

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 04 February 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 Feb 03	As of Feb 04	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	68,780	69,245	465
Total active cases in BC	4,426	4,447	21
Currently in intensive care	80	76	-4
Currently hospitalized	278	257	-21
Total hospitalized to date	3,850	3,861	14
Total deaths in BC	1,234	1,240	6
Total recovered in BC	61,643	62,078	435

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION¹	As of Feb 03	As of Feb 04	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	68,780	69,245	465
Vancouver Coastal Health	15,836	15,934	98
Fraser Health	41,061	41,295	234
Island Health	1,728	1,755	27
Interior Health	6,459	6,513	54
Northern Health	3,558	3,610	52
Out of Canada	138	138	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,742,771	1,751,908	8,748*

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON²	As of Feb 03	As of Feb 04	Change
Total confirmed cases	70	70	0
Total active cases	0	0	0
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	69	69	0
Total individuals tested	6,315	6,323	8
Negative results	6,205	6,226	21
Pending results	40	27	-13

*The BCCDC has reported 8,748 new tests but this does not align with the difference in new tests (9,137) between February 3rd and 4th.

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

² Source: <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

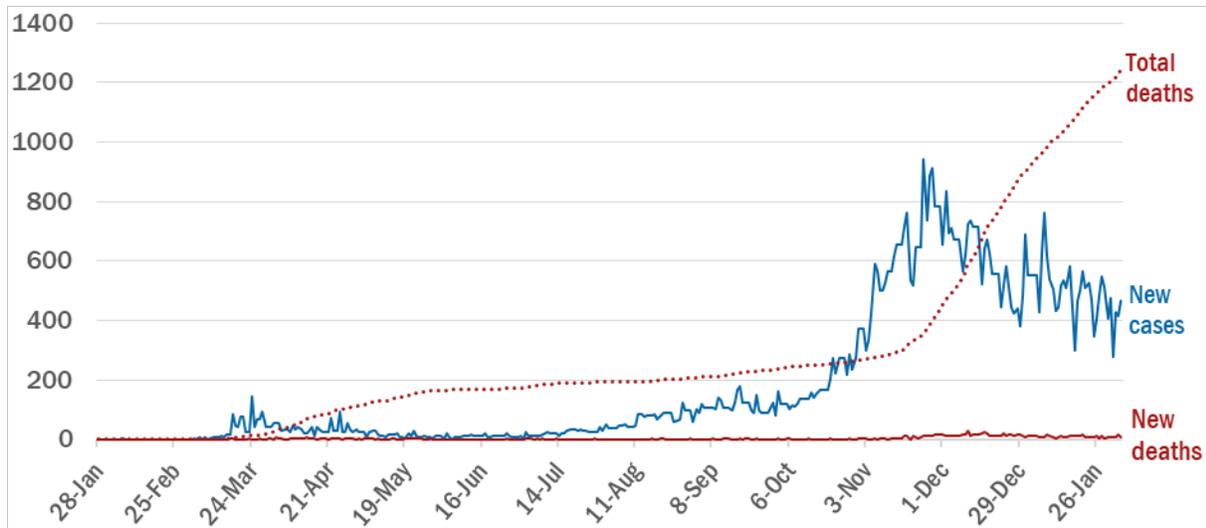
STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE

CASES IN CANADA ³

	As of Feb 02	As of Feb 03*	Change
Total confirmed cases	17,201	17,315	114
Total active cases	2,112	1,869	-243
Currently hospitalized	783	787	4
Total deaths	169	172	3
Total recovered	14,920	15,274	354
Total confirmed cases in BC	1,828	1,845	17

