

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 05 January 2021

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 Jan 04	As of Jan 05	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	54,201	54,629	428
Total active cases in BC	6,823	6,472	- 351
Currently in intensive care	76	77	1
Currently hospitalized	351	367	16
Total hospitalized to date	3,024	3,067	43
Total deaths in BC	946	954	8
Total recovered in BC	45,229	45,999	770
CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Jan 04	As of Jan 05	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	54,201	54,629	428
Vancouver Coastal Health	12,524	12,614	90
Fraser Health	34,219	34,442	223
Island Health	992	1,001	9
Interior Health	4,178	4,239	61
Northern Health	2,186	2,231	45
Out of Canada	102	102	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,485,231	1,491,146	5,915
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Jan 04	As of Jan 05	Change
Total confirmed cases	65	65	0
Total active cases	5	5	0
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	59	59	0
Total individuals tested	5,970	6,003	33
Negative results	5,897	5,892	-5
Pending results	8	46	38

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 Jan 02	As of Jan 04	Change
Total confirmed cases	8,992	9,392	400
Total active cases	3,153	3,290	137
Currently hospitalized	417	425	8
Total deaths	83	87	4
Total recovered	5,756	6,015	259
Total confirmed cases in BC	664	727	63

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix, B.C. Minister of Health, provided an update on the ongoing COVID-19 situation in the province. Highlights include the following:⁵
 - “To date, 28,209 people have received a COVID-19 vaccine in British Columbia. Our focus is to ensure we safely deliver the vaccines as quickly as possible to communities across the province, using all available supply.”
 - “While the focus is on first-priority populations in the next three months, as new vaccines are approved and additional supply becomes available, we will incorporate the additional doses into our distribution to enable as many people as possible to be immunized as soon as they can.”
 - “We were able to slow the increase of new cases in mid-December and we want to continue that trend, but the number of new cases and deaths across the province remains high.”
 - “The more people we see, the higher our risks are, which is why keeping our groups small and using our layers of protection is so important right now.”
- Today, the Government of British Columbia announced an extension of the provincial state of emergency through the end of day on January 19th, 2021.⁶
 - This extension 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.
 - Between Aug. 21, 2020, and Jan. 1, 2021, 574 violation tickets were issued to individuals who violated the provincial health officer's order on gatherings and events
- On January 4th, the First Nation Health Authority (FNHA), announced that 2021 Winter Wellness Grant applications are now open:⁷
 - This grant is designed to mitigate the impacts that physical distancing and social isolation may have on the health and well-being of First Nations individuals, families, and communities.
 - The grants are to support community-led, virtual celebrations in honour of Winter Solstice.

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

⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0001-000009>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PSSG0001-000007>

⁷ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/the-fnha-winter-wellness-grants-2021-applications-are-now-open>

- The FNHA lists the following activities as examples of virtual/online celebrations intended to “promote culture, resilience and community while maintaining physical distancing.”
 - Elder and youth dialogues
 - Crafting workshops (beading, painting, weaving, etc.)
 - Storytelling, video projects or podcasts
 - Educational webinars (medicines, cultural teachings, language, youth perspective)
 - Online community games, challenges and contests, particularly those that engage Indigenous youth (scavenger hunt, powwow, step challenge, virtual sports)
- The following criteria has been provided for grant applicants:
 - The Grants are intended to support virtual initiatives that encourage First Nations in BC to celebrate and honour Winter Solstice.
 - Activities must be conducted through methods that support physical distancing and in alignment with Orders of the FNHA, Provincial Health Officer (e.g., virtual gatherings, webinars) and First Nations community leadership.
 - Eligible recipients include First Nations communities, BC schools, and health and social organizations that provide wellness services to Indigenous people in BC
 - Recipients are encouraged to collaborate with neighbouring communities and organizations where feasible
 - Eligible recipients are able to access a single grant up to \$1,000 and completion of a brief closing report will be required to capture the highlights of your initiative.
- The application form must be completed by February 15th, 2021.
 - Online application form available at: <https://interceptum.com/s/en/WWG2021>
 - Other application options are available on the FNHA website (<https://www.fnha.ca/>)
- Today, Northern Health (NH) announced the launch of a new digital portal for Northern Health patients.⁸
 - The new patient portal is called ‘HealthLife’ and allows Northern BC residents who received care at a Northern Health hospital or urgent and primary care centre to view health information, including COVID-19 test results, online.
 - HealthLife is another tool that NH has developed to make physical distancing easier in health care settings.
 - Although a smartphone or computer is required to access the tool, Northern BC residents can also view upcoming appointments, additional lab tests, and imaging results.
 - Use of the portal is optional, and patients can still go to their clinic or doctor’s office to get test results.
 - For more information about HealthLife and how to sign up, visit: northernhealth.ca/healthlife.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from The Yukon Government.

⁸ <https://stories.northernhealth.ca/news/northern-health-launches-healthlife-patient-portal>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, held a press conference providing an update on the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights from the press conference include the following:⁹
 - The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) will be modified to prevent people who traveled for non-essential purposes from accessing it, as this benefit was not intended to support those who did not follow public health guidelines.
 - The current version of the CRSB allows some of these travellers to receive \$1,000 during the self-isolation period following their return to the country.
 - The new measure requiring individuals to obtain a negative PCR COVID-19 test before boarding an international flight returning to Canada will come into effect on January 7th.
- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, and Dr. Howard Njoo, deputy chief public health officer, held a joint press conference with federal ministers to provide an update on the ongoing federal government response to COVID-19. Highlights from the conference include the following:¹⁰
 - Two weeks ago, Canada had just exceeded 500,000 cases of COVID-19. Now, with the current momentum of the epidemic and continued high rates of infection in many areas of the country, the **5 months it took to reach our first 100,000 cases** has now shortened to **just over 2 weeks for the latest 100,000 case increase**. This ever more rapid accumulation of cases will continue until we can make significant progress in interrupting spread, which is why we must all continue our efforts.
 - Regarding the COVID-19 variants recently identified in the U.K. and South Africa:
 - To date, there have been 9 cases of a variant virus first reported in the U.K. and no reports of other variants of concern – including the variant that has originated in South Africa.
 - “As far as we know, we are not expecting that there are large numbers of contacts related to these cases.”
 - Regarding the current status of vaccine distribution across Canada:
 - Canada is “ready for a sustained tempo of vaccines deliveries expected throughout the month of January”, with 1.2 million doses expected to be delivered by the end of the month.
 - Provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners are working together to ensure a continuous and predictable flow of vaccines.
 - “While quantities seem limited, we are scaling up, this is a deliberate operation.”
 - As more reliable data regarding the transportability of vaccines is gathered, the easier it will be to distribute them.
 - “We will continue to ship cold chain enabling equipment that will further the bolster the capacity of provinces and territories and provide them the ability to develop additional vaccination distribution sites.”

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

⁹ <https://www.cpac.ca/en/programs/covid-19-canada-responds/episodes/66316063/>

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/01/covid-19-update-january-5-2021--ministers-and-government-of-canada-officials-to-hold-a-news-conference-on-coronavirus-disease.html>