, guest ranches, ecotourism lodges, seasonal campgrounds and other commercial recreation operators during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>6</sup>
  - Holders of Land Act tenures and Park Act permits that are commercial recreation operators may qualify to have the annual base rent they pay to the government waived for one year.
  - About \$1.36 million has been earmarked for rent forgiveness, which benefits 592 Land Act tenure holders and 443 Park Act permit holders.
  - Tenure and permit holders who are eligible for rent forgiveness will receive a notification letter.
  - While rent forgiveness will not apply to client day rent for guiding, an interest-free payment plan agreement is available to tenure holders for at least six months to help address the financial impacts of the pandemic. Tenure holders are encouraged to contact staff in their local ministry lands office for more information.
- Today, the attorney general announced that starting on Sept. 28, 2020, following consultation with the Supreme Court of B.C. and key stakeholders, the Rules of Civil Court will be amended to temporarily suspend all civil jury trials for a period of one year.<sup>7</sup>
  - This action by the Province is intended to help courts remain safe and minimize the impact of delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Criminal jury trials resumed on Sept. 8, 2020.
  - Under this temporary suspension, civil jury trials will resume on Oct. 4, 2021, with any trial taking place before this date to be heard by a judge alone.
  - The order-in-council suspending civil jury trials will be posted on BC Laws: [www.bclaws.ca](http://www.bclaws.ca)

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

- No significant updates from the Yukon Territory.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FLNR0052-001781>

<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0059-001775>

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, the Government of Canada released the following COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities:<sup>8</sup>
  - “While we had some success in flattening the curve these past few months, the recent increase in numbers serves as important reminders that COVID-19 is still here, and will be with us for some time to come. We are still in a global pandemic and we must remain vigilant.”
  - “Since the beginning of the pandemic, Indigenous individuals, communities and partners have come together, made sacrifices, and done their part to prevent, respond and limit the spread of the virus. Public health experts have provided important information and advice on COVID-19.”
  - “We have seen incredible leadership taken by Indigenous communities. They did not hesitate to take action to protect their families, youth and elders, and in the end, their actions saved lives. This work must continue.”
  - “The new positive cases observed are primarily related to movement of individuals, and private gatherings and events. As individuals, we also each have a role to play in helping to keep ourselves, and our loved ones, healthy and safe. After many months of staying home and being vigilant, some may be experiencing pandemic fatigue. This can result in less vigilance when it comes to important practices, like limiting non-essential trips or maintaining physical distancing from those outside our social bubble. “
  - “The nature of COVID-19 means that it can take up to 10 days after being exposed to the virus for symptoms to appear. During this time, the virus can easily spread to others. This means that decisions made today could affect families, friends and communities for weeks to come. We urge everyone to help change the trend by making wise decisions, and following recommended public health measures.”
  - Communities can help to slow the spread of COVID-19 by:
    - Limiting the size of group gatherings
    - Supporting people at higher risk, such as elders, seniors, those in poor health, or with underlying health conditions, helping them to stay at home and stay safe
    - Following the recommended public health guidelines outlined by your province or territory of residence including guidelines on use of masks in stores, schools and other public areas
  - Individuals can help by:
    - Avoiding non-essential trips
    - Limit the number of people you socialize with, avoid large gatherings
    - Maintaining physical distancing of at least 2 arm-lengths (approximately 2 meters or 6 feet)
    - Wearing a non-medical mask that covers your nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/09/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities1.html>

- Following the recommended public health guidelines outlined by your province or territory of residence, and/or by your community Leadership including guidelines on wearing masks in schools.
- “As we move into fall and start spending more time indoors, it is also helpful to remember the importance of proper hand hygiene and etiquette to prevent spread of germs. At this time of year, we are also concerned about influenza. We can reduce the spread of the seasonal flu by following the same practices as with COVID-19. We also know that the annual flu vaccine is the most effective way to prevent the flu and flu-related complications.”
- “While the COVID-19 infection rate for First Nations living on-reserve per 100,000 remains one quarter the rate among other Canadians, there has been a continuous increase of cases reported since the week of August 15th. This is a similar to what we are seeing in the general Canadian population.”
- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam released the following statement on COVID-19 in Canada:<sup>9</sup>
  - “The ongoing increase in the national daily case count is an indicator of accelerated epidemic growth. This situation increases the likelihood that we could lose the ability to keep COVID-19 cases at manageable levels.”
  - “Now is the time for Canadians to redouble their efforts with personal precautions that will slow the spread of the virus. I urge everyone to consistently follow proven effective measures for controlling the spread of COVID-19, including maintaining physical distancing, handwashing and wearing non-medical masks where appropriate. As always, the most important measure is to stay home and away from others if you are experiencing any symptoms, even if mild.”
  - “I also want to acknowledge how the last few weeks have been a time of change for many Canadians. School-aged children and their caregivers have adjusted to new routines, new teachers and new ways of doing things. And for many, it has not been easy.” Parents, caregivers and educators are watching the increase in case numbers with concern. We can support them as well as children and students, by following the advice of local public health authorities to help keep COVID-19 out of schools.”
- Today, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announced \$83 million in federal support for British Columbia’s child care sector to help ensure that safe and sufficient child care spaces are available to support parents’ gradual return to work.<sup>10</sup>
  - This funding is part of a larger \$625 million investment through the Safe Restart Agreement to address the key child care priorities agreed upon by Canada’s First Ministers for the safe restart of Canada’s economy over the next six to eight months.

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

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/09/remarks-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-on-covid-19-september-18-2020.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/british-columbia-to-receive-federal-funding-to-supportchild-care.html>