

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 31 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 30	As of Dec 31	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	51,300	51,990	690
Total active cases in BC	7,551	7,781	230
Currently in intensive care	77	76	-1
Currently hospitalized	379	374	-5
Total hospitalized to date	2,858	2,898	40
Total deaths in BC	893	901	8
Total recovered in BC	41,681	42,127	446
CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION²	As of Dec 30	As of Dec 31	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	51,300	51,990	690
Vancouver Coastal Health	12,030	12,135	105
Fraser Health	32,471	32,918	447
Island Health	917	928	11
Interior Health	3,806	3,890	84
Northern Health	1,974	2,017	43
Out of Canada	102	102	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,451,775	1,459,779	8,004
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON³	As of Dec 30	As of Dec 31	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	5,921	5,927	6
Negative results	5,844	5,842	-2
Pending results	17	25	8

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 29	As of Dec 30	Change
Total confirmed cases	8,368	8,493	125
Total active cases	3,104	3,039	-65
Currently hospitalized	390	398	8
Total deaths	78	81	3
Total recovered	5,186	5,373	187
Total confirmed cases in BC	628	635	7

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- On December 30, the First Nations Health Authority released an information brief on how the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines work:⁵
 - Both vaccines use messenger RNA (mRNA) to teach cells to make a protein that will trigger an immune response in the body. This will allow the body to make antibodies that help to fight the infection, should the person contract the coronavirus.
 - Neither vaccine contain any parts of the real COVID-19 virus. Instead, the vaccines contain instructions, like a recipe, that tells cells to make a harmless piece of protein that makes up the coronavirus' spikes.
 - The vaccines have no impact on a person's DNA (genetic material).
 - Studies have shown that people who had the vaccine are at a far lower risk to contract COVID-19. If vaccinated, studies show they are much less likely to have severe illness or die.
 - After vaccination, individuals may experience minor pain around the injection site and/or mild flu-like symptoms. These are signs are normal, indicating that the vaccine and the person's immune system are working as they should.
- 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, 17,510 individuals have been immunized in B.C.
 - "This New Year's Eve, we can still celebrate, but as we are seeing around the globe, tonight this must be done in different ways than before."
 - "Whatever your plans may be this evening, please remember how important it is to follow the public health orders and restrictions. By staying local, keeping our circles small and following provincial health orders, we can welcome in the new year on a safe and celebratory note."

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Government of Yukon.

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

⁵ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-vaccines-pfizer-biontech-and-moderna-how-they-work>

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0068-002155>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, the Government of Canada released an update on COVID-19 situation for Indigenous Peoples and communities.⁷
 - “Indigenous Services Canada has recently observed a reduction in the number of newly reported cases of COVID-19 in First Nations communities.”
 - Last week’s approval of the Moderna vaccine is an important step forward, particularly due to fewer storage and handling requirements of the vaccine, allowing it to be distributed to isolated and remote Indigenous communities.
 - Individuals must continue to limit close contact to those in their immediate household and reduce in-person interactions to only essential errands and activities to keep themselves and their families safe.
- Today, Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, issued an order requiring all air travellers coming into Canada to present negative COVID-19 test results before departure:^{8,9}
 - Effective January 7, 2021, at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time, all passengers five years and older will be required to test negative for COVID-19 before boarding a flight to Canada, unless exempted.
 - The COVID-19 test must be taken within 72 hours prior to travel, and only those with a negative result are authorized to enter Canada.
 - Airlines may refuse boarding to travellers that do not have the proper test result documentation.
 - Individuals must still complete the mandatory 14-day quarantine after entering the country.
 - Violation of the *Quarantine Act* could lead up to six months in prison and/or \$750,000 in fines.
 - Exemptions include:
 - Children aged five and younger
 - Crew members
 - Emergency service providers
 - Technical stops – flights refueling
- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, released the following statement:¹⁰
 - The Public Health Agency of Canada continues to monitor and identify new variants COVID-19 found in the United Kingdom and South Africa.
 - Several cases have been reported in Ontario, B.C., Alberta, and Quebec. It is expected other variants will likely be found in Canada as monitoring continues.
 - Canadians have still been found to be travelling for non-essential reasons. Individuals are urged to reassess any travel plans and avoid non-essential trips at this time.

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

⁷ <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities3.html>

⁸ <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/12/pre-departure-covid-19-testing-and-negative-results-to-be-required-for-all-air-travellers-coming-to-canada.html>

⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/12/pre-departure-covid-19-testing-and-negative-results-for-air-travellers-coming-to-canada.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-december-31-2020.html>