

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 21 September 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 Sept 20	As of Sept 21	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	179,653	180,178	525*
Total active cases in BC	5,615	5,282	-333
Currently in intensive care	156	155	-1
Currently hospitalized	307	332	25
Total hospitalized to date	9,526	9,555	29
Total deaths in BC	1,899	1,900	1
Total recovered in BC	171,769	172,624	855

CONFIRMED CASES BY REGION¹	As of Sept 20	As of Sept 21	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	179,653	180,178	525*
Vancouver Coastal Health	40,483	40,534	51
Fraser Health	94,757	94,944	187
Island Health	7,880	7,941	61
Interior Health	25,579	25,726	147
Northern Health	10,678	10,757	79
Out of Canada	276	276	0
Total tests	3,765,919	3,732,766	-33,153**

STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON²	As of Sept 17	As of Sept 21	Change
Total confirmed cases	716	725	9
Total active cases	25	28	3
Total deaths	9	9	0
Total recovered	686	693	7
Total individuals tested	12,232	12,418	186
Negative results	11,443	11,580	137
Pending results	75	116	41

*The B.C. government reported 525 new COVID-19 cases, noting the total and new case counts were provisional due to a delayed data refresh.

**The BCCDC has reported 10,224 between September 20th and September 21st, along with a decreased Total Test count.

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

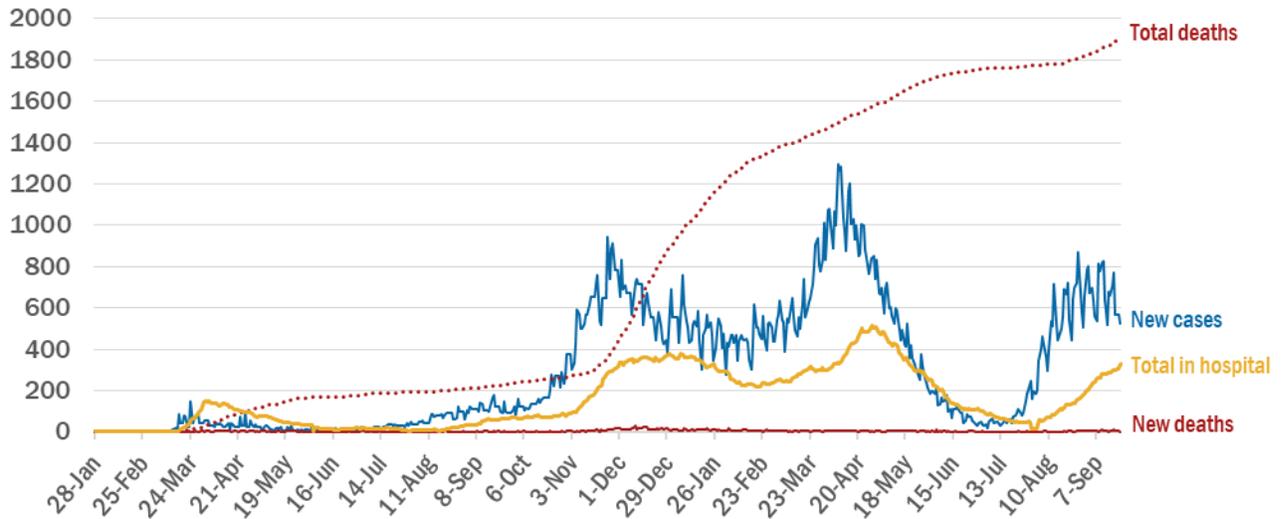
² Source: <https://yukon.ca/en/case-counts-covid-19>

