

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 10 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

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN BC<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 09</b>	<b>As of Dec 10</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	39,337	40,060	<b>723</b>
Total active cases in BC	9,329	9,524	<b>195</b>
Currently in intensive care	76	75	<b>-1</b>
Currently hospitalized	338	346	<b>8</b>
Total hospitalized to date	2,142	2,184	<b>42</b>
Total deaths in BC	559	587	<b>28</b>
Total recovered in BC	28,448	28,948	<b>500</b>
<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 09</b>	<b>As of Dec 10</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	39,337	40,060	<b>723</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	9,982	10,117	<b>135</b>
Fraser Health	24,942	25,398	<b>456</b>
Island Health	740	750	<b>10</b>
Interior Health	2,420	2,502	<b>82</b>
Northern Health	1,159	1,199	<b>40</b>
Out of Canada	94	94	<b>0</b>
Total individuals tested in BC	1,254,907	1,267,521	<b>12,614</b>
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 09</b>	<b>As of Dec 10</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	58	58	<b>0</b>
Total active cases	10	10	<b>0</b>
Total deaths	1	1	<b>0</b>
Total recovered	47	47	<b>0</b>
Total individuals tested	5,673	5,701	<b>28</b>
Negative results	5,540	5,591	<b>51</b>
Pending results	75	52	<b>-23</b>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

<b>STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE CASES IN CANADA<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 08</b>	<b>As of Dec 09</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	5,200	5,553	353
Total active cases	1,994	2,083	89
Currently hospitalized	229	237	8
Total deaths	45	49	4
Total recovered	3,161	3,421	260
Total confirmed cases in BC	397	432	35

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix held a live press conference regarding updates on the ongoing provincial COVID-19 response.<sup>5</sup> Dr. Bonnie Henry provided the following statements:
  - “As we stated yesterday, we have at least one safe and effective vaccine that is approved for use in Canada, and immunization will begin very soon.”
  - “The process to distribute and receive the vaccine is very complex and is constantly changing which is why our province wide immunization program framework has been built to allow us to be flexible, adaptable, and in step with these changes.”
  - “I know many of us are anxious to receive the vaccine but remember that those that are most vulnerable will receive the vaccine first.”
  - “Your turn may be in a few weeks, or a few months, but for every person who gets the COVID-19 vaccine, all of us will be a little safer.”
  - “We need to push forward into our final leg of this pandemic. When we have a finish line in sight, we need to pace ourselves and continue to work together, even if we are tired.”
  - “There will be a time when we can travel, and see our friends and family, but we are not through this storm yet and we need to continue to follow the orders, reduce our contacts, and use our layers of protection.”
- Today, The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) released the following information regarding the authorization of the COVID-19 vaccine:<sup>6</sup>
  - Initially, only small quantities of the COVID-19 vaccine will be available, requiring a sequenced rollout.
  - First Nations individuals in rural or remote areas are among the first priority populations and are expected to receive immunizations on a voluntary basis in February and March.
  - For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the BC Centre for Disease Control website at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>

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

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Bonnie Henry via live press conference 13:00 10/12/2020

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/fnha-welcomes-news-of-covid-19-vaccine>

- Acting Chief Medical Officer of the FNHA, Dr. Shannon McDonald, stated:
  - “Vaccine approval marks a turning point in our fight against COVID-19.”
  - “The FNHA is working with our health system partners and First Nations leaders to ensure our communities get access to COVID-19 vaccines as soon as we can.”
  - “More vaccines and more quantities of vaccines are expected in the New Year and these will allow for community vaccination programs and broader vaccinations of First Nations people – and others.”
  - “In the meantime, it’s important that we continue to stay strong and stay the course against COVID-19. This means continue physical distancing, stick to our household bubbles, avoid social gatherings, and be calm and kind to one another.”

## **SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY**

- Today, the Government of Yukon released Yukon’s COVID-19 Strategy<sup>7</sup> which outlines Yukon’s plan to deliver COVID-19 vaccines safely and efficiently across the territory.<sup>8</sup>
  - All eligible, adult Yukoners who would like to receive a COVID-19 vaccine will have access to one, at no cost, in early 2021. At this time, no vaccine is currently approved for children or recommended for pregnant people.
  - Yukon will be receiving enough doses to immunize 75 percent of the eligible adult population in the first quarter of 2021. This allocation recognizes Yukon’s significant Indigenous populations and remote communities.
  - If more Yukoners choose to immunize, additional COVID-19 vaccines will be available in the second quarter of 2021.

