

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 17 June 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

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN BC<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Jun 16</b>	<b>As of Jun 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	146,674	146,794	<b>120</b>
Total active cases in BC	1,454	1,451	<b>-3</b>
Currently in intensive care	41	44	<b>3</b>
Currently hospitalized	134	131	<b>-3</b>
Total hospitalized to date	7,869	7,879	<b>10</b>
Total deaths in BC	1,738	1,739	<b>1</b>
Total recovered in BC	143,449	143,579	<b>130</b>

<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Jun 16</b>	<b>As of Jun 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	146,674	146,794	<b>120</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	35,284	35,297	<b>13</b>
Fraser Health	85,375	85,428	<b>53</b>
Island Health	5,140	5,145	<b>5</b>
Interior Health	12,902	12,945	<b>43</b>
Northern Health	7,770	7,775	<b>5</b>
Out of Canada	203	204	<b>1</b>
Total tests	2,860,888	2,866,950	<b>6,062*</b>

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Jun 16</b>	<b>As of Jun 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	136	145	<b>9</b>
Total active cases	49	54	<b>5</b>
Total deaths	3	3	<b>0</b>
Total recovered	87	91	<b>4</b>
Total individuals tested	7,567	8,317	<b>750**</b>
Negative results	7,463	7,996	<b>533**</b>
Pending results	20	182	<b>162**</b>

\*The BCCDC has reported 5,838 new tests but this does not align with the difference in total test numbers between June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*Due to a lag in reporting of test data from the Yukon Government, the reported change is for a period from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

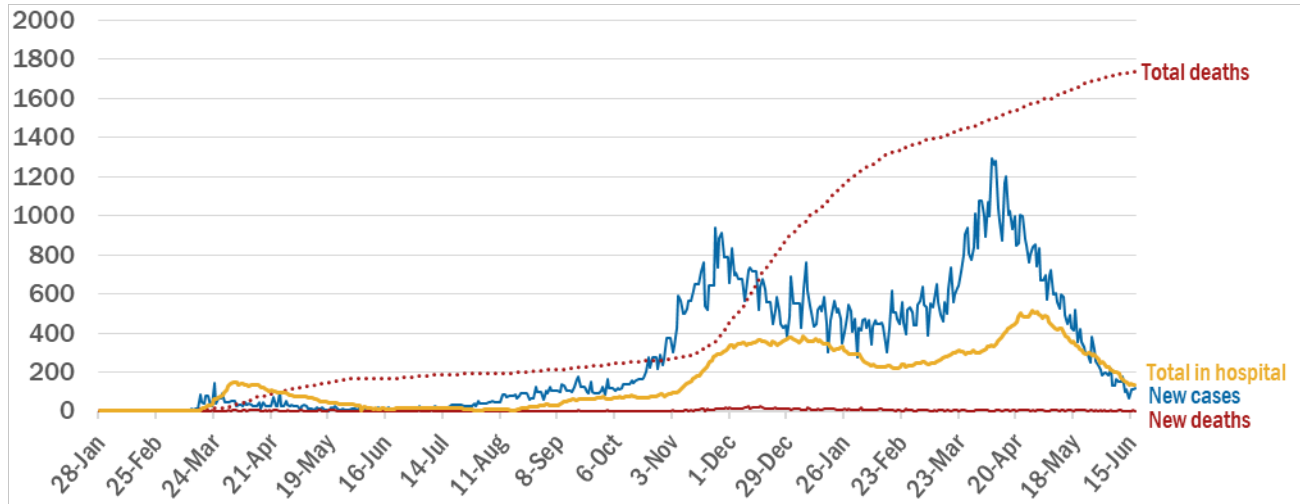
<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

**STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE**

**CASES IN CANADA <sup>3</sup>**

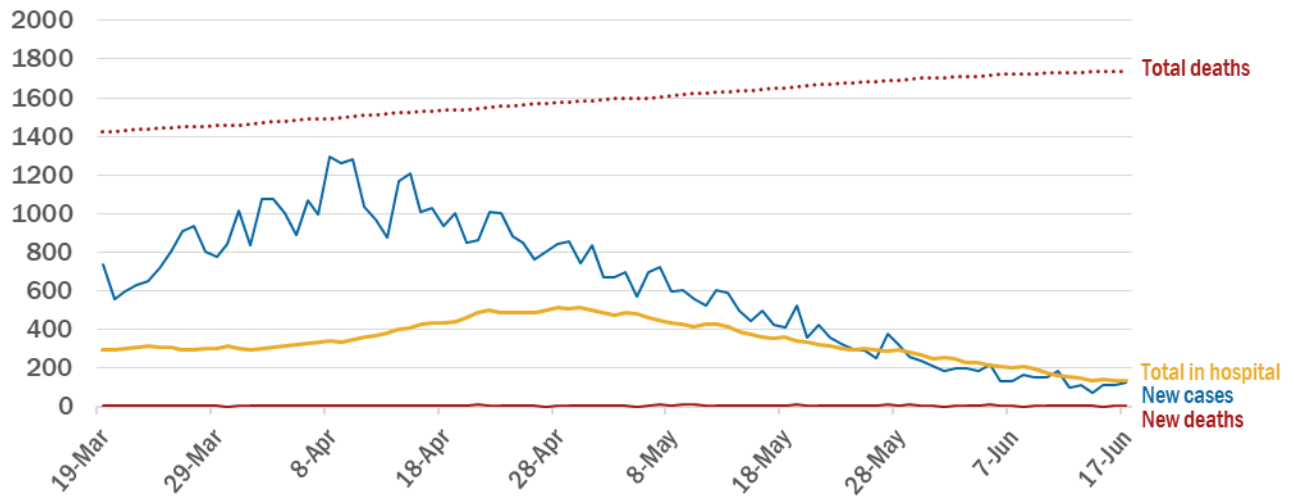
	As of Jun 15	As of Jun 16	Change
Total confirmed cases	31,163	31,238	75
Total active cases	889	880	-9
Currently hospitalized	1,422	1,437	15
Total deaths	353	354	1
Total recovered	29,921	30,004	83
Total confirmed cases in BC	3,136	3,139	3

**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**



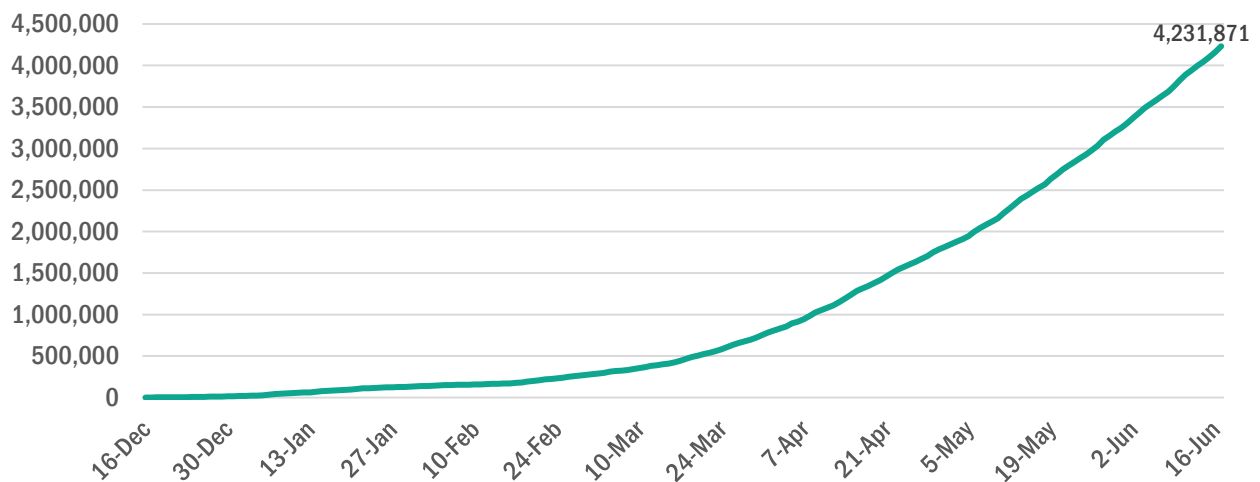
<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

## COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

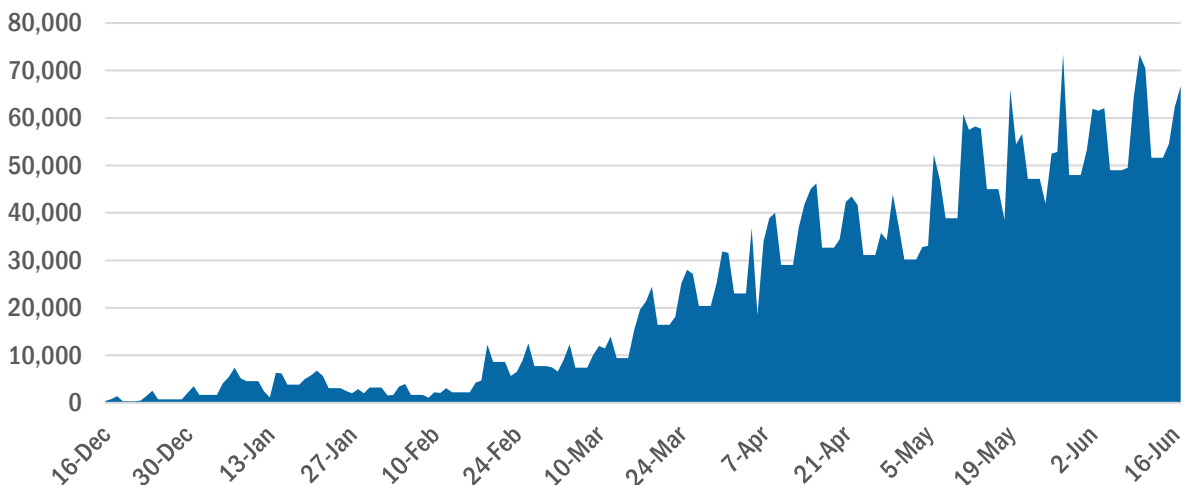
### STATUS OF VACCINE ADMINISTRATION<sup>4</sup>

	Total Doses Administered		Total Doses Supplied	% of Doses Administered	% Pop. with first dose	People Fully Vaccinated	% Pop. Fully Vaccinated <sup>5</sup>
	Today	Total					
<b>BC</b>	66,729	4,231,871	4,610,730	91.78	67.31	768,008	14.93
<b>Yukon</b>	0	56,279	65,690	85.67	71.47	26,135	61.97
<b>Canada</b>	505,105	30,884,731	33,868,074	91.20	65.46	6,004,958	15.80

### TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED



### DOSES ADMINISTERED IN BC EACH DAY



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

<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/track-vaccinations-across-canada-1.5870573>

## **SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

- **Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, held a live press conference regarding the COVID-19 response in B.C.<sup>6</sup> Highlights include the following:**
  - Regarding vaccines:
    - The delivery of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for the first 2 weeks of July is expected to be reduced, and the delivery for the last 2 weeks of July will be higher. As such, it is not expected to impact B.C.'s timeline.
    - Starting this week, B.C. is expected to receive a large supply of Moderna vaccine.
    - “We know that both of the mRNA vaccines that we have, Moderna and Pfizer, are both equally safe and effective. If you receive the mRNA vaccine for your first dose, you will normally and usually be offered the same vaccine for your second dose and that is our policy across all of our clinics.”
    - “We do need to recognize however that sometimes you may be offered the other mRNA vaccine. The vaccines are very similar, and they are equally effective. We do our best to make sure that both products are available at every clinic, but sometimes there are supply issues when we have this rapid just-in-time response, where we occasionally do not have the same product available for everybody.”
    - “These are both safe and effective, and according to our National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), can be considered interchangeable. If that occasion happens when they don't have the initial vaccine that you were given for your dose one, that it is perfectly safe and equally effective to receive one of the other mRNA vaccines.”
  - “Public health and WorkSafeBC have played an important part in our pandemic response, supporting businesses to put comprehensive COVID-19 safety plans in place to keep employees and customers safe.”
  - “Now, as we look toward Step 3 and Step 4 of BC's Restart plan, the requirements for businesses in B.C. will be changing. Building on the success of the COVID-19 specific plans, going forward, businesses will be required to adapt their COVID-19 plans into communicable disease safety plans.”
  - “Over the summer months, WorkSafeBC will help workplaces make this transition to ensure plans are in place for the fall and winter seasons when respiratory and other communicable diseases typically increase.”
- **Starting today, employers can apply for reimbursement of wages paid to workers who have taken sick leave related to COVID-19.<sup>7</sup>**
  - The temporary reimbursement program is retroactive to May 20, 2021, when legislation was passed, to ensure sick workers can stay home for up to three days without losing wages, while supporting businesses during the pandemic.
    - The reimbursement program will be available to employers until Dec. 31, 2021.
  - The amendments to the Employment Standards Act (ESA) require employers to pay sick workers their regular wages. Employers can then apply for reimbursement up to \$200 per day, to a maximum of three days per worker.