STATUS OF FIRST NATION RESERVE

CASES IN CANADA ³

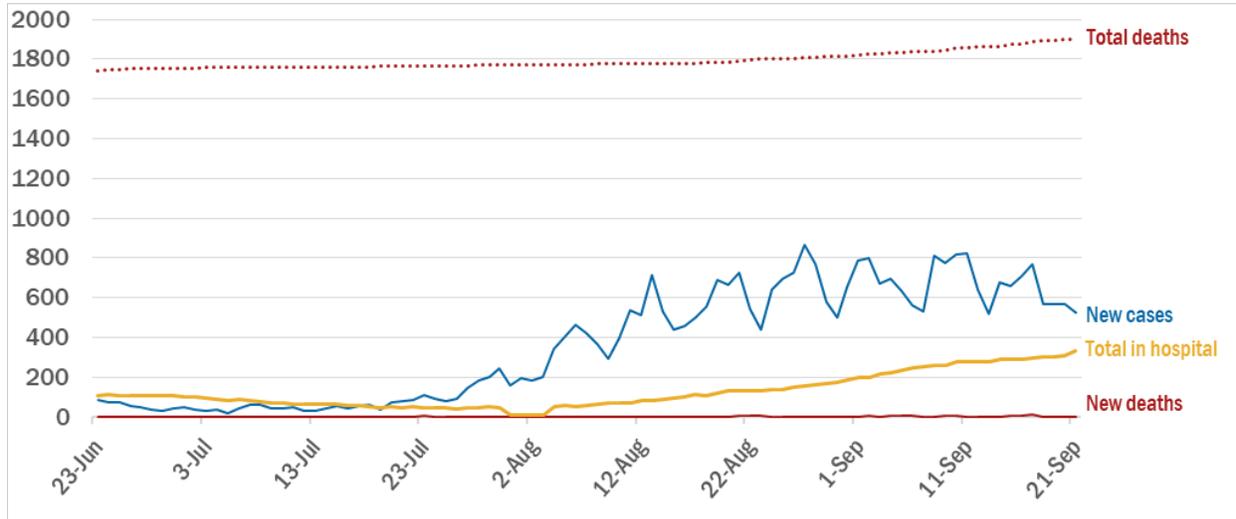
	As of Sept 17	As of Sept 20	Change
Total confirmed cases	38,629	39,147	518
Total active cases	1,818	1,812	-6
Total hospitalized	1,788	1,807	19
Total deaths	408	411	3
Total recovered	36,403	36,924	521
Total confirmed cases in BC	3,966	4,053	87

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



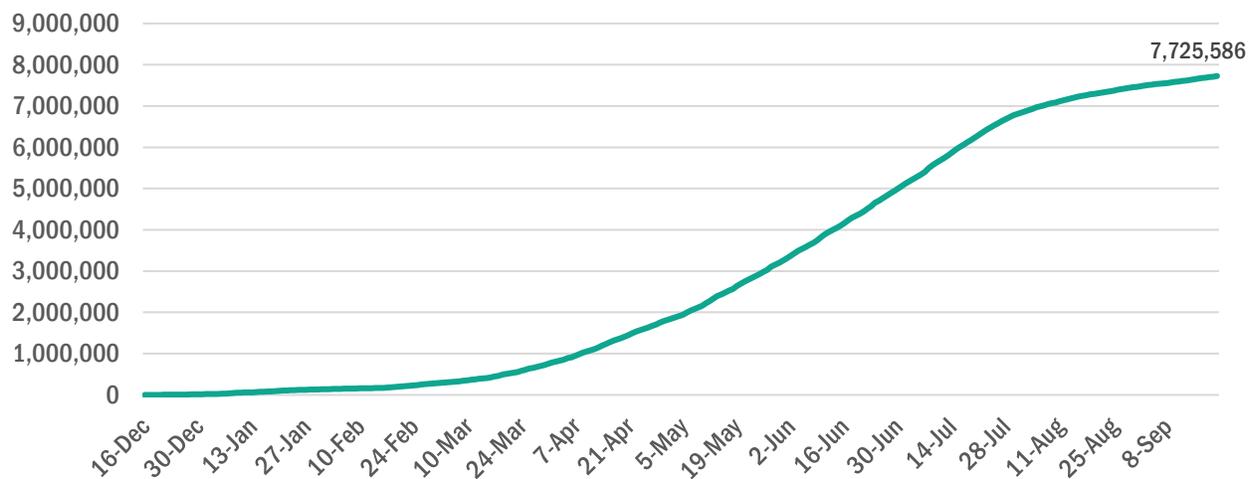
³ Source: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

