

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 15 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 14	As of Dec 15	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	42,943	43,463	*522
Total active cases in BC	10,039	9,860	-179
Currently in intensive care	87	93	6
Currently hospitalized	359	361	2
Total hospitalized to date	2,307	2,344	37
Total deaths in BC	647	668	21
Total recovered in BC	31,207	31,866	659

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 14	As of Dec 15	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	42,943	43,463	*522
Vancouver Coastal Health	10,536	10,620	84
Fraser Health	27,341	27,679	338
Island Health	787	794	7
Interior Health	2,851	2,907	56
Northern Health	1,331	1,368	37
Out of Canada	95	95	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,316,237	1,325,240	**6,521

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 14	As of Dec 15	Change
Total confirmed cases	59	59	0
Total active cases	4	1	-3
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	54	57	3
Total individuals tested	5,756	5,773	17
Negative results	5,682	5,680	2
Pending results	15	34	19

*The BCCDC has reported 522 new cases but this does not align with the difference in case counts (520) between December 14 and 15

**The BCCDC has reported 6,521 new tests but this does not align with the difference in total test numbers (9,003) between Dec. 14 and 15

¹ <https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/11bd9b0303c64373b5680df29e5b5914>

² <https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/11bd9b0303c64373b5680df29e5b5914>

³ <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE

CASES IN CANADA⁴	As of Dec 11	As of Dec 14	Change
Total confirmed cases	5,731	6,289	558
Total active cases	2,196	2,477	281
Currently hospitalized	248	256	8
Total deaths	49	52	3
Total recovered	3,486	3,760	274
Total confirmed cases in BC	459	497	38

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, the B.C. Government announced that the first delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations has arrived in the province.⁵
 - These initial vaccine doses will be administered to Lower Mainland health-care workers who work in long-term care homes and front-line health-care workers essential to the COVID-19 response. Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health are contacting staff to schedule the initial vaccine appointments.
 - Starting the week of Dec. 21, vaccines will be delivered weekly to all health authorities. Expected timelines will depend on vaccine approval and availability.
 - As vaccines become more available, they will be provided to other priority groups throughout British Columbia.
 - A registration and record system are in development, including a process to register for vaccine access and receive a formal record of immunization.
- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix released the following statement regarding the ongoing provincial COVID-19 response⁶:
 - “Today is a momentous day in our province with the start of our first COVID-19 vaccine clinics. With immunizations now underway, those who are most vulnerable to severe illness have one more layer of protection that will get stronger as each new person gets immunized.”
 - “Even as we look to brighter days ahead, we must remember that the pandemic is far from over. This is why, as we enter this next stage, using our layers of protection and following all of the public health orders is more important than ever.”
 - “No one wants to experience the tragedy of losing a loved one when this day of hope is upon us. So let’s make Dec. 15 a day for doing all we can to protect our communities and the people we care for most.”

⁴ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0340-002067>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0066-002074>

