

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 21 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 18</b>	<b>As of Sept 21</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,842	8,208	<b>366*</b>
Currently in intensive care	20	21	<b>1</b>
Total deaths in BC	223	227	<b>4</b>
Total recovered in BC	5,797	5,972	<b>175</b>
Currently hospitalized in BC	59	60	<b>1</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Sept 18</b>	<b>As of Sept 21</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	2,817	2,945	<b>128</b>
Fraser Health	4,007	4,211	<b>204</b>
Island Health	196	203	<b>7</b>
Interior Health	492	508	<b>16</b>
Northern Health	244	255	<b>11</b>
Out of Canada	86	86	<b>0</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,842	8,208	<b>366*</b>
Total individuals tested in BC	461,154	479,574	<b>18,420**</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>

\* The BC Government reported 121 new COVID-19 cases September 19<sup>th</sup>, 117 cases September 20<sup>th</sup>, and 128 September 21<sup>st</sup> (366 total).

<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 17</b>	<b>As of September 18</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	564	576	12
Currently hospitalized	49	50	1
Total deaths	9	10	1
Total recovered	476	480	4
Total confirmed cases in BC	110	110	0

## LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer and Stephen Brown, deputy minister of health, issued the following joint statement regarding COVID-19 and the election process:<sup>4</sup>
  - “While a provincial election has been called today, B.C.’s COVID-19 response plan will continue uninterrupted. As has been done since the start of the pandemic, a daily COVID-19 update will be provided to keep everyone in B.C. informed.”
  - “Like other parts of our economy, the provincial health officer has also worked with Elections BC to set the guidelines for a safe election process.”
  - “The guidelines include how political parties and their candidates need to keep themselves, their staff and volunteers, and their communities safe during the campaign, as well as how the elections process needs to occur to ensure the safety of everyone.”
  - “Let’s take this first day of fall to set our personal safety plans for the season ahead. The actions we take today will help ensure the well-being of our communities tomorrow, so let’s do all we can today and every day to keep COVID-19 low and slow.”
- Today, as part of BC’s Economic Recovery Plan, the B.C. Government announced a one-time commitment of \$90 million for the Connecting British Columbia Program that will target connectivity infrastructure projects in rural areas, Indigenous communities and along BC’s highways.<sup>5</sup>
  - This funding is intended to:
    - Help accelerate investments by internet service providers and restart the economy in rural BC.
    - Bring the benefits of modern internet access to families, students, workers, and businesses throughout rural BC.
  - The Province of B.C. intends for this next phase of the program to be administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust, which manages the Connecting British Columbia program.

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

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0053-001845>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CITZ0039-001838>

- On Sunday, September 20, 2020, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, announced that the Province’s ticketing measures have been revised to align with the provincial health officer’s updated orders on Food and Liquor Serving Premises and Gatherings and Events, giving police and other provincial enforcement officers the ability to issue violation tickets for contraventions.<sup>6</sup>
  - All ticketing measures previously announced on Aug. 21, 2020, to enforce COVID-19 public safety at gatherings and events will remain in effect and will be expanded. Effective immediately, the measures are enacted under the provincial state of emergency, using the extraordinary powers of the Emergency Program Act (EPA) in ongoing support of B.C.’s COVID-19 response and economic recovery plan.
  - In addition to previously announced ticketing measures on gatherings and events, the measures announced today include the following provisions, which are also subject to ticketing and enforcement:
    - The holding of any event in a banquet hall is prohibited.
    - Nightclubs must cease operating as nightclubs.
    - Background music or other background sounds, such as from televisions, must be no louder than the volume of normal conversation.
    - Liquor sales for onsite consumption must cease by 10 p.m.
    - Unless a full meal service is provided, premises must close by 11 p.m. and all patrons must vacate the premises. If a full meal service is provided, premises may stay open, but liquor must not be served until 11 a.m. the following day.
    - Liquor must not be consumed on premises by owners, operators, or staff after 11 p.m.
    - Liquor service at private events must cease at 10 p.m.
    - If food or liquor serving premises hold private events, like wedding receptions, the same rules that hotels and other venues must follow apply to these premises.
  - Compliance and enforcement staff from provincial ministries, including liquor, cannabis and gaming inspectors, community safety unit inspectors and conservation officers, will now support the COVID-19 response and help issue tickets for violations.
  - The enforcement focus will continue to be on \$2,000 fines to owners, operators and organizers for contraventions of the PHO’s orders. Individual patrons may be levied with \$200 fines.
  - If violation tickets do not act as a deterrent, or in cases of particularly egregious contraventions or for repeat offenders, police can recommend charges in relation to the offence.
  - To report concerns around order violations from event organizers, venues or individuals, contact your local government’s bylaw office. If unable to reach a local bylaw office, contact your local police department’s non-emergency line.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0053-001836>