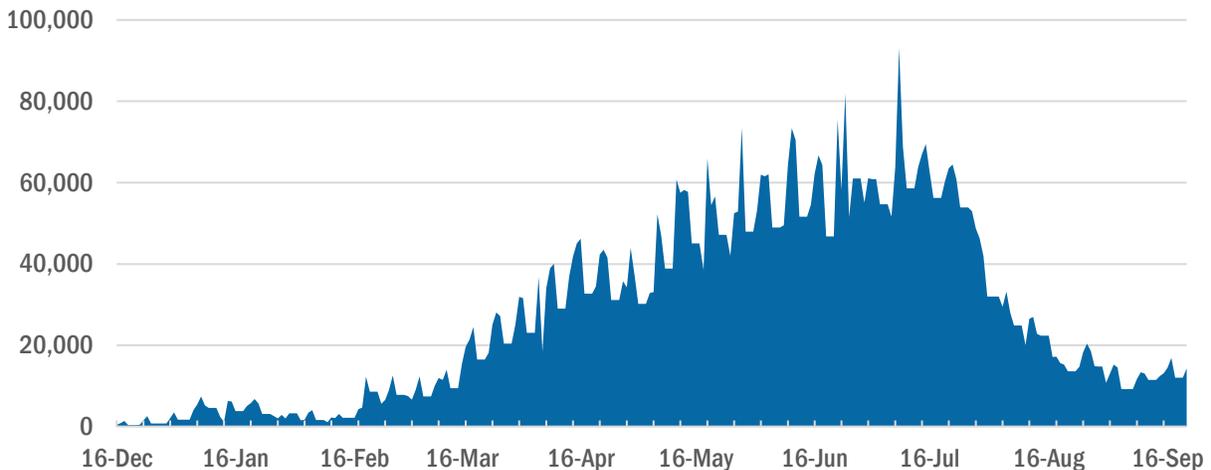
STATUS OF VACCINE ADMINISTRATION⁴

	Total Doses Administered		Total Doses Supplied	% of Doses Administered	% Pop. with first dose	People Fully Vaccinated	% Pop. Fully Vaccinated
	Today	Total					
BC	14,280	7,725,586	8,025,050	96.26	78.07	3,685,799	71.23
Yukon	-	65,895	67,840	97.13	78.81	32,327	75.89
Canada	85,028	55,292,287	63,900,844	86.53	75.52	26,494,341	69.48

TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED



DOSES ADMINISTERED IN BC EACH DAY



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

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, held a joint press conference regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ Highlights include the following:
 - **Regarding B.C.'s vaccine program:**
 - Regarding recent concerns raised on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in individuals who are planning to get pregnant, are pregnant, or are breastfeeding:
 - A number of young, pregnant women are currently in the ICU who are not vaccinated since the increased transmission of the Delta variant.
 - “I want to say unequivocally, it has been recommended by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists here in Canada, by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), and by similar groups around the world. All of the vaccines that are approved for use in Canada are not only safe but recommended for people who are pregnant, people who are thinking of getting pregnant, and people who are breastfeeding.”
 - “Over 90,000 pregnant women have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the U.S. and a study very recently came out looking at outcomes, and no major side effects have been identified. And importantly, safety data shows that pregnant people have the same mild side effects as everyone else and there were no increased risks of pregnancy complications or neonatal outcomes when you're vaccinated.”
 - “We do know that there is an increased risk of severe illness requiring hospitalization or ICU care if you get COVID-19 when you're pregnant. Canadian data, including about 1,500 pregnant people here in B.C. and international data, shows that significantly worse levels of severe disease, especially now with the Delta variant that we're seeing and higher rates of adverse infinite outcomes, things like stillbirths and preterm births or babies being born early.”
 - Information regarding the safety and use of COVID-19 vaccines in these individuals can be found at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
 - Regarding individuals who have had previous COVID-19 infections and whether they need to be immunized:
 - “The antibody levels after infection can be very varied. Some people's immune response can be really overwhelmed by infection even with mild or moderate infection, but particularly if you're hospitalized and you may not develop that long-term immunity that protects you from reinfection as well.”
 - Varied antibody levels after infection mean some individuals may not have immunity where the body is able to recognize the virus and fight it off, particularly if they were previously infected with a milder strain of COVID-

⁵ Live press conference on September 21, 2021 at 11:30am

- 19, and it is currently unknown what the required correlate is for long-term antibody immune protection.
- However, it is known that there is a measured amount of antigen and a broader protection provided by the vaccine against different strains of COVID-19. It is also known that some people who were infected with COVID-19 and have recovered, but have had long-COVID symptoms, find their symptoms get better following immunization. It is recommended by NACI to receive a full course of vaccination even if you have recovered from COVID-19.
 - Pfizer-BioNTech studies for use of their vaccine in children aged 6 to 11 have concluded, and the data package will be submitted to Health Canada.
 - “That gives us just one more tool to be able to protect younger children against this virus, and our immunization teams across the province are actively preparing to be able to offer this vaccine if and when Health Canada approves it for use here in Canada and it becomes available.”
 - “We are preparing so that we're ready to offer it and we have all the information that parents will need to make those decisions about whether their children should be immunized. And I think this will be really important, especially as we're into the school year again.”
 - **Regarding B.C.'s ongoing pandemic management:**
 - “While getting our vaccines is the most important tool that we have now to try and combat these rising cases that we're receiving, I also want to reassure everybody that the public health fundamentals of case management and contact tracing remain in place. Contact tracing is a pillar of our COVID response and will continue to be as we go through this wave.”
 - “Our public health teams are working across the province, scaling up again, to make sure that we have the ability to find every case and to identify contacts, particularly contacts who are in high-risk settings (such as communal living settings, health care workers, school settings).”
 - **Regarding school notifications:**
 - “It is my understanding that there was a level of anxiety from the way that we had given broad school notifications last year, but we hear from parents across the province and from educators, and our teams have recognized that parents do need an authoritative source to go to have an understanding of what's happening at their children's schools.”
 - “We have asked our team to get together now to make sure that we could notify schools in a timely, less intrusive, and more sustainable way, and that parents will have access to that information rapidly. I hope to have that in place by the end of this week, so that you can have an understanding of what is happening at your child's school.”
 - “If your child has been exposed to somebody with COVID in a school system you will be notified. It does take time to follow up on each individual case and that sometimes can take longer than you expect, but you will be notified. And public