- Today, Premier John Horgan held his weekly media briefing. Highlights from the briefing include⁷:
 - “We have been successful compared to our neighbours. An example, over the past 7 days, there have been 7,000 more cases of COVID-19 in Alberta than there have been here in B.C. Although the numbers are unacceptably high here in British Columbia, we together have flattened the curve over the past couple of weeks and we are hopeful that if we continue to abide by public health orders over the weeks ahead, getting through the Christmas season, we will be in a much better position come January.”
 - “The vast majority of our citizens are focusing on keeping themselves well, keeping their families safe, and doing the right thing for their communities. But there are those who are not prepared to bend a little bit in their personal lives to the benefit of all of us collectively.
 - “And so consequently, we are going to be beefing up enforcement of public health orders over the next couple of weeks...That means holding rule-breaker accountable, that means ensuring that the fines that we levy are collected...Certainly everyone has a right to appeal, everyone has a right to due process, but once that due process has been finalized, if you do not pay the fines, we will send collections after you.”
- Today the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) announced that they will be providing Winter Wellness Grants to support community-led, virtual celebrations in honour of Winter Solstice.⁸
 - The Winter Wellness Grants are intended to support innovative ways for people to stay safe and well in the New Year – including through online activities.
 - First Nations communities, schools, and health and social organizations that provide wellness services to Indigenous British Columbians will be eligible for up to \$1,000 to conduct their own virtual/online celebration to honour Winter Solstice.
 - These celebrations are intended to promote culture, resilience and community while maintaining physical distancing.
 - The grant process will open Jan. 4, 2021.
 - More information and grant applications will be provided at a later date.
 - To qualify for a grant, organizations and schools must have up-to-date wellness grant reports. You may check on your reporting status by emailing Active@fnha.ca.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, Minister Frost released a statement regarding the recent announcement about the delivery of Moderna vaccine to the territories⁹. Highlights from the statement include the following:
 - “We are happy to hear that the Moderna vaccine is closer to approvals and that it could arrive in Yukon as early as the end of December. We will continue to work with our federal colleagues on the delivery logistics so that as soon as the vaccine is approved and ready for distribution, we can begin rolling it out to Yukoners.”
 - “We have reassurance that Yukon will receive enough doses to vaccinate 75 per cent of the population in early 2021. That, according to projections from our health team, means every Yukon adult who wants it will be able to be vaccinated in early 2021.”

⁷ Premier Horgan via live media briefing on 12:40 PM on 12/15/20

⁸ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/the-2021-winter-wellness-grants-are-coming-soon>

⁹ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/statement-minister-frost-recent-announcement-about-delivery-moderna-vaccine-territories>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Anita Anand announced that Canada is to receive early access to the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine¹⁰:
 - Canada will be able to access 168,000 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in December 2020, contingent on Health Canada authorization of the vaccine.
 - Health Canada is currently reviewing the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and is on track for a regulatory decision to be made soon.
 - The 168,000 doses, which could arrive in December 2020, will support the first delivery of vaccines to Canada's north. The logistical planning for the delivery of Moderna doses is complete, and shipments to Canada could begin within 48 hours of regulatory approval.
- Today, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Navdeep Bains announced that the Government of Canada is investing in promising treatment that could fight COVID-19¹¹:
 - A contribution of up to \$6.7 million is to be provided through the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) to Arch Biopartners, a Canadian clinical-stage biotechnology company that aims to advance its lead drug candidate Metablok as a treatment for organ inflammation in severe cases of COVID-19.
 - Metablok is designed to block inflammation in the lungs, liver and kidneys, helping alleviate complications in the worst cases of COVID-19.
 - This funding is to help Arch Biopartners advance Metablok through clinical trials and the approval process.
- Today, the Canada Revenue Agency announced a simplified process for claiming the home office expenses for Canadians working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic¹²:
 - Employees who worked from home more than 50% of the time over a period of a least four consecutive weeks in 2020 due to COVID-19 will now be eligible to claim the home office expenses deduction for 2020.
 - The use of a shorter qualifying period will ensure that more employees can claim the deduction than would otherwise have been possible under longstanding practice.
 - A new temporary flat rate method will allow eligible employees to claim a deduction of \$2 for each day they worked at home in that period, plus any other days they worked from home in 2020 due to COVID-19 up to a maximum of \$400.
 - Under this new method, employees will not have to get Form T2200 or Form T2200S completed and signed by their employer.
 - Employees with larger claims for home office expenses can still choose to use the existing detailed method to calculate their home office expenses deduction.
 - For more information on working from home expenses go to Canada.ca/cra-home-workspace-expenses.

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

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/12/canada-to-receive-early-access-to-moderna-covid-19-vaccine.html>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-promising-treatment-that-could-fight-covid-19.html>

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/12/introducing-a-simplified-process-for-claiming-the-home-office-expenses-for-canadians-working-from-home-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>