

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 22 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 19	As of Feb 22	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	75,835	77,263	1,428*
Total active cases in BC	4,486	4,560	74
Currently in intensive care	60	66	6
Currently hospitalized	217	223	6
Total hospitalized to date	4,158	4,237	79
Total deaths in BC	1,327	1,335	8
Total recovered in BC	69,970	71,313	1,343

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION¹	As of Feb 19	As of Feb 22	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	75,835	77,263	1,428
Vancouver Coastal Health	17,487	17,845	358
Fraser Health	44,748	45,553	805
Island Health	2,068	2,167	99
Interior Health	7,131	7,198	67
Northern Health	4,252	4,351	99
Out of Canada	149	149	0
Total individuals tested in BC	1,861,010	1,881,992	20,982

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON²	As of Feb 19	As of Feb 22	Change
Total confirmed cases	72	72	0
Total active cases	2	2	0
Total deaths	1	1	0
Total recovered	69	69	0
Total individuals tested	6,570	6,595	25
Negative results	6,471	6,513	25
Pending results	27	10	-17

*The BCCDC has reported 504 new cases from Feb 19th to 20th, 475 from Feb 20th to 21st, and 449 from Feb 21st to 22nd.

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

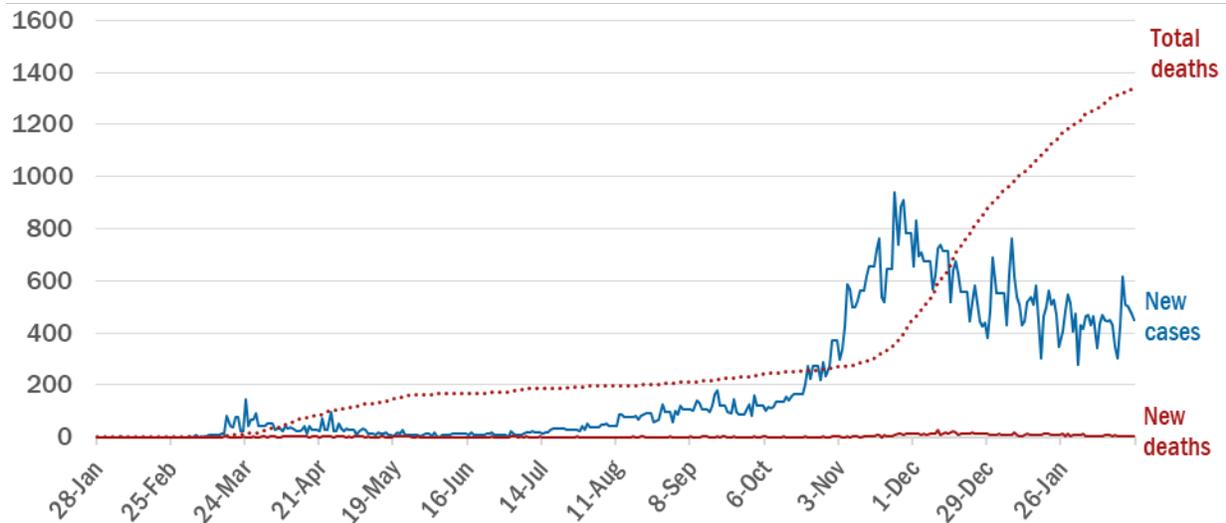
² Source: <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE

