

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 22 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 21</b>	<b>As of Dec 22</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	47,067	47,510	<b>*443</b>
Total active cases in BC	9,718	9,481	<b>-237</b>
Currently in intensive care	80	84	<b>4</b>
Currently hospitalized	341	357	<b>16</b>
Total hospitalized to date	2,549	2,585	<b>36</b>
Total deaths in BC	765	777	<b>12</b>
Total recovered in BC	35,455	36,094	<b>639</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 21</b>	<b>As of Dec 22</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	47,067	47,510	<b>443</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	11,252	11,331	<b>79</b>
Fraser Health	29,971	30,227	<b>256</b>
Island Health	829	838	<b>9</b>
Interior Health	3,313	3,391	<b>78</b>
Northern Health	1,599	1,620	<b>**21</b>
Out of Canada	103	103	<b>0</b>
Total individuals tested in BC	1,393,231	1,400,609	<b>***7,378</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 21</b>	<b>As of Dec 22</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	59	59	<b>0</b>
Total active cases	1	0	<b>-1</b>
Total deaths	1	1	<b>0</b>
Total recovered	57	58	<b>1</b>
Total individuals tested	5,855	5,872	<b>17</b>
Negative results	5,788	5,788	<b>0</b>
Pending results	8	25	<b>17</b>

\*The BCCDC has reported 444 confirmed cases in B.C., which does not align with the difference in cases between Dec 21 and Dec 22.

\*\*The BCCDC has reported 22 new cases in Northern Health, which does not align with the difference in cases between Dec 21 and Dec 22.

\*\*\*The BCCDC has reported 6,571 new tests, which does not align with the difference in total test numbers between Dec 21 and Dec 22.

<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 18</b>	<b>As of Dec 21</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	7,024	7,536	512
Total active cases	2,784	2,977	193
Currently hospitalized	300	344	44
Total deaths	64	70	6
Total recovered	4,176	4,489	313
Total confirmed cases in BC	540	573	33

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Premier John Horgan announced that B.C.'s state of emergency has been extended through the end of the day on Jan. 5, 2021.<sup>5</sup>
  - The state of emergency allows health and emergency management officials to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act (EPA) to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response.
- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix, the B.C. Minister of Health, provided a statement regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in B.C. Highlights include the following:<sup>6</sup>
  - Regarding vaccines in the province:
    - To date, 4,108 people have received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
    - Vaccine clinics are now underway in all health regions across the province.
    - Vaccine manufacturers Pfizer and Moderna have provided guidance on how to safely transport the approved vaccines. As deliveries increase in the coming weeks, the vaccine will increasingly be available in more locations.
  - "We have to remember the virus spreads quickly, but shows up slowly, which is why asymptomatic testing doesn't eliminate our risk and cannot be relied on to keep us safe."
  - "By staying local, avoiding all non-essential travel, and using our layers of protection, we can reduce the potential for a surge in new cases two weeks from now and keep us on the path of a safer and healthier 2021 for everyone in B.C."
- Today, the Government of British Columbia announced the creation of a dedicated relief funding stream to help people and businesses in B.C.'s tourism sector recover from the impacts of the pandemic.<sup>7</sup>
  - \$5 million will be allocated to Indigenous Tourism BC to administer relief grant funding targeted for Indigenous businesses.

