

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 1 October 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 29	As of Oct 1	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	186,245	187,694	1,449*
Total active cases in BC	6,185	6,317	132
Currently in intensive care	146	138	-8
Currently hospitalized	340	328	12
Total hospitalized to date	9,873	9,971	98
Total deaths in BC	1,953	1,973	20
Total recovered in BC	177,729	178,980	1,251
CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION¹	As of Sept 29	As of Oct 1	Change*
Vancouver Coastal Health	41,290	41,476	186
Fraser Health	97,201	97,738	537
Island Health	8,557	8,678	121
Interior Health	27,195	27,551	356
Northern Health	11,708	11,957	249
Out of Canada	294	294	0
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON²	As of Sept 29	As of Oct 1	Change
Total confirmed cases	755	758	3
Total active cases	36	27	-9
Total deaths	9	9	0
Total recovered	713	726	13
STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES³	As of Sept 28	As of Sept 29	Change
Total confirmed cases	40,761	41,017	256
Total active cases	1,876	1,909	33
Total hospitalized	1,868	1,879	3
Total deaths	419	421	2
Total recovered	38,466	38,687	221
Total confirmed cases in BC	4,378	4,390	12

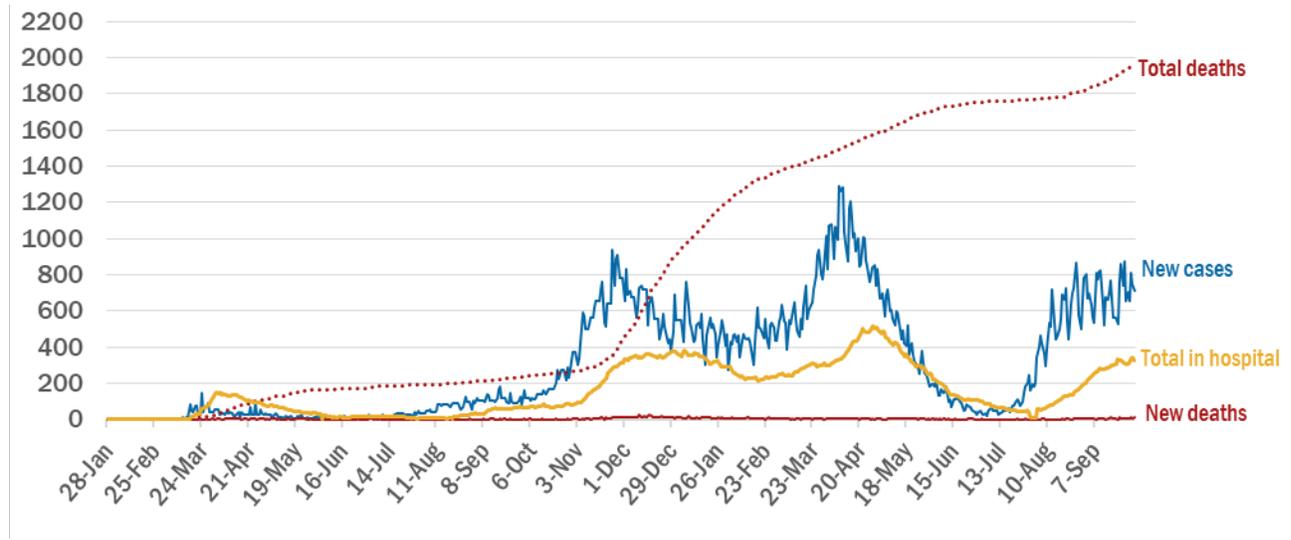
*The BCCDC reported 749 new cases on Sept 30th and 714 on Oct 1st (1,463 total). The difference does not align due to a data correction.

