

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 11 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 10	As of Dec 11	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	40,060	40,797	737
Total active cases in BC	9,524	9,589	65
Currently in intensive care	75	87	22
Currently hospitalized	346	342	-4
Total hospitalized to date	2,184	2,207	23
Total deaths in BC	587	598	11
Total recovered in BC	28,948	29,598	650
CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 10	As of Dec 11	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	40,060	40,797	737
Vancouver Coastal Health	10,117	10,236	119
Fraser Health	25,398	25,867	469
Island Health	750	758	8
Interior Health	2,502	2,601	99
Northern Health	1,199	1,240	41
Out of Canada	94	95	1
Total individuals tested in BC	1,267,521	1,278,078	10,557
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 10	As of Dec 11	Change
Total confirmed cases	58	58	0
Total active cases	10	3	-7
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	47	54	7
Total individuals tested	5,701	5,723	22
Negative results	5,591	5,613	22
Pending results	52	52	0

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

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

³ <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

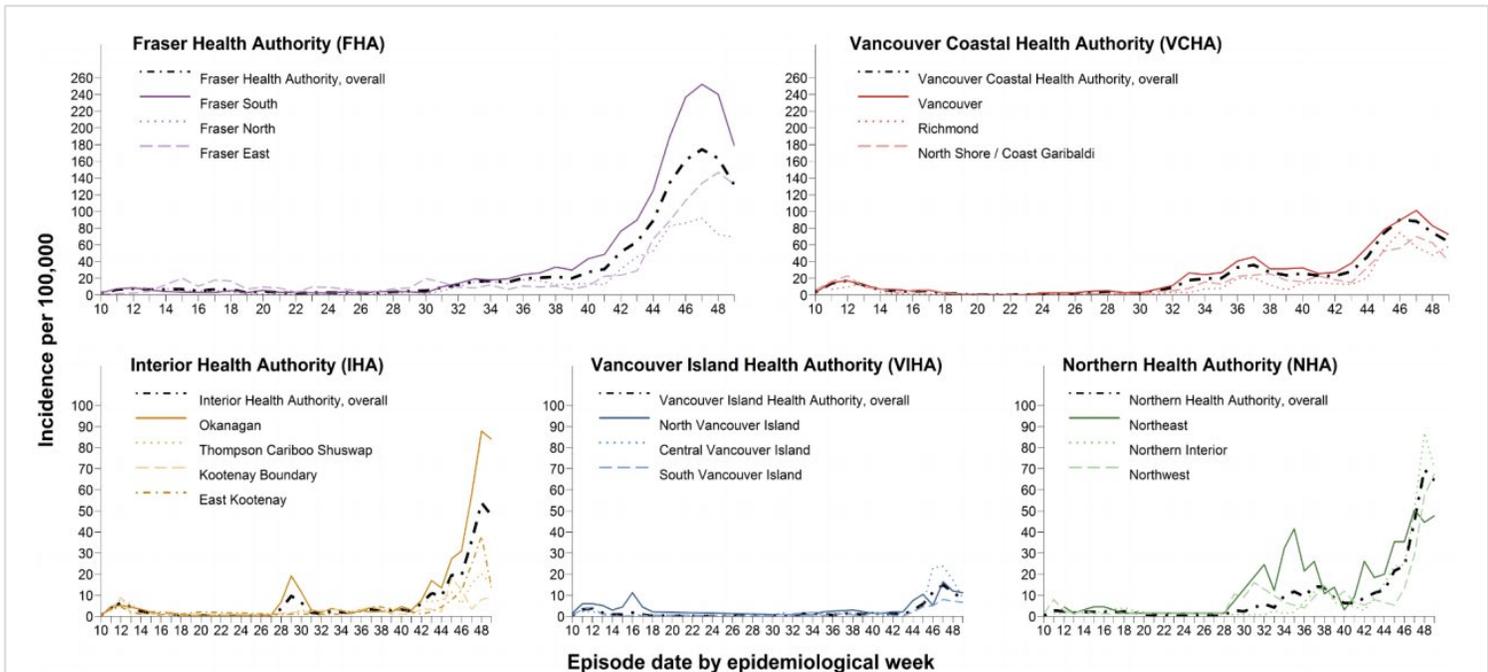
**STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE
CASES IN CANADA⁴**

	As of Dec 09	As of Dec 10	Change
Total confirmed cases	5,553	5,675	122
Total active cases	2,083	2,100	17
Currently hospitalized	237	240	3
Total deaths	49	49	0
Total recovered	3,421	3,526	105
Total confirmed cases in BC	432	440	8

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- The BC COVID-19 Situation Report (Week 49) released today by the BCCDC noted that while COVID-19 cases are plateauing in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, **cases are continuing to climb in Northern and Interior Health Authorities.**⁵
 - The incidence rate has increased to 64 per 100K in the Northern Health Authority (NHA) from 45 per 100K in week 47 (see Figure 1 below).
 - The percent positivity exceeded 10% in the Northern and Fraser Health Authority; 6% in the Vancouver Coastal and Interior Health Authority; and 1% in the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