## **SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

- Today, Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, provided the following remarks on the COVID-19 vaccine in Canada:<sup>9</sup>
  - “This week, the Public Health Agency of Canada released Canada’s COVID-19 Immunization Plan: Saving Lives and Livelihoods <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-reponse/canadas-covid-19-immunization-plan-en.pdf>
  - “The plan maps out how safe and effective vaccines will be made accessible for all Canadians who want them, in an efficient and coordinated manner in collaboration with provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and other key partners.”
  - “While we continue to prepare the way for widespread and lasting control of COVID-19 through safe and effective vaccines, Canadians are urged to continue with individual practices that keep us and our families safer, while protecting populations and communities at high risk for severe outcomes.”

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<sup>7</sup> [https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/hss\\_one-pager\\_vaccine-strategy\\_fnl.pdf](https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/hss_one-pager_vaccine-strategy_fnl.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/strategy-covid-19-vaccinations-yukon-released>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-december-10-2020.html>

- Today, The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) announced the implementation of a pan-Canadian Vaccine Injury Support Program.<sup>10</sup> Highlights from the statement include the following:
  - “Vaccines are only approved in Canada after thorough and independent review of the scientific evidence. They are also closely monitored once on the market and can quickly be removed from market if safety concerns are identified.”
  - “Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects and reactions. After being vaccinated, it's common to have mild and harmless side effects — this is the body's natural response, as it's working to build immunity against a disease. However, it is also possible for someone to have a serious adverse reaction to a vaccine. The chances of this are extremely rare — less than one in a million — and we have a duty to help if this occurs.”
  - “It is for this reason that the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is implementing a pan-Canadian no-fault vaccine injury support program for all Health Canada approved vaccines, in collaboration with provinces and territories.”
  - “The program will ensure that all Canadians have to have fair access to support in the rare event that they experience an adverse reaction to a vaccine.”
  - “This program will also bring Canada in line with its G7 counterparts with similar programs, and ensure the country remains competitive in accessing new vaccines as they become available.”
  
- Today, Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, and Minister of Digital Government, Joyce Murray, announced the addition of two new features on the COVID-19 Alert application.<sup>11</sup>
  - The first feature allows users to clear the screen that indicates “exposure to COVID-19” to allow for notification of a new COVID-19 exposure.
    - Users should follow public health guidance, and only clear the screen following a negative test result or after they receive instructions provided by their public health authority.
  - The second feature allows users to turn the application on and off without disabling Bluetooth.
  
- Today, Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, and Minister of International Development, Karina Gould issued the following statement for Human Rights Day:<sup>12</sup>
  - “This past year has presented some serious challenges, particularly when it comes to human rights. The pandemic has exposed inequalities and worsened the situation of many groups. In some cases, pandemic-related measures have been used to restrict human rights.”
  - “This year’s Human Rights Day is an occasion to affirm our conviction that human rights need to be at the centre of the COVID-19 recovery. Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. They are also about equality of opportunity.”

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-pan-canadian-vaccine-injury-support-program.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/12/covid-alert-app-updated-to-serve-canadians-better.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/statement-by-minister-of-foreign-affairs-and-minister-of-international-development-on-human-rights-day.html>

- “The people marginalized and most affected by COVID-19 must be heard. Only then will we build a more inclusive, just and equal post-pandemic world that will be safer and more peaceful for all.”
- “Today, Canada is announcing renewed support for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [OHCHR] through a contribution of \$5 million. This funding will strengthen the OHCHR’s ability to promote and protect the human rights of all people.”
- Today, the Government of Canada introduced legislation that, if passed, would temporarily supplement provisions of the *Canada Elections Act* to provide more flexibility to Elections Canada for the safe administration of an election during the pandemic.<sup>13</sup> The new, temporary measures include:
  - the establishment of a three-day polling period,
  - expanded opportunities to securely vote by mail,
  - flexibility to allow for safe voting in long-term care facilities and facilities with persons living with disabilities, and
  - increased authority for the Chief Electoral Officer to adjust provisions of the Act as needed to ensure the health and safety of voters and election workers.

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

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/democratic-institutions/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-support-safe-secure-and-accessible-voting-during-the-pandemic0.html>