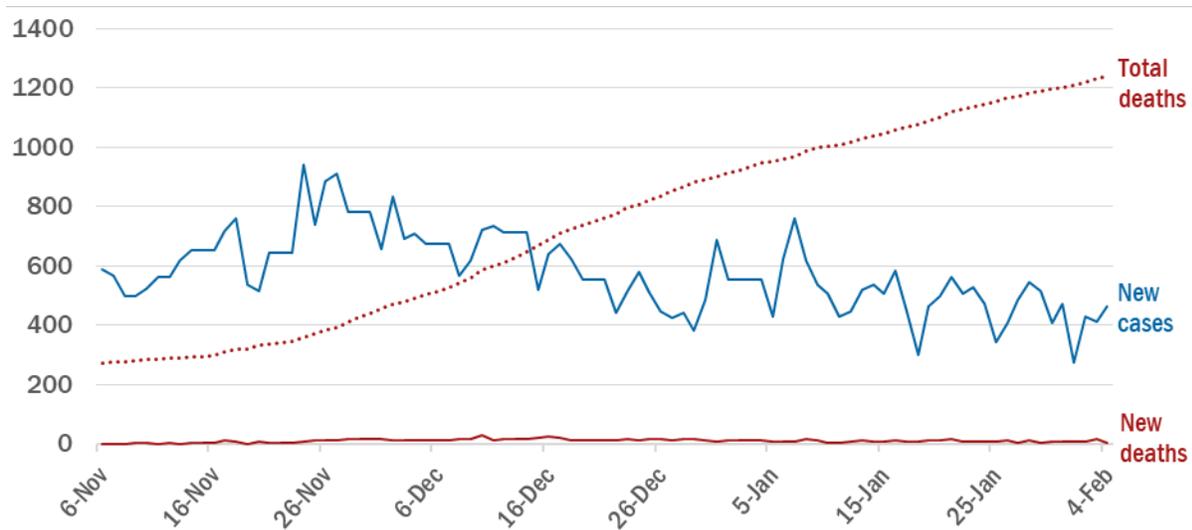
*Feb 03, 2021 is the most up-to-date information released on First Nation Reserve Cases by the Government of Canada.

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC



Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC – PAST THREE MONTHS



³ Source: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

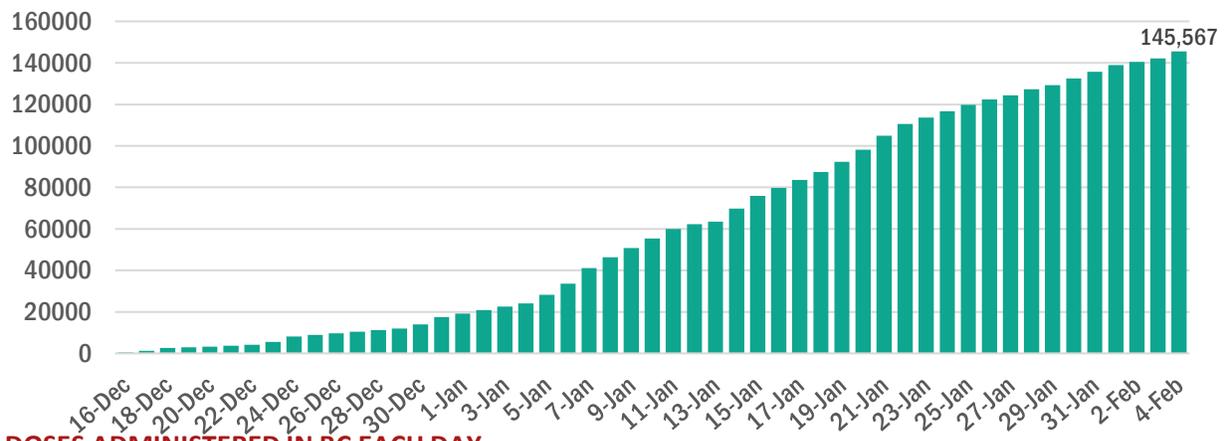
COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