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<sup>6</sup> Live press conference on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021LBR0025-001178>

- Any employer whose workers are covered under the ESA but does not currently provide paid sick leave benefits to its employees will be eligible.
- The reimbursement program is available to employers where workers need to stay home because they:
  - Have been diagnosed with COVID-19;
  - Are waiting for COVID-19 test results;
  - Need to self-isolate or self-monitor in accordance with a public health order or guideline; and/or
  - Have been directed to stay home by their employer due to exposure risks
- WorkSafeBC is administering the program with funding from government, as it's IT systems and employer information allowed it to set up a new process to deliver the reimbursement program on behalf of government.
  - The program is not part of the workers' compensation system and will not affect WorkSafeBC's employer premiums or its accident fund.
- To apply for reimbursement, employers must:
  - Be registered for WorkSafeBC compensation coverage and signed up for WorkSafeBC's online services
  - Complete a short online form that collects information about their employees' COVID-19 related sick leave. Once submitted, processing of the application and payment by electronic transfer can take up to 10 business days.
- For information on B.C.'s paid COVID-19 related sick leave, or to apply for the reimbursement, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/paid-sick-leave>
- **Today, the Province provided a statement regarding the return to school in September 2021 for students in grades K-12.<sup>8</sup>**
  - The provincial K-12 education steering committee will continue to work with the ministry and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) in the summer to review and finalize school safety plans for the fall.
  - It is expected the current guidelines used in schools over the past year will be replaced by updated guidelines in August 2021.
  - **The following can be expected as part of the return to school in September:**
    - Students can expect to learn in classrooms full time. Similar to any other school year, online learning programs will remain available for students.
    - Based on guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, students will no longer be grouped into cohorts this September.
      - Research has shown schools were not significant sources of COVID-19 transmission, and with high vaccination rates throughout B.C., these measures will no longer be necessary. This will allow normal timetabling.
    - Should the current encouraging progress continue, it is anticipated the restrictions on gatherings, extracurricular activities, and sports will no longer be required when the new school year begins.
    - Guidance on wearing masks in school settings will be confirmed later this summer and in alignment with broader provincial direction for the fall and winter.

<sup>8</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0044-001180>

- Students will continue to be required to complete daily health checks, stay home when feeling sick, and practise diligent hand hygiene.
- Public health teams and school health officers will continue to closely monitor cases of COVID-19 in schools and the community and will continue to provide support and guidance.
- Rapid response teams, which have been in place since February in each of the five health authority regions, will continue in the fall. The teams will:
  - Focus on supporting recovery efforts in schools through a focus on academic, socio-emotional, and mental health.
  - Continue to provide streamlined communications at the local level to share information, support consistent practice of, and update where necessary, the K-12 health and safety guidelines.
- **The following funding will be provided to schools:**
  - \$43.6 million will be provided to support ongoing health and safety measures, First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, rapid response teams, and to address learning impacts to students.
  - Of this, there is \$25.6 million in new one-time, pandemic-specific funding to support necessary cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene for students and staff, improve ventilation and restock supplies of personal protection equipment (PPE). This funding will also strengthen the commitments to First Nations and Métis students and provide more mental health supports for students and staff.

