

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 21 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 17</b>	<b>As of Dec 21</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	44,776	47,067	<b>2,291*</b>
Total active cases in BC	10,009	9,718	<b>-291</b>
Currently in intensive care	93	80	<b>-13</b>
Currently hospitalized	358	341	<b>-17</b>
Total hospitalized to date	2,419	2,549	<b>130</b>
Total deaths in BC	713	765	<b>52</b>
Total recovered in BC	32,963	35,455	<b>2,492</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 17</b>	<b>As of Dec 21</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	44,776	47,067	<b>2,291*</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	10,863	11,252	<b>389</b>
Fraser Health	28,481	29,971	<b>1,490</b>
Island Health	803	829	<b>26</b>
Interior Health	3,064	3,313	<b>249</b>
Northern Health	1,462	1,599	<b>137</b>
Out of Canada	103	103	<b>0</b>
Total individuals tested in BC	1,351,612	1,393,231	<b>41,619</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 17</b>	<b>As of Dec 21</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	59	59	<b>0</b>
Total active cases	1	1	<b>0</b>
Total deaths	1	1	<b>0</b>
Total recovered	57	57	<b>0</b>
Total individuals tested	5,815	5,855	<b>40</b>
Negative results	5,704	5,788	<b>84</b>
Pending results	52	8	<b>-44</b>

\*The B.C. Government reported 624 new COVID-19 cases Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 652 Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 486 Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, and 529 Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> (2,291 total).

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

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

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

## STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE

<b>CASES IN CANADA<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 16</b>	<b>As of Dec 18</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	6,569	7,024	455
Total active cases	2,490	2,784	294
Currently hospitalized	295	300	5
Total deaths	59	64	5
Total recovered	4,020	4,176	156
Total confirmed cases in BC	507	540	33

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix, the B.C. Minister of Health, held a live press conference regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in B.C.<sup>5</sup> Highlights include the following:
  - Regarding new community outbreaks, Dr. Henry stated:
    - “There have been new community outbreaks at two Coastal GasLink worksites in 7 Mile Lodge in the Burns Lake Local Health Area and in Little Rock Lake Lodge in Nechako Local Health Area.”
  - Regarding vaccinations:
    - “Last week, 3,644 front-line health-care workers received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in British Columbia. Over the next two days, vaccine deliveries will arrive in every health region, and public health teams are readying clinics to begin (providing the vaccine) in the coming days.”
  - Regarding a new COVID-19 variant in the United Kingdom:
    - A new COVID-19 variant has been found in the United Kingdom and although this strain has not yet exhibited more severe symptoms, it has shown to transmit more rapidly.
    - As of now, we have not seen this strain in Canada or B.C., but the Government of Canada, and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control will be monitoring this situation closely.
- Today, the B.C. Government shared the following details on a virtual counselling service, Here2Talk, to support post-secondary students during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:<sup>6</sup>
  - Here2Talk is a free mental health counselling and referral service available 24/7 for all B.C. post-secondary students who are feeling depressed, stressed, or anxious.
  - Through Here2Talk, students can talk to trained counsellors via:
    - Online chat at <https://here2talk.ca/home>
    - Toll-free phone at 1-877-857-3397
    - Direct phone at 604-642-5212

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

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Bonnie Henry via live press conference 15:00 21/12/2020

<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0055-002096>

- Today, the B.C. Government announced enhancements to the COVID-19 Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program to ensure more businesses qualify for support.<sup>7</sup> This includes:
  - A streamlined application process and simplified qualification criteria.
  - The reduction of the three-year operation requirement to 18 months.
  - An increase in the tourism sector grant to \$45,000.
- Today, the B.C. Government announced that the first of two installments of \$121.2 million in Government of Canada funding has been allocated to school districts across the province.<sup>8</sup>
  - This funding has been provided to support the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and to hire additional support staff.
  - With the funding, school districts in B.C. have:
    - Hired 1,868 new staff
    - Purchased approximately 2.5 million pieces of PPE
    - Installed, or upgraded more than 5,800 hand hygiene or washing stations
    - Upgraded 45, 283 air or ventilation filters
- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the B.C. Government announced that applications for the B.C. Recovery Benefit are now open until June 2021.<sup>9</sup>
  - This funding will provide:
    - Families with annual incomes under \$125,000 will qualify for \$1,000.
    - Families earning up to \$175,000 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount.
    - Single people with annual incomes under \$62,500 will qualify for \$500.
    - Single people earning up to \$87,500 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount.
  - To apply online, please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit> or call 1-833-882-0020

