

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 17 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 16	As of Dec 17	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	44,103	44,776	673
Total active cases in BC	9,950	10,009	59
Currently in intensive care	91	93	2
Currently hospitalized	362	358	-4
Total hospitalized to date	2,377	2,419	42
Total deaths in BC	692	713	21
Total recovered in BC	32,376	32,963	587

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 16	As of Dec 17	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	44,103	44,776	673
Vancouver Coastal Health	10,718	10,863	145
Fraser Health	28,078	28,481	403
Island Health	799	803	4
Interior Health	2,998	3,064	66
Northern Health	1,415	1,462	47
Out of Canada	95	103	8
Total individuals tested in BC	1,340,007	1,351,612	11,169*

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 16	As of Dec 17	Change
Total confirmed cases	59	59	0
Total active cases	1	1	0
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	57	57	0
Total individuals tested	5,790	5,815	25
Negative results	5,702	5,704	2
Pending results	29	52	23

*The BCCDC has reported 11,169 new tests, which does not align with the difference in total test numbers between Dec 16 and Dec 17, 2020.

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 15	As of Dec 16*	Change
Total confirmed cases	6,390	6,569	179
Total active cases	2,472	2,490	18
Currently hospitalized	265	295	30
Total deaths	55	59	4
Total recovered	3,863	4,020	157
Total confirmed cases in BC	501	507	6

*Dec 16, 2020, is the most up-to-date information released on First Nation Reserve Cases by the Government of Canada.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix held a live press conference regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in B.C. Highlights from the conference include the following:⁵
 - Regarding the vaccine:
 - Yesterday, 806 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine were given to B.C. front-line health-care workers, for a total of 1,215 doses to date.
 - Starting next week, B.C. will receive weekly vaccine deliveries for clinics in every health region across the province.
 - In response to questions regarding why the vaccine is not recommended for people who are immunocompromised, Dr. Henry provided the following information:
 - The clinical trials expressly excluded people with those conditions and focused on primarily healthy populations of people of different ages. As there were very few people with immune compromising conditions who were in the trials, it is currently unknown whether these vaccines will work and are safe, or whether they may have some effects on the immune system.
 - Examples of who this may apply to include: individuals undergoing certain treatments, or on certain medications which compromise their immune system; people who have had an organ transplant; have chronic liver or kidney disease; someone receiving chemotherapy or certain immunosuppressive therapies.
 - If unsure, individuals are recommended to consult with their healthcare provider.
 - Dr. Henry emphasised to anyone in need medical care, it is available and safe – in hospitals, healthcare facilities, and primary care clinics, and individuals should continue to utilize these services, as needed.

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

⁵ Via live press conference at 3:30pm on Dec 17th, 2020

- Regarding COVID-19 testing in B.C.:
 - As many COVID-19 symptoms are similar to influenza or colds, updated guidance has been released to provide additional clarity on when individuals should go for testing.
 - The majority of new cases continue to be directly connected to known, confirmed cases of COVID-19. As a result, if you are a close contact of someone with the virus or of someone who is part of a cluster or outbreak and you develop any symptoms, you should arrange to get tested immediately.
 - There are four symptoms that are highly predictive of the: **fever or chills, a cough, loss of sense of smell or taste, and difficulty breathing.**
 - If you have any of these symptoms you should arrange to get tested right away – even if you have not been in contact with someone who has COVID-19.
 - If individuals have only one or two of any of the other symptoms, they can wait 24 hours. These symptoms include sore throat, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. If you feel the same or worse after 24 hours, you should also get tested. As always, if you are uncertain, contact your health provider or call 811.
- Today, the B.C. Government shared the Fall 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update of 2020, which shows continued economic impacts of COVID-19 on people, businesses, and communities.⁶
 - The forecasted provincial deficit is \$13.6 billion, which includes an additional \$2 billion for new COVID-19 supports through B.C.’s Recovery Benefit and Recovery Supplement.
 - The update also shows a lower impact on provincial revenues than previously projected, with gains in income, property transfer taxes, and Crown corporation net incomes.
 - Partial economic recovery is predicted for B.C. in 2021, and the report shows continued areas of economic improvement in employment, retail sales and housing activity.
 - “The impacts of COVID-19 have been experienced right around the globe, and it’s going to be a while before a fiscal update for B.C. resembles anything like the pre-pandemic province we knew” – Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, the Yukon Government provided the following update regarding the response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the territory:⁷
 - **Social Bubble Guidelines**
 - As the holiday season approaches, Yukoners are asked to be careful and respect gathering guidelines and stick to their social bubbles.
 - Social bubbles can include up to 15 people, but to reduce the risk of exposure, fewer than 10 is recommended. This should be a consistent group of individuals.
 - Indoor gatherings remain limited to 10 people.
 - A two-metre (six feet) distance must be kept at all times from those not in your social bubble.

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0066-002090>

⁷ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/december-17-2020-covid-19-update>

- More information on the social bubble guidelines is available at: <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/industry-operating-guidelines-covid-19/combined-household-guidelines-covid-19>
- **Automatic text upon entry in Yukon**
 - Every person who signed a declaration upon entry to Yukon will now receive a text message within 72 hours after their arrival, reminding them of their obligation to self-isolate. The text provides a link to Yukon.ca for information and resources.
- **COVID-19 Testing and Assessment Centre**
 - The drive-thru COVID-19 testing centre in Whitehorse remains open with a reduced schedule of Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Contact information for restaurant and bar customers**
 - Since December 7, restaurants and bars have been collecting their customers' contact information to support contact tracing.
- Today, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health provided the following update on COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for school bus operations, which come into effect on January 4th, 2021.⁸
 - All students age five years and older will be required to wear a non-medical mask while riding the school bus.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, the Government of Canada announced financial support to Nova Scotia-based company Rimot to get its rapid, automated, contactless screening tool for indicators of COVID-19, "RimotHEALTH", on the marketplace.⁹
 - Rimot's COVID-19 virus detection device has been determined to be safer, faster, and more cost-effective than manual screening. The Government of Canada anticipates this will help businesses to keep their employees and customers safe and the economy running.
 - RimotHEALTH monitors health questionnaire responses and body temperatures to ensure workplaces can operate safely and productively.
- Today, Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade, announced that the Trade and Health Initiative was presented to the World Trade Organization General Council, in Canada's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰
 - Through this Initiative, member nations are calling for increased cooperation among members to strengthen global supply chains and facilitate the flow of essential medicines and medical supplies, including vaccines.
 - The Initiative identifies a range of actions that members are encouraged to adopt, including the implementation of trade-facilitating measures in the areas of customs and services, limiting export restrictions, temporarily removing or reducing tariffs on essential medical goods, and improving transparency.

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

⁸ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/additional-school-buses-new-routes-starting-january>

⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2020/12/helping-businesses-screen-for-covid-19.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>