## **SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY**

- **Today, Yukon’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, provided an update regarding COVID-19 in the territory and announced nine new confirmed cases of COVID-19.<sup>9</sup>**
  - Regarding cases:
    - There are now 54 active cases in the territory including one probable case and two out of territory cases.
    - While only 11 are confirmed as Gamma variant, it is presumed that all recent cases are this variant of concern.
    - Today’s nine confirmed cases are in Whitehorse with one in a rural community, and all individuals are isolating and recovering at home.
  - Regarding enforcement measures:
    - “Our government recognizes that ramping up enforcement capacity is one way that we can help keep Yukoners safe.
    - There will be an increased presence of Officers and Inspectors who are able to lay charges under the Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA); focusing their efforts on ensuring restaurants and bars are following their operational plans and guidelines, and that patrons of these establishments are following the rules.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/june-17-2021-new-covid-19-cases-confirmed>

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- **Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer, issued a statement regarding COVID-19 and vaccines in Canada. Highlights include the following:**<sup>10</sup>
  - “Canada recently launched the *Vaccine Injury Support Program* to provide eligible individuals with access to financial support in the rare event that they suffer a serious and permanent injury from a Health Canada authorized vaccine administered in Canada. With the introduction of this new program, Canada joins a growing number of countries that have vaccine injury support programs in place.”
  - Information on the program, including eligibility and how individuals can apply, can be found at: <https://www.vaccineinjurysupport.ca/en>
- **Today, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released updated recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in Canada.**<sup>11</sup>
  - In making its recommendations, NACI considered:
    - The increasing availability of mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) in Canada;
    - Emerging evidence suggesting better immune responses when a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine is followed by a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine;
    - The risk of Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) associated with viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca, Janssen) but not associated with mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna); and
    - Principles of ethics, equity, feasibility, and acceptability.
  - **For first doses, NACI recommends that:**
    - An mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) is preferred to start a vaccine series, unless there is a contraindication, for example, because of an allergy to an mRNA vaccine or its components.
    - A viral vector vaccine (AstraZeneca, Janssen) may be offered to start a vaccine series when an mRNA vaccine is inaccessible or contraindicated, for example, because of an allergy to an mRNA vaccine or its components.
    - NACI's previous recommendation - that people who wanted earlier vaccination could receive a viral vector vaccine rather than wait for an mRNA vaccine - reflected the limited supply of mRNA vaccines at the time and the necessity of protecting vulnerable populations from serious illness and death from COVID-19.
  - **For second doses, NACI recommends that:**
    - Individuals who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) should be offered the same mRNA product for their second dose. If the same product is not readily available, or the product used for the first dose is unknown, another mRNA vaccine is considered interchangeable and should be used to complete the series.
    - An mRNA vaccine **is now preferred** as the second dose for individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine, based on emerging evidence of

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/06/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-june-17-2021.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/summary-statement-june-17-2021.html>

a potentially better immune response from this mixed vaccine schedule and to mitigate the potential risk of VITT associated with viral vector vaccines.

- People who received two doses of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine can rest assured that the vaccine provides good protection against infection and very good protection against severe disease and hospitalization.
- **Today, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced an investment to increase the resilience of Canada’s critical personal protective equipment supply.**<sup>12</sup>
  - Up to \$28.99 million will be provided through the *Strategic Innovation Fund* to support the establishment of a manufacturing facility for an essential component of made-in-Canada life-saving respirators and surgical masks to ensure Canada’s pandemic preparedness.
  - This funding is being provided to Meltech Innovation Canada Inc. for a new factory that will build Canada’s capacity to produce the middle filter layer commonly used in the manufacturing of respirators and surgical masks, which is also known as ‘meltblown polypropylene’.
  - This factory will fill an existing domestic manufacturing gap. By securing an end-to-end PPE supply chain, Canada is expected to become more self-sufficient and reduce the risk of future supply chain interruptions. Once fully operational, the factory is expected to supply enough of this fabric to produce over half a billion masks per year.

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

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/investment-to-increase-the-resilience-of-canadas-supply-of-critical-personal-protective-equipment.html>