health teams are prioritizing our schools, because we know how important it is to make sure that children are safely in schools and able to have all of the learning experiences in the school setting.”

- **Regarding the COVID-19 B.C. vaccine card, and the recent issues where names did not match individuals’ IDs:**
 - As of this morning, nearly three (3) million people have gotten their vaccine card, in the less than two weeks that it has been offered.
 - “The BC vaccine card has been updated to ensure that the name that is displayed matches the name on your BC Services card or combined driver's license and BC Services card.”
 - Updating incorrect names:
 - If the name on your BC Services card and vaccine card currently does not match, go to www.gov.bc.ca/vaccinocard for an updated vaccine card.
 - If the name on your BC Services Card is incorrect, use one of the following options:
 - Visit www.gov.bc.ca/updateID or contact Health Insurance BC toll-free at 1-800-663-7100
- **Regarding the current situation in the Northern Health Authority:**
 - “Northern Health has more cases per hundred thousand of the population than any other health authority, more total cases by a wide margin in the last seven days. These exceptionally high case rates are translating into hospitalization and putting significant pressure on ICU capacity and health workers. The north is being overstretched by COVID-19.”
 - “We've taken steps to manage and ensure that quality care is provided to patients in the north and will need to take further steps in the weeks ahead.”
 - “To recruit and retain the people we need in Northern Health, we are investing immediately up to \$6.38 million for programs and incentives to encourage more healthcare workers to discover the advantages of working and living in Northern Health.”
 - “Our commitment to ensure people in the north get the care they need has required us to make the difficult decision to transfer patients from the north to Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver for critical care. So far, a total of twelve patients, nine of which are COVID-positive.”
 - “We expect the pressure on critical care in the north will continue until vaccination rates go up and cases and hospitalizations go down. We need to reduce pressure on the north and as such we are adding additional capacity outside of the north so we can provide the care to the patients who need it.”
- **Regarding the impact of COVID-19 on surgeries and hospital and ICU capacity in the province:**
 - “Our health care workers continue to deliver the very best care possible to every patient, but it's not simply a matter of continuing to ask them to do more. We

cannot keep asking them to compensate for the devastating consequences created when people make the decision not to get vaccinated.”

- “Last week I reported that as a result of increasing pressures from COVID-19 we had reduced non-urgent scheduled surgeries in several health authorities. This has continued to be the case from September 12 to September 18, during which time the health authorities postponed 511 non-urgent scheduled surgeries.”
- “For the two weeks of September 5th to September 18th there have been 798 surgical postponements. I would note that from August 29th to September 4th health authorities reported 5,865 surgeries were completed and that is, and continues to be, impressive output by our healthcare system under these circumstances.”

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- On September 20th, Dr. Catherine Elliott, acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, declared a COVID-19 outbreak in the Grade 4 class at Johnson Elementary School in Watson Lake.⁶
 - 12 new cases of COVID-19 have been reported from noon Friday, September 17, to noon Monday, September 20.⁷
 - Of these cases:
 - One is in Whitehorse
 - Eight are in rural Yukon communities
 - Three are out of territory residents who were diagnosed in the Yukon
 - At this time, three cases are linked to this outbreak, and they have no known exposure sources other than the Grade 4 classroom. It is most likely that these cases caught COVID-19 within their class cohort and there is no indication of spread in the school beyond this class.
 - Grade 4 students and staff are urged to seek testing, whether or not they have symptoms, if they have not been tested after September 17.
 - A rapid response team will arrive in Watson Lake and this testing will be available starting Tuesday, September 21.
 - Yukon Communicable Disease Control is working closely with the school to perform contact tracing and ensure all necessary measures are in place to protect students and staff.
 - There is no change in the recommendations for the Grade 1 class or the rest of Johnson Elementary School at this time.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- No significant updates from the Government of Canada.

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

⁶ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/covid-19-outbreak-declared-grade-4-class-johnson-elementary-school-watson-lake>

⁷ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/september-20-2021-covid-19-case-count-update>