CASES IN CANADA ³

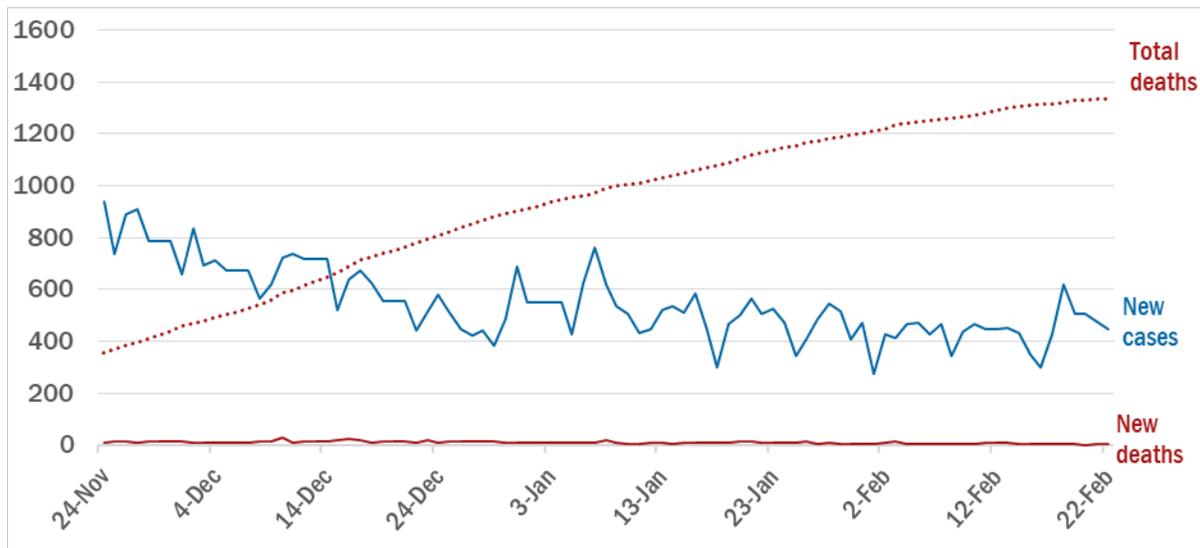
	As of Feb 18	As of Feb 19	Change
Total confirmed cases	19,455	19,633	178
Total active cases	1,265	1,254	-11
Currently hospitalized	901	908	7
Total deaths	215	215	0
Total recovered	17,975	18,164	189
Total confirmed cases in BC	2,103	2,122	19

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



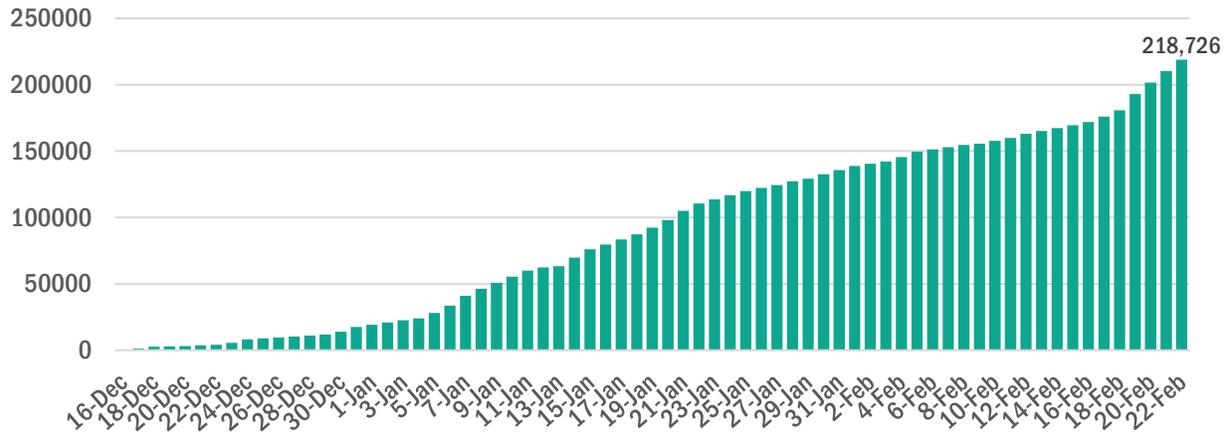
³ Source: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