## **SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY**

- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Canada's Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, and Yukon's Minister of Education, Tracy-Anne McPhee, announced \$3 million in funding to help support Yukon residents re-enter the workforce amidst COVID-19.<sup>10</sup>
  - As a result of this funding, the Government of Yukon will be able to:
    - Provide support to preserve jobs in critical and hard-hit sectors, including tourism, retail trade, food productivity and travel services.
    - Provide a Student Technical Support Payment to adult students who are approved for funding under existing programs to ensure they have continued access to flexible and blended learning during this time.
    - Continue to work with Yukon First Nations, to ensure that First Nation ways of knowing, doing and being inform program priorities.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020JERI0044-002118>

<sup>8</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0073-002119>

<sup>9</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0067-002105>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/12/workforce-development-agreements-wdas--yukon.html>

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

- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Canada suspended entry into Canada all commercial and private passenger flights from the United Kingdom for 72 hours due to the emergence of a genetic variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 identified in the United Kingdom.<sup>11</sup>
  - Genetic variation of viruses such as the one that causes COVID-19 is to be expected and have been previously observed in parts of the world this year.
  - While early data suggest that the United Kingdom variant may be more transmissible, to date there is no evidence that the mutations have any impact on symptom severity, antibody response or vaccine efficacy.
    - Evidence is, however, limited at this time and more research is needed in Canada and around the world.
  - Passengers who arrived in Canada on December 20<sup>th</sup> from the United Kingdom are now subject to secondary screening and enhanced measures, including increased scrutiny of quarantine plans.
  - Passengers who arrived recently from the United Kingdom will also receive additional direction from the Government of Canada.
  - Mandatory quarantine measures, which require travellers to quarantine or isolate for 14 days immediately upon entry to Canada remain in place.
- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Canada provided the following COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities:<sup>12</sup>
  - The week of December 6-12 continued to see an alarming increase in the number of newly reported cases of COVID-19 in First Nations communities, related to the second wave of the pandemic, with 2,604 active cases and 5 new deaths reported as of December 17.
  - Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is working closely with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners to support an integrated and coordinated approach to support the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine for Indigenous Peoples and communities.
  - ISC is urging all community members to support their leadership and follow community and provincial public health measures that have proven to save lives.
- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Marie-Claude Bibeau, provided details regarding \$100 million that is being provided under the Emergency Food Security Fund to help organizations safely deliver services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:<sup>13</sup>
  - This funding will provide:
    - \$18.5 million to Food Banks Canada.
    - \$18.5 million to Breakfast Club of Canada.
    - \$8.9 million to Second Harvest.
    - \$8.9 million to Community Food Centres Canada.
    - \$8.85 million to the Salvation Army.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/canada-suspends-flights-from-the-united-kingdom-for-72-hours.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities1.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-rolling-out-100m-in-added-support-to-food-security-organizations-during-covid-19-pandemic.html>

- It is recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened food security concerns for many Canadians, particularly in northern and Indigenous communities.
  - Therefore, Indigenous Services Canada will use \$30 million of the new funding to bolster its Indigenous Community Support Fund.
    - This fund is to support communities with the design and implementation of community-based solutions to prevent, prepare and respond to the spread of COVID-19 within Indigenous communities.
    - More information regarding the Indigenous Community Support Fund can be found here:  
<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585189335380/1585189357198>

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