STATUS OF VACCINE ADMINISTRATION⁴

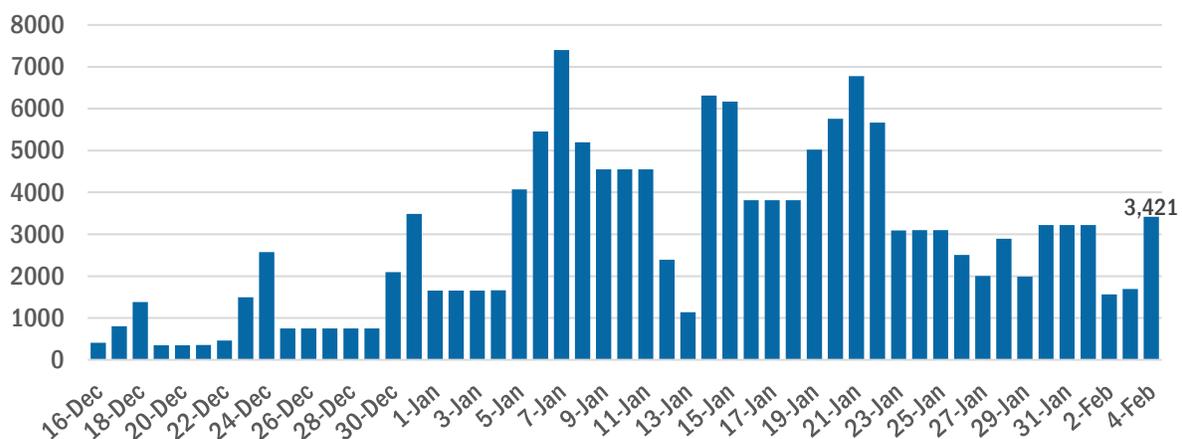
	Total Doses Administered		Total Doses Supplied	% of Doses Administered ⁵	Doses Administered / 100k Population	People Fully Vaccinated ⁶	% Pop. Fully Vaccinated ⁷
	Today	Total					
BC	3,421	145,567	156,250	93.16%	2,828.82	8,097	0.16%
Yukon	840	9,931	14,400	68.96%	23,546.56	N/A	N/A
Canada	18,598	1,019,585	1,160,865	87.80%	2,682.55	141,504	0.37%

N/A is used for provinces that have not yet released second-dose numbers.

TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED IN BC



DOSES ADMINISTERED IN BC EACH DAY



⁴ Source: N. Little. COVID-19 Tracker Canada (2020), COVID19Tracker.ca

⁵ % of Doses Administered: Percentage of doses supplied to the provinces that have been reported as administered.

⁶ People Fully Vaccinated: The number of people reported as having received both required doses.

⁷ Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/track-vaccinations-across-canada-1.5870573>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) provided the following message to provide knowledge and clarity regarding the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding:⁸
 - “Your pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and parenting journey is unique to you – with many exciting and wonderful experiences throughout. During these challenging times, however, you may share concerns about both COVID-19 and the vaccine for it.”
 - “You may be wondering, ‘Does it work? Is it safe? Should I get it?’ - The answer to all three questions is ‘yes.’ However, rest assured that the decision to take the vaccine is strictly up to you. Once you gain knowledge and feel comfortable about how the vaccine works, you can make an informed decision. To help you do this, we’ve gathered the following facts”:
 - Vaccines are safe. They undergo thorough testing and many steps are taken to meet standards and ensure they are safe and work. This includes testing a large number of people (research studies) before they are used in public immunization programs.
 - Vaccines are important and have saved countless lives.
 - Canada's experts on this subject have found that the risks of getting sick with COVID-19 during pregnancy can be greater than the potential side effects of getting the vaccine during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. For more information, see their statements:
 - https://sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Latest%20News/SOGC_Statement_COVID-19_Vaccination_in_Pregnancy.pdf
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html#a7>
 - More information can also be found in the FNHA Fact Sheet ‘*What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine*’, which can be accessed here: <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-covid-19-vaccine>
- Today, Adrian Dix, B.C. Minister of Health, and Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond provided an update on the final report for ‘*In Plain Sight*’, regarding Indigenous-specific racism in the B.C. healthcare system. Highlights from this update include the following:⁹
 - The data report offers a comprehensive look at racism in the B.C. healthcare system, experienced by Indigenous patients and staff alike, and provides a closer look at health system utilization. It highlights the impact that racism can have on people in society, and in the healthcare system.
 - Data was examined in relation to the two current public health emergencies that are impacting British Columbians: COVID-19 and the opioid overdose crisis.
 - The report provides a deeper look at the information collected from the surveys conducted, but also a detailed analysis of the more than 600 submissions received and the other quantitative and qualitative data that was reviewed.

