

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 03 December 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 Dec 02	As of Dec 03	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	34,728	35,422	694
Total active cases in BC	8,941	9,103	162
Currently in intensive care	79	80	1
Currently hospitalized	337	325	-12
Total hospitalized to date	1,909	1,942	33
Total deaths in BC	469	481	12
Total recovered in BC	24,424	24,928	504

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 02	As of Dec 03	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	34,728	35,422	694
Vancouver Coastal Health	9,164	9,278	114
Fraser Health	22,007	22,472	465
Island Health	659	669	10
Interior Health	1,899	1,981	82
Northern Health	905	928	23
Out of Canada	94	94	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,173,931	1,186,096	12,165

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 02	As of Dec 03	Change
Total confirmed cases	50	51	1
Total active cases	20	11	9
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	29	39	10
Total individuals tested	5,435	5,488	53
Negative results	5,241	5,326	85
Pending results	144	111	-33

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

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

³ <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE

CASES IN CANADA⁴	As of Dec 01	As of Dec 02	Change
Total confirmed cases	4,069	4,160	91
Total active cases	1,564	1,524	-40
Currently hospitalized	168	187	19
Total deaths	38	38	0
Total recovered	2,467	2,598	131
Total confirmed cases in BC	307	323	16

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix held a joint press conference regarding updates on the ongoing provincial COVID-19 response⁵. Highlights from the press conference include the following:
 - The COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Operations Coordinating Committee has been established.
 - The Committee held a virtual tabletop exercise to facilitate BC's COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy, immunization processes, and identify any anticipated barriers to vaccine distribution.
 - Next week, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Adrian Dix, and Dr. Brown will provide a detailed update on BC's plans and next steps for vaccine distribution.
 - At first, BC will have limited supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine, which will be reserved for vulnerable populations, including seniors. But, once more vaccines are available, the vaccine will be made available to everyone.
 - Until then, we must use our layers of protection, combined with the provincial health orders and restrictions, to slow the COVID-19 transmission and keep people safe.
- Today, the B.C. Government announced funding of \$2.3 million for mental health programs for First Nations and Métis youth, and post-secondary students during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶
 - The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) will receive \$800,000 to deliver expanded suicide prevention and life promotion activities in First Nations communities and expand FNHA advisory committees to more regions.
 - Métis Nation BC will receive \$200,000 to promote wellness initiatives by developing Métis-specific online mental health support courses, and anti-stigma and awareness campaigns.
 - The Canadian Mental Health Association – BC Division will receive \$1.3 million to expand and enhance suicide prevention programs available, including a series of grants administered to post-secondary institutions that will support engaging students at risk, treatment, and supports and referral programs.

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

⁵ Dr. Bonnie Henry via live press conference 3:00 pm 03/11/2020

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0063-001999>

- Today, the B.C. Government announced the extension of the temporary order permitting the use of additional communication tools in the public sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, until May 31, 2021.⁷ This order permits:
 - Patient-care teams to use smartphone apps, text messages, chat programs, and other applications that make it easier to communicate with colleagues and patients.
 - People isolating at home after travelling or potentially being exposed to COVID-19 to use their preferred chat applications to communicate with public-health officials.
 - Post-secondary institutions to provide online and digital learning and exam options as an alternative to in-person classes.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- On December 2nd, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Brendan Hanley, confirmed one new case of COVID-19.⁸
 - The individual is isolating in Whitehorse and an investigation is currently underway.
 - Public exposure notifications are being issued for:
 - Winter Long Brewing Co. on Friday, November 27th between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.
 - Whiskey Jacks Pub and Grill on Wednesday, November 25th between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, introduced Bill C-14, *An Act to implement certain provisions of the economic statement tabled in Parliament on November 30, 2020 and other measures*.⁹
 - Measures under Bill-C-14 include:
 - Temporary and immediate support for low- and middle-income families who are entitled to the Canada Child Benefit, totaling up to \$1,200 in 2021 for each child under the age of six.
 - Elimination of the interest on repayment of the federal portion of the Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans for one year (2021-2022).
 - Funding of up to \$505.7 million as part of the new Safe Long-term Care Fund to support long-term care facilities, including funding to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - Additional funding of:
 - Up to \$133 million to support access to virtual care, mental health tools, and substance use programming.
 - Up to \$262.6 million for a suite of COVID-19 initiatives, including testing, medical research, and countermeasures.

⁷ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CITZ0063-001995>

⁸ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/december-2-2020-new-covid-19-case-confirmed>

⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

- A formal provision that an expense, such as rent, can qualify as an eligible expense under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy when it becomes due so businesses can access the subsidy before the expense is paid.
- Allowing the government to continue to make the necessary response and recovery investments during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, issued a statement on COVID-19 in Canada.¹⁰ Highlights from the statement include the following:
 - “Today, I want to acknowledge the International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). Accessibility is about identifying and removing barriers that prevent people from participating fully in our homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.”
 - “We know that people with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures.
 - “Isolation, disconnection, and diminished services have greatly impacted mental well-being, and many people with long-term conditions or disabilities have experienced temporary or permanent job loss or reduced hours during the pandemic.”
 - “Accessibility and inclusion requires us to be aware of and understand the barriers to accessibility that our family, friends, and colleagues may face at home, at school, and at work, including if working remotely.”
 - “Acknowledging these accessibility challenges and committing to remove barriers today and everyday is the best way to celebrate this IDPD.”

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

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-december-3-2020.html>