

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 08 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 07	As of Dec 08	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	38,152	38,718	566
Total active cases in BC	9,380	9,315	- 65
Currently in intensive care	77	74	-3
Currently hospitalized	349	352	3
Total hospitalized to date	2,074	2,112	38
Total deaths in BC	527	543	16
Total recovered in BC	27,287	27,897	610

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 07	As of Dec 08	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	38,152	38,718	566
Vancouver Coastal Health	9,725	9,861	136
Fraser Health	24,261	24,558	297
Island Health	724	735	11
Interior Health	2,265	2,339	74
Northern Health	1,084	1,132	48
Out of Canada	93	93	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,235,006	1,241,949	6,943

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 07	As of Dec 08	Change
Total confirmed cases	57	58	1
Total active cases	9	10	1
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	47	47	0
Total individuals tested	5,607	5,645	38
Negative results	5,484	5,502	18
Pending results	66	85	19

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 04	As of Dec 07	Change
Total confirmed cases	4,595	5,071	476
Total active cases	1,652	1,942	290
Currently hospitalized	197	222	25
Total deaths	43	45	2
Total recovered	2,900	3,084	184
Total confirmed cases in BC	355	397	42

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, the Government of British Columbia announced the extension of the Provincial State of Emergency until the end of day on December 22, 2020.⁵
- Today, BC Finance Minister, Selina Robinson, announced that British Columbians will be able to apply for the government's tax-free Recovery Benefit beginning on December 18th.⁶ The following details were provided:
 - \$1,000 will be available to families with incomes under \$125,000, while families earning up to \$175,000 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount.
 - Single-parent families also qualify for these benefit amounts.
 - \$500 will be available to single people earning less than \$62,500. Single people earning up to \$87,500 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount.
 - British Columbians receiving income assistance and disability assistance will also be eligible for the B.C. Recovery Benefit.
 - People on income assistance, disability assistance and low-income seniors receiving the senior's supplement will receive an additional recovery benefit at \$150 per month from January 2021 to March 2021.
 - Qualified applicants are expected to receive the benefit by the end of the year.
- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix provided a joint statement regarding updates on the ongoing provincial COVID-19 response⁷. Highlights include the following:
 - "Let's make the coming weeks our 'winter break' by breaking the chain of transmission in our province. We can still be festive and enjoy the season, but let's ensure it is only with our immediate household or, if you live on your own, with one or two close contacts."
 - "Take in the holiday lights in your neighbourhood, have a virtual visit with friends or support a 'drive in and drop off' charitable toy drive."
 - "Let's work together to protect our communities and those who are most vulnerable and make it a safe and enjoyable holiday season for everyone."

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

⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0064-002021>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0064-002019>

⁷ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0065-002027>

- Today, the BC government announced \$1.3 million in funding to support overdose response and awareness in rural, remote and Indigenous communities across B.C. in response to the challenge of COVID-19 measures amplifying the overdose crisis.⁸
 - The funding will help communities carry out local actions specific to the needs of their community.
 - Dr. Bonnie Henry stated: “When the province announced a framework to help rural, remote and Indigenous communities manage the challenges of a pandemic, I felt like it was an excellent first step. Today’s announcement offering grants to provide funding and support is a much-needed second step to address the ravages of overdose, amplified by a pandemic, and felt most acutely by underserved, rural, remote and Indigenous communities.”
 - Richard Jock, interim CEO of the First Nations Health Authority stated: “First Nations across B.C. are responding to a dual public health emergency that impacts individuals, families and communities. FNHA welcomes additional resources to support communities to respond to the unintended consequences of COVID-19 public health measures and the resulting increase in overdose deaths.”

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, the Government of Yukon made the following announcements regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The Government of Yukon is extending the state of emergency under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA) for 90 days.⁹
 - 1 new case of COVID-19 has been identified in Yukon. The case is linked to a previous case and no exposure notice was issued.¹⁰

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam and other federal representatives provided an update on the current status of COVID-19 vaccine procurement efforts and distribution plans.¹¹
 - Vaccine procurement contracts have been signed to ensure that no disruption to the effective and timely supply of vaccines to Canadians will occur.
 - Canada has access to vaccines from production facilities on more than one continent to prevent supply interruptions.
 - 14 initial distribution sites have been identified by the provinces to receive the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine.
 - Sites will be activated at a pace appropriate for the quantities of vaccine expected to be received.
 - Vaccine distribution rehearsal exercises are being conducted to identify issues with the distribution plan prior to vaccine arrival.
 - The majority of vaccines will be deployed and implemented by provinces and territories.

⁸ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0064-002024>

⁹ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/yukon-extending-state-emergency-another-90-days>

¹⁰ <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

¹¹ <https://www.cpac.ca/en/programs/covid-19-canada-responds/episodes/66305543/>

- Today, Dr. Tam provided further remarks on vaccine procurement and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 in Canada:¹²
 - “It is important to stress that, as welcome as (the news of a vaccine) is, it does not mean that control of COVID-19 will be quick. Initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccines will be limited, but supply will gradually increase until there is enough to provide access for all Canadians.”
 - “During these initial stages of vaccine rollout, it is crucial that we all continue with public health measures to protect ourselves and others.”
 - “The response to the COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest collective effort of our lifetimes. It has relied on the efforts of all Canadians, from individuals, institutions, all levels of Government and across sectors.”
 - “As we embark on Canada’s COVID-19 vaccine response, I am confident that, together, we will be successful in rolling out one of the most complex operations ever to take place in public health.”
 - “Knowing safe and effective vaccines are within sight might lead some to think COVID-19 is no longer a problem. But, the reality is very different.”
 - “So we need to keep telling ourselves, this is not a race to the finish, but a test of our continued collective effort and resolve, and we will endure. For now, we must all continue to follow local public health advice and maintain individual protective practices that will keep us safe along the path ahead.”

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

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/remarks-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-on-covid-19-december-8-2020.html>