

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 09 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 08	As of Dec 09	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	38,718	39,337	619
Total active cases in BC	9,315	9,329	14
Currently in intensive care	74	76	2
Currently hospitalized	352	338	-14
Total hospitalized to date	2,112	2,142	30
Total deaths in BC	543	559	16
Total recovered in BC	27,897	28,448	511

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 08	As of Dec 09	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	38,718	39,337	619
Vancouver Coastal Health	9,861	9,982	121
Fraser Health	24,558	24,942	384
Island Health	735	740	5
Interior Health	2,339	2,420	81
Northern Health	1,132	1,159	27
Out of Canada	93	94	1
Total individuals tested in BC	1,241,949	1,254,907	12,958

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 08	As of Dec 09	Change
Total confirmed cases	58	58	0
Total active cases	10	10	0
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	47	47	0
Total individuals tested	5,645	5,673	28
Negative results	5,502	5,540	38
Pending results	85	75	-10

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 07	As of Dec 08	Change
Total confirmed cases	5,071	5,200	129
Total active cases	1,942	1,994	52
Currently hospitalized	222	229	7
Total deaths	45	45	0
Total recovered	3,084	3,161	77
Total confirmed cases in BC	397	397	0

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Health Canada released the following statement regarding the authorization of the first COVID-19 vaccine for use in Canada:⁵
 - Health Canada has determined that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine meets the Department's stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements.
 - Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada will closely monitor the safety of the vaccine once it is on the market and will not hesitate to take action if any safety concerns are identified.
 - In this initial period, the vaccine is intended for use in people 16 years of age or older.
 - Pfizer-BioNTech are running further clinical trials on children of all age groups and the indication could be revised in the future to include children if the data from these studies support it.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister of Health, Adrian Dix provided a joint statement regarding the ongoing provincial COVID-19 response, including an announcement on Operation Immunize, the province's COVID-19 vaccine strategy.⁶ This included the following statements:
 - "Today, we shared our COVID-19 vaccine strategy in step with federal approval of the first safe and effective vaccine available in Canada. Next week, British Columbians will begin to receive the Pfizer vaccine, launching our provincewide immunization program. This is a significant turning point in our B.C. COVID-19 response that, simply put, will save lives."
 - "Right now we are only receiving small amounts of vaccine and ... we will get the vaccine delivered to us sequentially in the coming weeks. Eventually everybody who can and wants to get a vaccine will have access, but to be clear this will not happen right away."
 - "We have identified priority populations (to first receive the vaccine) and these have been agreed upon across the country. Given the limited amount of vaccines... our priority is to save lives and we know that the lives that are being taken and affected most right now are seniors and elders in long-term care and assisted living."

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

⁵ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/12/health-canada-authorizes-first-covid-19-vaccine0.html>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0065-002036>

- “In addition we need to protect our strained healthcare system. So we look at a number of risk factors and geographically where the virus is affecting people the most. The first batches in December will be provided to healthcare workers who work in long-term care, and in those key frontline healthcare settings (in the Lower Mainland).”
 - “The Pfizer vaccine requires us to provide the vaccine at the site where it is (stored) ... which means we need to bring people to the vaccine instead of the vaccine to people at this point. It may be the first weeks of January before it is possible to bring the vaccine to people. We are hopeful that as we get the processes and confidence in how we are transporting the vaccine we will be able to switch to taking it to people very soon, but it may be the first weeks of January before that is possible.”
 - “We know that the Moderna vaccine has less stringent requirements for transport and that it can be kept at fridge temperatures for a matter of days. That makes it much more easy to transport smaller amounts to some of our more rural or remote communities.”
 - “By the first week of January we expect vaccine to be available in all health authorities. Each health authority will determine the sequencing of (distribution) to healthcare workers.”
 - “From there we’ll add the next layer in to our sequence to include people pf advanced age, so people over age 80 in the community, higher risk communities like those living in congregate living situations and shelters, and remote and isolated first nations communities and indigenous peoples.”
 - “Later in the spring there will be more vaccines available to more rapidly spread out to people in the community. It is at that point, where many people are protected, that we will be able to stop this pandemic.”
 - "As we recognize this milestone and look ahead, let's remember the importance of continuing to work together, to follow the public health orders and to use our layers of protection until the vaccine is available for all of us."
- Today, the Government of B.C. provided the following recommendations to limit the strain on the public health system during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for the winter months and upcoming holiday season:
 - British Columbians are urged to plan and prepare before heading into B.C.’s backcountry to avoid exposing Search and Rescue members to COVID-19 during callouts.⁷
 - People should avoid all non-essential travel, follow COVID-19 safe travel guidelines if they must travel and stay with their immediate household or core bubble.⁸
 - People who do have to travel for essential reasons, such as work or a medical appointment, are also reminded to drive safely and use extra caution on B.C. highways and roads this winter.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Government of Yukon.

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

⁷ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0064-002012>

⁸ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TRAN0169-002022>