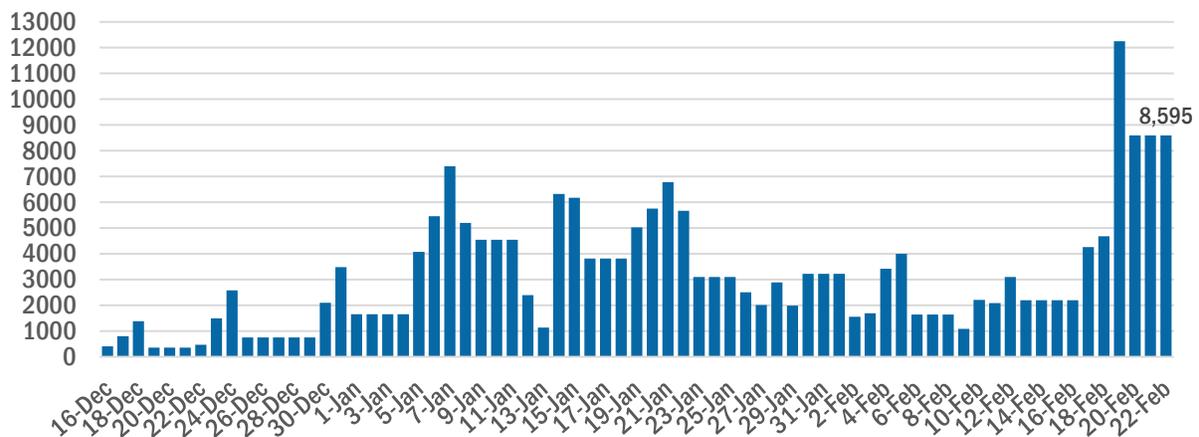
STATUS OF VACCINE ADMINISTRATION⁴

	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	25,784	218,726	243,490	89.82%	4,250.53	55,057	1.07%
Yukon	323	12,173	18,900	64.40%	28,862.38	1,521	3.58%
Canada	61,733	1,554,003	1,851,710	83.90%	4,088.62	447,573	1.18%

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 an update regarding the importance of following public health guidelines after getting the COVID-19 vaccine:⁸
 - “At this stage, COVID-19 vaccines are an extra layer of protection rather than a replacement for the public health orders and recommendations from our Provincial Health Officer. All of us – even those who've been vaccinated – must continue to wear masks, maintain a safe physical distance, wash our hands frequently, and stay home while sick, even if symptoms are very mild.”
 - The four top reasons we need to continue practising public health measures even after getting vaccinated:
 - **We do not know how well the vaccine prevents spread of the virus.** We know that the vaccine works very well to protect those who are vaccinated from becoming seriously ill or sick at all, however, we do not yet know how much the vaccine will help to prevent the virus from spreading.
 - **Not everyone is protected by the vaccine or can be vaccinated.** The vaccine is 95% effective after two doses, which is very effective, but not 100%. Also, some people may choose not to get the vaccine, and some cannot because of certain medical conditions or because they are under age 16.
 - **We will not have community immunity until 70%, or more, of people are immune.** We know that once 70 % or more of people in the community are immune to the virus, the potential for the virus to be transmitted will be much lower.
 - **We want to protect all communities, not just ours.** The aim is to ensure that less of the virus will be able to circulate in our communities as well as communities around us, thereby protecting friends and loved ones.
 - “Drawing upon the strengths and good medicine of intergenerational resilience, cultural teachings from Elders, and connection to each other and to the land, First Nations communities in BC are staying the course, following public health measures, and getting through this – together.”
- Today, B.C.’s Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and B.C. Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, provided an update on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in B.C. regarding the variants of concern:⁹
 - “There are 29 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 variants of concern in our province, for a total of 101 cases and two cases of variants that are under investigation. Of the total number of cases, four are active and the remaining 97 have now recovered.”
 - B.1.1.7 (UK variant) – 81 cases
 - B.1.351 (SA variant) – 20 cases
 - B.1.525 (Nigeria variant) – 2 cases
 - “No matter what the variant, COVID-19 can spread before someone has any symptoms of illness. This is what makes breaking the chain of transmission difficult and what makes our individual actions all the more important.”