- On Sunday, September 20, 2020, the B.C. Government announced the addition and extension of COVID-19 emergency measures to support youth in government care:<sup>7</sup>
  - Youth currently living in foster care, contracted residential agencies or with relatives through the extended family program, will be able to stay in their placements past their 19th birthday
  - Youth on Independent Living Agreements and Youth Agreements will continue to receive financial support past their 19th birthday — until March 31, 2021.
  - For youth who are about to age out of care and need additional supports, social workers will be working to make needed changes to housing agreements so that young adults can stay in place past Sept. 30, 2020.
  - The government will also maintain emergency measures that allow easier access to life-skills supports and rehabilitation supports through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program.
- On Sunday, September 20, 2020, the B.C. Government announced that the EquipCare BC program will begin accepting applications for its Period 2 funding allocations beginning September 28, 2020.<sup>8</sup>
  - The EquipCare BC program is a partnership between the Government of B.C. and the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) that was established to support seniors living in long-term care and assisted-living residences during COVID-19.
  - EquipCare BC's Period 1 funding focused on infection prevention and control (IPC) through the provision of personal protective equipment and Period 2 will include other eligible items that primarily serve seniors, such as beds, lifts, and urgent-response systems.
- On Sunday, September 20, 2020, the B.C. Government announced a new Mental Health in Schools (MHIS) Strategy aimed at finding new and improved ways to support students who need help.<sup>9</sup>
  - Surveys show that many people in British Columbia are experiencing an increase in mental health and substance use challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those with pre-existing conditions. The B.C. Government is reminding British Columbians that help is available for people of all ages, and there is strength in seeking support.
  - For the 2020-21 school year, the government has invested \$3.75 million for new and existing mental health activities for students, families, and educators.
  - To learn more about the new Mental Health in Schools Strategy, visit: [erase.gov.bc.ca](http://erase.gov.bc.ca)
- On Saturday, September 19, 2020, the B.C. Government encouraged community-based sports groups facing the risk of closure to apply for support from the Province's \$1.5 million Local Sports Relief Fund.<sup>10</sup> The Local Sport Relief Fund has been developed to provide one-time

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<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CFD0097-001825>

<sup>8</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0299-001815>

<sup>9</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0053-001823>

<sup>10</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TAC0052-001816>

financial relief for non-profit, community level sport organizations, clubs and associations at risk of collapse or insolvency due to the impacts of COVID-19.

- The funds are intended to:
  - Assist local sports clubs and organizations pay bills, society dues, salaries, maintenance fees.
  - Assist local sports organizations with the eventual full return to sport.
  - Ensure local sports organizations in rural, remote, and urban communities throughout BC receive the same support.
- Eligible organizations are invited to apply for up to \$7,500 to help offset fixed and operating costs. Funding must support administration and operational needs for an eventual return to sport, and new sport programming or initiatives are ineligible.
- The application process is open until Oct. 16, 2020.
- For information about the application and guidelines of the Local Sport Relief Fund, visit: <https://www.viasport.ca/grant/local-sport-relief-fund>

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

- No significant updates from the Yukon Territory.

## **LATEST ADVICE AND MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

- Today, Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry, Navdeep Bains, announced an investment of over \$4 million in funding through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's (SSHRC) Partnership Engage Grants, with over \$3 million of the investment directed at supporting 139 projects addressing COVID-19 related research.<sup>11</sup>
  - Several of the COVID-19 related projects will study:
    - changes in the teaching profession;
    - the pandemic's impact on small and medium-sized enterprises;
    - mental health among entrepreneurs; and
    - impacts on seniors and their community support services.

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

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/social-sciences-humanities-research/news/2020/09/latest-covid-19-research-investment-supports-knowledge-exchange-on-social-cultural-and-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html>