Figure 1 - Weekly incidence rates by Health Authority



Source: BC COVID-19 Situation Report – Week 49

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

⁵ http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_sitrep/BC_COVID-19_Situation_Report_Dec_11_2020.pdf

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix released the following statement regarding the ongoing provincial COVID-19 response⁶:
 - “COVID-19 continues to circulate in our communities and the risk to all of us remains high. This is why it is so important to follow the public health orders and to use our layers of protection until the vaccine is available for all of us.”
 - “This weekend, take a step back from the usual holiday rush. Take the time to get outside and enjoy a quieter weekend with those in your household. Show your loved ones you care by staying local and staying away right now.”
 - “We want to ensure we are moving into this stage of our COVID-19 response in the best position possible, which means working together to make sure we don’t fall back as we move forward with our immunization program.”
 - “We will get through this storm by supporting each other in our shared efforts. Let’s break the chain of transmission in our province and do our part to keep our communities, neighbours, friends and loved ones safe.”
- Today, the Government of B.C. announced increased support for friendship centres to benefit urban Indigenous peoples during the pandemic.⁷
 - A one-time COVID-19 relief grant of \$7.8 million is being provided through the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to meet the increased demand for services provided by friendship centres.
 - The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres will distribute this funding among all 25 friendship centres in British Columbia.
 - The allotted funding is to help provide supports like meals and hampers, care packages for seniors and education kits for children, and to help ensure that staff have the equipment and supplies they need to provide services safely.
- Today, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure announced that \$28 million from B.C.’s Economic Recovery Plan will be used to upgrade infrastructure in rural and remote communities.⁸
 - \$20 million is going to the Remote and Rural Communities program where it will be used to fund more than 80 projects to make getting around rural Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities safer and easier.
 - Roughly \$8 million is going to fund approximately 75 projects through Enhanced Forest Service Road Maintenance to help upgrade forest service roads in various locations.
 - These projects are intended to provide jobs for forest sector workers affected by the pandemic and to benefit Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities that rely on these roads to access public services, as well as people who use these forest service roads to access recreation sites.

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0066-002057>

⁷ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020IRRO065-002048>

⁸ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TRAN0170-002040>

- Today, the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation announced a new \$3-million Agritech Grant Program as part of B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan.⁹
 - The Agritech Grant program, with its focus on technology, is intended to help local farmers become better equipped to enhance B.C.'s food security, strengthen supply chains and keep people healthy.
 - The program is open to B.C.-based agritech and agriculture businesses, as well as international agritech companies that are partnered with B.C.-based businesses.
 - To be eligible for the program, a company must operate and pay taxes in B.C., employ at least 10 B.C. residents and raise at least 25% of the funding from another source.
 - Applications close on Feb. 12, 2021, with successful applicants notified early March 2021.
 - The grants will be disbursed to recipients by March 31, 2021.
 - Eligible companies can receive grants of up to \$500,000.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, the Government of Yukon released a statement regarding a virtual meeting held this week for the 18th annual Northern Premiers' Forum, where the Premiers discussed a resilient North and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the North.¹⁰ Highlights from the statement include the following:
 - "Premiers have collaborated extensively throughout the pandemic in addition to their annual meeting."
 - "Premiers are thankful for the Government of Canada's ongoing financial support during the pandemic and considerations of the unique challenges and circumstances of the territories. They stand united in raising Northern considerations as a priority for vaccine allocations and call on the federal government to rebalance the health care funding partnership."
 - "Premiers discussed the resilience of Northerners, particularly in the face of this year's many challenges. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, Northerners have come together to support one another even while staying apart."
 - "With this same spirit, Premiers took the opportunity to renew their commitment to territorial collaboration and to delivering on northern-made mutual priorities."

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, the Government of Canada released the following COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities:¹¹
 - "Earlier this week, the Government of Canada announced the authorization of the first COVID-19 vaccine in Canada, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, after a thorough, independent review of the evidence for safety, efficacy, and quality requirements for use in Canada."

⁹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020JERI0041-002043>

¹⁰ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/northern-premiers-discuss-resilient-north>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities0.html>

- “Up to 249,000 Pfizer doses will be available for COVID-19 vaccination in December, with the first portion of this shipment being shipped to 14 locations across Canada. The logistics of the COVID-19 vaccine will require coordination with provinces, territories, Indigenous leadership and partners. Indigenous health is a shared responsibility for First Nations, Inuit and Métis leaders, provinces and territories and the federal government.”
- “The Government of Canada has signed agreements with seven companies to increase the number of vaccines available. Vaccines will be provided to at-risk groups first on a rolling basis as vaccines are received in Canada, including older adults, Indigenous adults and health care workers.”
- “As COVID-19 cases continue to rise across the country, the risk of spread increases. We urge all community members to support their leadership and follow community and provincial public health measures that have proven to save lives.”

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