⁸ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/stay-the-course-why-we-need-to-follow-public-health-guidelines-even-after-getting-the-covid-19-vaccine>

⁹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0014-000311>

- Today, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction announced that the third intake of the Province’s *Work Experience Opportunities Grant*, part of B.C.’s COVID-19 response, has opened to help more British Columbians move toward economic recovery:¹⁰
 - The grants include a stipend for participants and are projected to help 2,000 British Columbians gain the work experience needed for long-term employment opportunities. At the end of the work placement, participants can receive assistance from WorkBC centres to leverage their work experience into other employment opportunities.
 - Eligibility criteria have been expanded in three areas:
 - Organizations can increase the number of participants they provide work experience to from five to 10.
 - Private-sector businesses, social enterprises, and non-profit organizations can apply.
 - Any person qualified to receive income assistance or disability assistance, as well as Indigenous peoples on reserve qualified to receive federal assistance, can now be considered as a participant.
 - Applications will be accepted until midnight, March 8th, 2021.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- There are no significant updates in the Yukon Territory today.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- On February 20th, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) provided an update regarding the start of COVID-19 testing at land ports of entry in response to increased cases of variants of concern, beginning today, Monday, February 22nd.¹¹
 - Travellers entering Canada at land ports of entry, unless exempt, will be required to take a test using a self-swab kit.
 - It is also mandatory for travellers to present proof of one of the following:
 - A negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours before entry into Canada.
 - A positive COVID-19 test conducted between 14 and 90 days before arrival.
 - To help travellers meet the mandatory requirement of a COVID-19 molecular test on day 1, self-swab kits will be handed out at all 117 land ports of entry.
 - There will be on-site testing provided at five high-volume land ports of entry as of February 22nd, and 11 additional ports of entry as of March 4th.
 - The kit will include instructions on how, and when, to collect the second mandatory test on day 10 of the 14-day quarantine.
- On February 21st, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, and PHAC released a statement regarding the impact of COVID-19 on racialized communities, which includes the following highlights:¹²
 - “Disproportionate impacts among racialized and Indigenous communities are not due to biological differences between groups or populations. Rather, they reflect existing health

¹⁰ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021SDPR0008-000296>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/public-health-agency-of-canada-to-begin-covid-19-testing-at-land-borders-on-monday.html>

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/cpho-sunday-edition-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-racialized-communities.html>

- inequities that are strongly influenced by a specific set of social and economic factors – things like income, education, employment and housing that shape an individual’s place in society.”
- “Continued generational systemic racism and mistreatment within the health system has led to considerable wariness within racialized communities, and a significant lack of trust in these systems and institutions. This lack of trust has contributed to significant COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among the Black and Indigenous [communities], as well as other racialized communities.”
 - “Immunization of at-risk populations has the potential to reduce or prevent the exacerbation of immediate health inequities related to COVID-19. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization has already identified the need to prioritize vaccinations for those whose living or working conditions put them at elevated risk of COVID-19 where infection could have disproportionate consequences, including Indigenous communities.”
 - “I have been following the remarkable progress being made within communities to increase trust and access to COVID-19 vaccines as we ramp up vaccination roll-out... There are many striking examples, [including] several First Nations Chiefs in the Yukon [who] have set examples for their community members by being the first in line to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.”
- Today, the Canada Revenue Agency released a statement regarding increased assistance for filing income tax returns for the 2020 tax year, in anticipation of individuals needing greater assistance as a result of receiving COVID-19 income support benefits. This increased assistance includes the following:¹³
 - Adding more call centre agents and extending call hours from January 25th to April 30th.
 - New automated callback service.
 - Extended individual inquiries lines leading up to, and throughout, tax-filing season.
 - Providing a targeted interest relief for Canadians who received COVID-19 related income support benefits, giving them more time and flexibility to pay if they have an amount owing.
 - Expanding payment arrangement parameters to provide Canadians more time and flexibility to repay a tax debt.
 - Making deductions for home office expenses more accessible and easier to claim.
 - Supporting community organizations who offer free virtual tax help to individuals with modest income and a simple tax situation through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.
 - Offering a Liaison Officer service that provides free personalized virtual visits by phone or videoconference to small business owners and self-employed individuals to advise on tax obligations.

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

¹³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2021/02/the-canada-revenue-agency-is-here-to-help-canadians-through-a-tax-season-like-no-other.html>