⁸ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/just-the-facts-covid-19-vaccine-for-pregnant-or-breastfeeding-women>

⁹ Visa live press conference on February 4th, 2021

- “We are committed to advancing the recommendations from the report in partnership with Indigenous health system partners, and in collaboration with our federal and provincial colleagues.”
 - Indigenous peoples who would like to share their experiences of racism and discrimination may still do so by the toll-free number that is available or by emailing the addressingracism@BCOmbudsman.ca email.
 - The full report can be found at: https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2021/02/In-Plain-Sight-Data-Report_Dec2020.pdf1_.pdf
- Today, the Ministry of Education released an update regarding enhanced safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic for K-12 schools in the province. Highlights include the following:¹⁰
 - All **middle and secondary students and K-12 staff** will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups. Exceptions have been identified for situations when:
 - Sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom
 - There is a barrier in place
 - Eating or drinking
 - For **elementary students**, wearing masks indoors remains a personal choice.
 - Guidelines have been strengthened for physical education and music classes, with the following updates:
 - High-intensity physical activities are to be held outside as much as possible.
 - Shared equipment or items, such as weight machines, tread mills, or musical instruments, can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to strict school sanitization guidelines.
 - Students using equipment or playing instruments should also be spaced at least two metres apart and masks are to be used when singing.
 - Schools are being provided with updated COVID-19 health and safety checklists to ensure they consistently follow provincial guidelines. Updated guidelines for the childcare sector will be made available in the coming week.
 - The second half of the federal funding provided for the 2020-21 school year, in the amount of \$121.2 million, arrived on Jan. 29th, 2021 and the Ministry of Education is allocating the funds as follows:
 - \$101.1 million to school districts.
 - \$7.5 million to independent schools.
 - \$3.5 million to school districts to manage COVID-19 exposures in schools.
 - \$8.2 million will go towards Indigenous learners in addressing learning loss and student health, technology for remote learning, education, and mental health support, adapting classroom spaces, and enhanced cleaning.
 - \$900,000 will be allocated for rapid response teams, which will conduct physical or virtual site inspections to ensure K-12 COVID-19 health and safety guidelines are being followed consistently.

¹⁰ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0011-000201>

- If there has been a significant exposure event or an in-school transmission, rapid response teams will be deployed to conduct a review and make recommendations, if needed.
- There will be six regional rapid response teams, one for each health authority and one dedicated to support independent schools, with representatives from both school and provincial health staff.
- Daily health checks to screen for any COVID-19 symptoms continue to be required.
 - To support daily screening, a new K-12 health-checker app has been developed for students and their families and can be found at: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca>
 - The app will allow people to answer simple questions every day. It will inform them if they can attend school or if they need to self-isolate and contact 811 to be screened for COVID-19.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, the Government of Yukon provided the following update regarding the vaccination rollout progress in the territory:¹¹
 - This week, mobile clinics administering vaccines to residents age 18 and older are in Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Carmacks, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, and Stewart Crossing.
 - Trips to Pelly Crossing, Teslin, Carcross, and Tagish are complete.
 - A second vaccine dose is being administered to all staff and residents of long-term care homes beginning February 1, 2021.
 - Second vaccines for the communities will be available soon when the mobile clinics return.
 - Residents will also have the opportunity receive their first shot at this time.
 - The booking site for second doses will be available early next week for both rural and Whitehorse residents.
 - Mobile clinics will return to the area a third time to ensure that everyone in the communities is able to get fully immunized.
 - Plans to open a Whitehorse vaccination clinic for the general public on February 10, 2021, are being delayed until further notice due to a lag in shipments of the vaccine. Yukon's vaccine rollout schedule was designed to be flexible based on vaccine availability.
 - The supply of vaccines remains the responsibility of the federal government and we continue to receive assurances that Yukon will receive its full allotment of doses before March 31, 2021.
 - To date, the information that we have received still means that all Yukon citizens who would like to be immunized will be able to receive the vaccine by the end of April 2021.

