

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 04 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 03	As of Dec 04	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	35,422	36,132	711*
Total active cases in BC	9,103	9,050	-53
Currently in intensive care	80	76	-4
Currently hospitalized	325	338	13
Total hospitalized to date	1,942	1,980	38
Total deaths in BC	481	492	11
Total recovered in BC	24,928	25,658	730

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 03	As of Dec 04	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	35,422	36,132	711*
Vancouver Coastal Health	9,278	9,421	143
Fraser Health	22,472	22,899	427
Island Health	669	679	10
Interior Health	1,981	2,062	81
Northern Health	928	978	50
Out of Canada	94	93	-1
Total individuals tested in BC	1,186,096	1,200,633	14,537

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 03	As of Dec 04	Change
Total confirmed cases	51	54	3
Total active cases	11	12	1
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	39	41	2
Total individuals tested	5,488	5,522	34
Negative results	5,326	5,390	64
Pending results	111	78	-33

*The BCCDC has reported 711 new tests but this does not align with the difference in new confirmed cases (710) between Dec. 03rd and 04th

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 02	As of Dec 03	Change
Total confirmed cases	4,160	4,303	143
Total active cases	1,524	1,564	40
Currently hospitalized	187	192	5
Total deaths	38	39	1
Total recovered	2,598	2,700	102
Total confirmed cases in BC	323	343	20

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:
 - “We continue to face a significant surge in community transmission and new cases of COVID-19, which means following the provincial health officer’s (PHO) orders and using all our layers of protection is necessary for every person in our province right now.”
 - “The virus is not letting up and neither can we. This weekend, let’s stay small and stay local, so we can slow the spread of the virus in our province.”
 - “We can still be festive, we can still have fun, but let’s ensure it is only with our immediate household.”
 - “Today, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) released the results of the Your Story, Our Future population health survey on a new SPEAK survey dashboard, funded by the BCCDC Foundation for Public Health. The survey was the largest-ever Canadian population health survey, with almost 400,000 British Columbians taking part.”
 - “What the survey dashboard shows us is that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us all. It also reminds us that each of us can make a difference, and the efforts we make will help us get through this pandemic.”
 - Your Story, Our Future, BCCDC SPEAK survey dashboard can be viewed at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

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

⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0063-002008>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Brendan Hanley, confirmed three new cases of COVID-19.⁶
 - Case 52 is in Whitehorse and is linked to a previous case.
 - Case 53 is in Whitehorse and is linked to travel outside Yukon.
 - Case 54 is in Whitehorse and under active investigation.
 - People may have been exposed to COVID-19 infection if they were at one of the following locations:
 - Thursday, November 26 between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m:
 - Real Canadian Superstore, Wykes' Your Independent Grocer, The Whitehorse Liquor Store
 - Friday, November 27, 2020:
 - The Black Sabbath and Deep Purple Tribute concert at The Local Bar on 206 Jarvis Street from 8:30 p.m. to closing.
 - Flight AC 25 Calgary to Vancouver: 11:50 a.m. (MST)-12:15 p.m. (PST)
 - Flight AC 8887 Vancouver to Whitehorse: 1:35 p.m. (PST)-4:59 p.m. (MST)
- Today, The Yukon Government announced a new requirement to assist with contact tracing:⁷
 - Beginning Monday, December 7, 2020, restaurants and bars throughout Yukon will be required to maintain a daily list of patrons.
 - One patron in each party will be required to sign in and provide contact information and the eating and drinking establishments will be required to keep the sheets for 30 days.
 - They will only be provided to Yukon Communicable Disease Control if an exposure has been identified.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, held a press conference to provide an update on the federal response to COVID-19. Highlights from the conference include the following:⁸
 - "We are fast tracking work in the field to make sure we are ready with a distribution plan."
 - "Canada's independent review of the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine is ongoing and regulators are working around the clock."
 - "The National Operations Center is working closely with the provinces and territories every day. The center will be managing and tracking the distribution of vaccines once they are authorized."
 - "Military expertise will be key to our vaccine rollout plan."
 - Specific logistics will be required to keep the first track of vaccination doses at very cold temperatures. The Canadian Armed Forces is currently holding simulation tests of the distribution plan with a series of exercises and run-throughs. Freezers have been allocated and dry-ice contracts have been put in place to facilitate this.

