

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 29 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 24	As of Dec 29	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	48,609	50,815	382*
Total active cases in BC	8,865	7,580	-1,285
Currently in intensive care	78	80	2
Currently hospitalized	341	373	32
Total hospitalized to date	2,621	2,806	185
Total deaths in BC	808	882	74
Total recovered in BC	37,784	41,175	3,391

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 24	As of Dec 29	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	48,609	50,815	382
Vancouver Coastal Health	11,535	11,913	378
Fraser Health	30,885	32,260	1,375
Island Health	857	901	44
Interior Health	3,511	3,749	238
Northern Health	1,719	1,890	171
Out of Canada	102	102	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,417,542	1,444,990	4,675*

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 24	As of Dec 29	Change
Total confirmed cases	60	60	0
Total active cases	0	0	0
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	59	59	0
Total individuals tested	5,887	5,911	24
Negative results	5,816	5,836	20
Pending results	11	15	4

* The BCCDC has reported 382 new cases in B.C. between Dec 28 and Dec 29; the total number of new cases from Dec 24 to Dec 29 is 2,206.

** The BCCDC has reported 4,675 new tests in B.C. between Dec 28 and Dec 29; the total number of new tests from Dec 24 to Dec 29 is 27,448.

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

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

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

STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE

CASES IN CANADA ⁴	As of Dec 27	As of Dec 28*	Change
Total confirmed cases	8,157	8,254	97
Total active cases	3,019	3,070	51
Currently hospitalized	376	380	4
Total deaths	76	77	1
Total recovered	5,062	5,107	45
Total confirmed cases in BC	585	585	0

* Dec 28 is the most up-to-date information released on First Nation Reserve Cases by the Government of Canada.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- On December 28, 2020, the *Terrace Standard* reported on the arrival of the Moderna vaccine to remote First Nations communities in northern B.C.:⁵
 - Vaccine doses will be offered to community members aged 18 and over in ten rural and remote northern communities beginning on December 29, 2020.
 - The Moderna vaccine is the preferred option for remote communities as it does not require ultra-cold storage and is easier to handle.
 - The Tahltan Central Government confirmed that all three of its communities will be receiving the new vaccine, including: Iskut (Luwe Chon), Dease Lake (Talh'ah), and Telegraph Creek (Tlegohin).
 - The First Nations Health Authority stated “while it recognizes that some Indigenous people lack trust in the medical system, it is important to note that vaccine trials go through rigorous, well-established ethical processes.”
 - “Providing vaccines in a timely and effective way to First Nations communities is an important step towards protecting individuals, families, and communities.”
- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, issued the following joint statement regarding the COVID-19 response in B.C.:⁶
 - To date, a total of 11,930 individuals have been immunized in B.C.
 - Of this total, only two people have experienced allergic reactions to the vaccine, of which was expected given similar statistics observed in other jurisdictions. Both individuals were treated and have since recovered.
 - “The Moderna vaccine, the second approved vaccine in Canada, will arrive in British Columbia this week, with the first doses targeted for remote and isolated First Nations communities and residents of long-term care.”

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

⁵ <https://www.terracestandard.com/news/remote-b-c-first-nations-to-begin-getting-modernas-covid-19-vaccine-this-week/>

⁶ Dr. Bonnie Henry via live media briefing at 3:00 PM on 12/29/20

- “The BC Centre for Disease Control has identified the first case of a person in B.C. infected with the COVID-19 U.K. variant. The person and their close contacts are isolating and receiving care from public health teams.”
 - To date, the variant is known to spread more quickly than the other mutations seen of the virus thus far.
- British Columbians are urged to continue to “stay home and stay apart” throughout the remainder of the holiday season.
 - “The turning of the calendar to 2021 is something we are all looking forward to. The way to ensure we are in the best possible position going into January 2021 is to make it a safe New Year for everyone.”

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- On December 28, Pauline Frost, Minister of Health and Social Services, released the following statement on the arrival of the Moderna vaccine in Yukon:⁷
 - “The first shipment of the Moderna vaccine arrived safely in Whitehorse today. This is a turning point in Yukon’s fight against COVID-19 and is a positive way to end 2020.”
 - Vaccinations will begin next week, prioritizing staff and residents in long-term care.
 - The first delivery will include 7,200 doses, and further shipments will arrive in January 2021. It is anticipated that 75 per cent of the eligible adult population will be vaccinated in early 2021.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- The Public Health Agency of Canada released the following statement on mandatory quarantine requirements:⁸
 - The Yukon Government continues to advise non-essential travel outside of the country.
 - Travel restrictions maybe imposed by countries with little warning. Those who choose to travel may be forced to remain outside of Canada longer than expected.
 - All travellers entering Canada are subject to COVID-19 entry screening. Unless exempt, anyone arriving at the border must isolate for 14 days if they have symptoms of COVID-19, and they must quarantine for 14 days if they do not have symptoms.
 - Contravening the mandatory quarantine can lead to severe penalties.

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

⁷ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/statement-minister-health-and-social-services-pauline-frost-arrival-modernas-covid-19-vaccine>

⁸ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/contravening-mandatory-quarantine-requirements-can-result-in-severe-penalties.html>