¹¹ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/february-4-2021-covid-19-update>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer, released a statement on the ongoing COVID-19 situation in Canada, which included the following:¹²
 - “From routine national surveillance data, we continue to observe hopeful signs of declining COVID-19 activity. Over the past two weeks there has been an almost 30% reduction in active COVID-19 cases across Canada.”
 - Likewise, the latest national-level data indicate a downward trend in daily case counts.
 - While these surveillance data and modelling forecasts suggest that community-based measures are having an effect, it is crucial that strong measures are kept in place in order to maintain a steady downward trend.
 - With still elevated daily case counts and high rates of infection across all age groups, the risk remains that trends could reverse quickly, and some areas of the country are seeing increased activity.
 - Likewise, outbreaks continue to occur in high-risk populations and communities, including hospitals and long-term care homes, correctional facilities, congregate living settings, Indigenous communities, and more remote areas of the country. These factors underscore the importance of sustaining public health measures and individual practices and not easing restrictions too fast or too soon. This is particularly important in light of the emergence of new virus variants of concern that could rapidly accelerate transmission of COVID-19 in Canada.
 - “Following the recent decrease in COVID-19 activity, we are seeing a gradual decline in severe outcomes as expected with lagging indicators... Despite this recent decline, this situation continues to burden local healthcare resources, particularly in areas where infection rates are highest.”
 - Canadians are urged to continue following local public health advice and to consistently maintain individual practices that keep us and our families safer.
- Today, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) provided the following COVID-19 update for Indigenous Peoples and communities:¹³
 - This is the second week when newly reported recoveries have continued to exceed newly reported cases.
 - As a result of that, the number of active cases in First Nations communities has declined to the lowest point since December 6, 2020, with 1,869 active cases reported as of February 3, 2021.
 - Reduced shipments of vaccines continue to cause temporary delays in the roll-out across the country. Even still, every person in Canada who chooses to be vaccinated will have the opportunity by the end of September.

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-february-4-2021.html>

¹³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities.html>

- Today, Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport, announced two new Interim Orders which prohibit pleasure craft in Canadian Arctic waters and cruise vessels in all Canadian waters until February 28, 2022, extending the initial temporary measures by one year. Highlights from this announcement include the following:¹⁴
 - Details of these Orders include:
 - The Government of Canada continues to monitor the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it is having on the marine and tourism sectors. Keeping Canadians and transportation workers safe and healthy are top priorities for Transport Canada.
 - Adventure-seeking pleasure craft are still prohibited from entering Arctic waters.
 - Passenger vessels carrying more than 12 people are still prohibited from entering Arctic coastal waters, including Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and the Labrador Coast.
 - Cruise vessels carrying more than 100 people are still prohibited from operating in Canadian waters.
 - Potential fines related to these Orders include:
 - Those who do not comply with the pleasure craft prohibition could be subject to penalties: \$5,000 per day for individuals and \$25,000 per day for groups or corporations.
 - Those who do not comply with the passenger vessel prohibition could be liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to \$1 million or to imprisonment for a term of up to 18 months, or to both.
 - In Canada's Arctic waters, these restrictions do not apply to craft used by local communities for essential transportation, subsistence fishing, harvesting, and hunting.
 - Essential passenger vessels, such as ferries and water taxis, should continue to follow local public health guidance and protocols, and follow mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prevent future outbreaks.
 - There is no national ban for smaller cruise ships certified to carry 100 or fewer people. They must follow provincial, territorial, local, and regional health authority protocols for timelines and processes around their operations.
 - To limit the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Canada continues to advise Canadian citizens and permanent residents to avoid all travel on cruise ships outside Canada until further notice.

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

¹⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-announces-one-year-ban-for-pleasure-craft-and-cruise-vessels.html>