⁶ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/december-4-2020-three-new-covid-19-cases-confirmed>

⁷ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/new-requirement-assist-contact-tracing>

⁸ <https://www.cpac.ca/en/programs/covid-19-canada-responds/episodes/66303886/>

- Today, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, announced the expansion of the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA):⁹
 - As of today, eligible small businesses can access a second CEBA loan of up to \$20,000.
 - \$10,000 of this financing will be forgivable if paid by December 31, 2022.
 - The application deadline for CEBA has also been extended to March 31, 2021. To apply, eligible businesses and not-for-profits need to contact the financial institution that provided their initial CEBA loan and provide the appropriate information and documentation.
- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam issued a statement on COVID-19 in Canada.¹⁰ Highlights from the statement include the following:
 - The initial supply of vaccines is expected to become available in early 2021, but in limited supplies.
 - Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization ("NACI") has released its latest guidance providing further recommendations for the initial sequencing of key populations for early COVID-19 immunization. NACI recommends that initial doses of authorized COVID-19 vaccine(s) should be offered to:
 - Residents and staff of congregate living settings that provide care for seniors
 - Adults 70 years of age and older, beginning with adults 80 years of age and older
 - Health care workers (including all those who work in health care settings and personal support workers whose work involves direct contact with patients)
 - Adults in Indigenous communities where infection can have disproportionate consequences.
- Today, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, and Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors, announced an investment of more than \$1.8 million to strengthen pandemic preparedness in long-term and retirement homes. The investment will fund 14 Implementation Science Teams of researchers from across Canada to help ensure that efforts to protect vulnerable older adult populations are informed by the best available scientific advice.¹¹
 - Research teams will partners with long term care (LTC) and retirement homes to study the effectiveness of promising practices, interventions, and policy options designed to keep the residents, their families and caregivers, and staff at these homes safe from COVID-19.
 - Research teams will then support the implementation of these interventions and evaluate their outcomes and impacts to understand their effectiveness in LTC and retirement homes across Canada.
 - Findings from this research are intended to strengthen current pandemic preparedness, and mitigate risks and consequences of future outbreaks.

⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

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>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-and-partners-invest-18m-in-strengthening-pandemic-preparedness-in-long-term-care-and-retirement-homes.html>

- Today, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, announced the following:¹²
 - The renewal of the COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG):
 - The CDAG was created in April 2020 to help ensure the Government took an inclusive approach to its pandemic response and overall decision-making.
 - The CDAG will build on previous work advising the Minister with a renewed focus on:
 - promoting disability inclusion and targeting barriers to the full participation of Canadians with disabilities in specific areas, based on Government of Canada priorities and the Minister’s mandate; and,
 - the implementation of Government of Canada programs and initiatives related to the Minister’s disability inclusion and accessibility mandate.
 - \$23.2 million in funding for Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan):¹³
 - This funding is intended to develop and implement an accelerated online program to train approximately 4,000 new personal support worker interns.
 - COVID-19 has highlighted the critical role that personal support workers play in our healthcare system and the shortage of these personnel that currently exists.
 - CICan will work in collaboration with provinces, territories, employers, workers’ organizations, unions and training providers to begin a national dialogue on training standards for the supportive care sector.
- Today, the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat and BC Government announced \$1.038 billion in joint funding under the “Safe Restart Agreement” with TransLink, BC Transit and BC Ferries. The Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) is a federal investment of more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and make our country more resilient to possible future surges in cases of COVID-19. Highlights from the announcement include the following:¹⁴
 - For BC Ferries, this funding will prevent fare increases for this fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, and ensures that future increases over the next three years will be limited to rate caps established prior to the pandemic.
 - Minimum service levels and additional sailings to meet community needs will be maintained through at least the next three years.
 - Any fare changes for BC Transit and Translink are capped at affordable levels through to BC Transit’s fiscal year end of March 31, 2024 and TransLink’s fiscal year end of December 31, 2024.

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

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/11/x2.html>

¹³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-train-4000-personal-support-worker-interns-support-sector.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/news/2020/12/safe-restart-agreement-funding-supports-reliable-public-transportation-and-affordable-fares-in-british-columbia.html>