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0068-002134>

<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0068-002138>

<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TACS0069-002127>

- The B.C. Government and Indigenous Tourism BC will be creating an Indigenous-led funding program specifically designed for Indigenous tourism operators, as Indigenous businesses often face additional challenges that may impact their ability to recover.
  - \$100 million in dedicated relief funding will be allocated to the tourism sector, through the Small and Medium-Sized Business Recovery Grant program.
  - This new relief fund more than doubles the \$50 million announced in September 2020 to implement the recommendations from the Tourism Task Force’s report.
  - Businesses can learn more about the eligibility criteria and apply online here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/business-recovery-grant>
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- Today, Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, announced an Emergency Program Act (EPA) order which places a temporary cap on fees charged by food delivery companies, to provide relief for restaurants experiencing unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>8</sup>
    - The temporary cap on fees is set to 15%.
    - There is an additional cap of 5% for other related fees associated with use of the service, such as online ordering and processing fees.
      - This will ensure that companies cannot shift their delivery costs to other fees.
    - The EPA order will be in effect from Dec. 22, 2020 until three months after the Provincial State of Emergency is lifted.
    - The following safeguards are in place for the order:
      - Small delivery service businesses, often locally based, will be exempt.
      - Delivery companies cannot reduce compensation or retain gratuities from their drivers. Workers will continue to be paid their regular wages.
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- Today, Northern Health shared details of the first COVID-19 vaccines to be administered in the Northern Health region.<sup>9</sup>
    - The first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered to a group of high-risk health care workers in Prince George today. Recipients included health care workers from University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC) and Jubilee Lodge long-term care facility.
    - “This has been a really long journey for people working in health care, and the community at large, and it’s wonderful that this vaccine has finally arrived in the North; it’s like the best Christmas present ever,” said Dr. Marietije Slabbert, physician lead for the Intensive Care Unit at UHNBC. “The teams of physicians, nurses, care aides, cleaners -- everybody has been working so hard, and we’ll continue working hard to get this vaccine to every person in the North who wants to be vaccinated.”
    - Northern Health is distributing the vaccine in accordance with the priority vaccine groups as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, beginning with:
      - High-risk health care workers
      - Long-term care and assisted living residents
    - Northern Health expects to be able to immunize all Northern BC residents who wish to have the vaccine by the end of 2021.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0074-002133>

<sup>9</sup> <https://stories.northernhealth.ca/stories/northern-health-administers-first-covid-19-vaccines-prince-george>

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, the Yukon Government provided the following update regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>10</sup>
  - **Visitor isolation options and guidelines**
    - There are two options for visitors to Yukon who are sharing accommodations with others who have not travelled outside Yukon.
    - Option 1
      - Visitors can self-isolate for 14 days without physical distancing within a home if all residents are isolating together with no outside contact for the entire isolation period.
      - If visitors depart prior to the 14 days, the remaining household members may leave isolation three days after departure of visitors, as long as they self-monitor for symptoms. The remaining household members must also check in with departed visitors to confirm they do not have symptoms. If neither have symptoms during those three days, then they're able to return to their daily lives.
    - Option 2
      - If someone in the household chooses to go to work, school or run errands, then everyone in the household must maintain two metres distance at all times within that home.
    - More information about visitor self-isolation is available at:  
<https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/your-health-covid-19/information-self-isolation>
  - **COVID-19 testing schedule during the holidays**
    - The COVID-19 Testing and Assessment Centre (CTAC) will close at 4 p.m. on December 24 and remain closed December 25 and 26.
    - The drive-thru testing centre will be closed on Dec. 25 and 28, as well as on Jan. 1.
    - Those experiencing severe symptoms and requiring immediate assistance can go to the Whitehorse General Hospital Emergency Department, a community hospital or health centre.

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, and Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, provided the following updates on Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>11</sup>
  - To date, Canada has not identified the new variant of the Coronavirus under investigation in the United Kingdom.
  - Regarding the existing mandatory 14-day quarantine measures for travellers entering Canada:
    - In addition to the screening measures for travellers, the government has increased the Federal Public Health presence at the border.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/december-22-2020-covid-19-update>

<sup>11</sup> Via live press conference on December 22, 2020 at 12:00pm EST

- The Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) has also put in place measures to assist the Public Health Agency of Canada in their efforts to monitor and enforce compliance with the mandatory quarantine and isolation orders, including follow-up with travellers and police officers regarding compliance.
- Today, François Boileau, Canada’s Taxpayers’ Ombudsperson, issued a statement regarding the service provided by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on the emergency benefit programs throughout the pandemic.<sup>12</sup>
  - “Recently, our Office has heard increased frustration and disbelief at the prospect of potentially having to repay benefits. We have also heard your concerns about delays in the validation of eligibility for benefits and the lack of clarity about recourse options should you disagree with the decision on your eligibility.”
  - Taxpayers should work directly with the CRA, or formally through their Service Feedback Program, to resolve any issues.
    - In the event taxpayers are not satisfied with the service they receive from the CRA, the Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsperson may be able to assist.

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

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/taxpayers-ombudsperson/news/2020/12/statement-from-the-taxpayers-ombudsperson-regarding-the-service-provided-by-the-canada-revenue-agency-on-the-emergency-benefit-programs.html>