¹ Source: BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

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

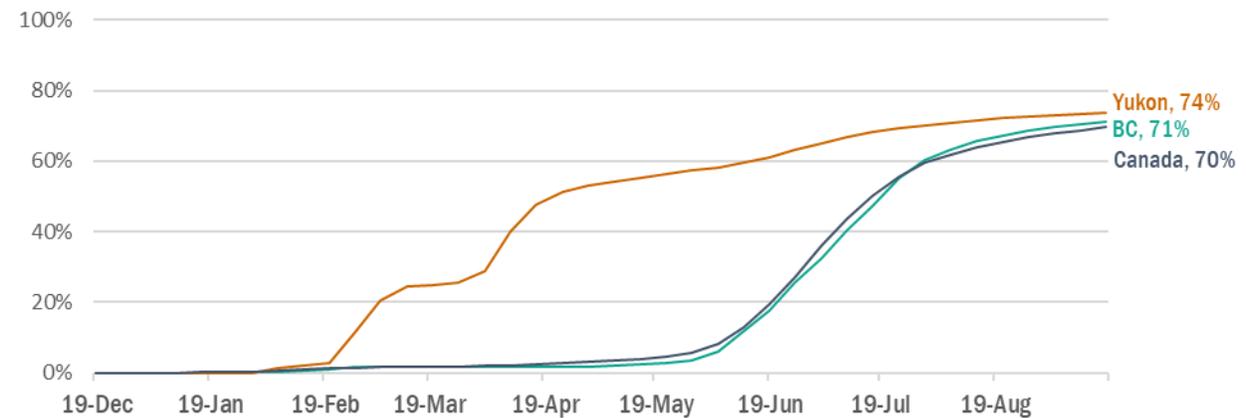
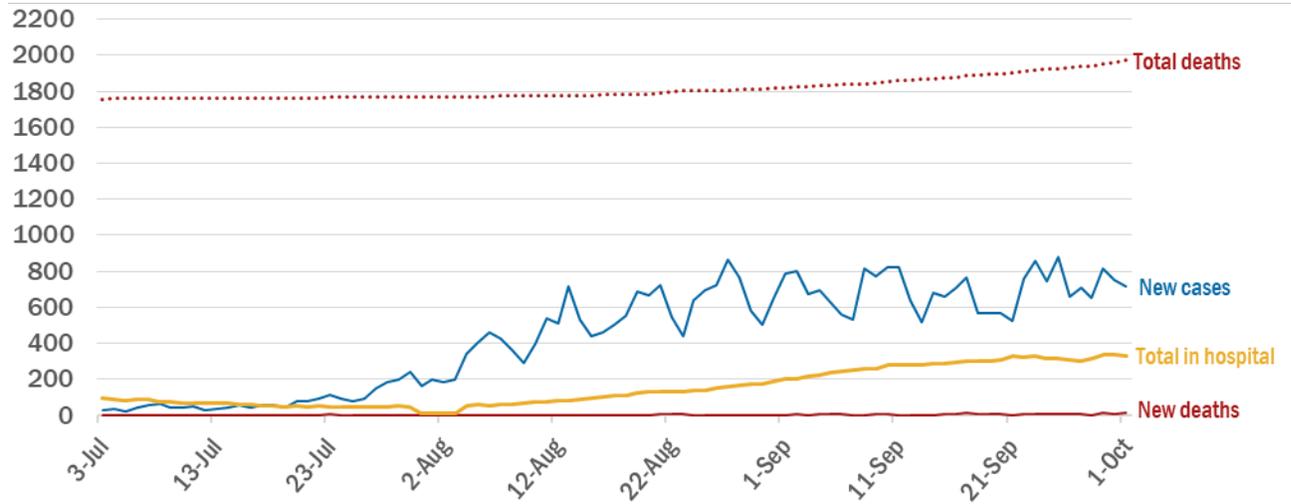
³ Source: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC



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

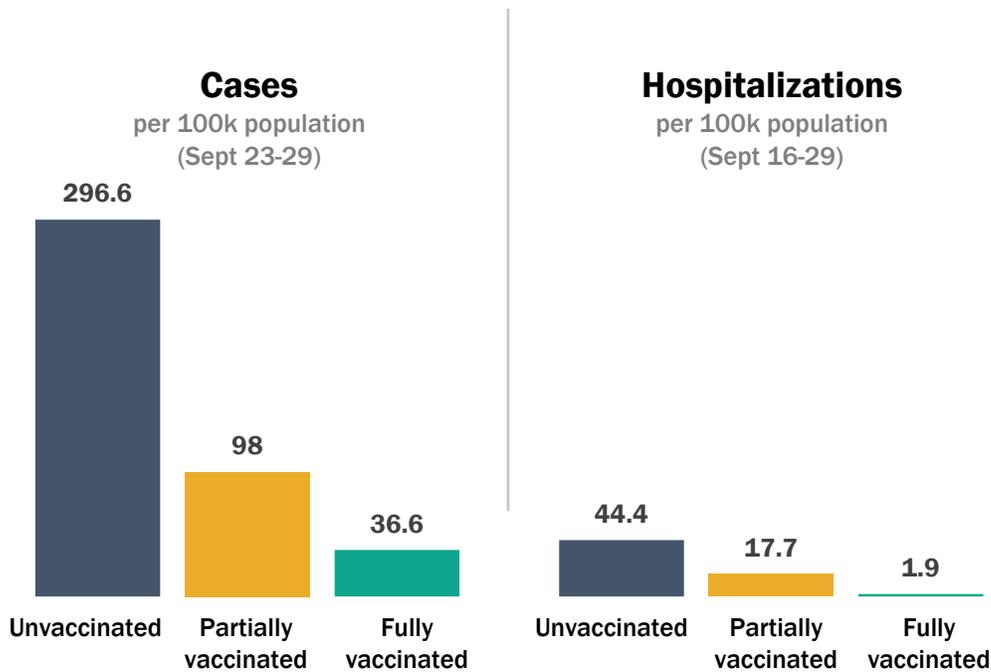
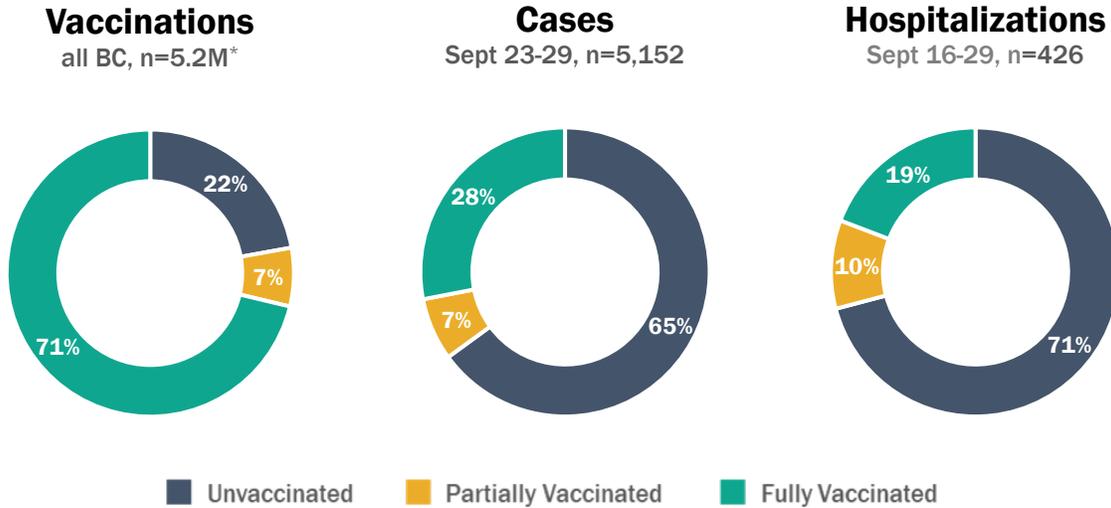
COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC – PAST THREE MONTHS CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE⁴



⁴ Source: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccination-coverage/>

COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN B.C. BY VACCINATION STATUS

- From Sept. 23-29, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 71.3% of cases and from Sept. 15-29, they accounted for 80.8% of hospitalizations.^{5,6}



⁵ Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/>

⁶ Note: As more people get vaccinated and there are fewer unvaccinated people, the percent of cases among vaccinated people is expected to increase.

* Source: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccination-coverage/>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Today, the B.C. Government announced that beginning October 4th, all students in B.C. schools will be required to wear a mask while inside a school building, including while at a desk and on a bus.⁷
 - This new mandate builds on the existing guidelines that apply to students in grade 4 through to grade 12.
 - Beginning this month, the Public Health Officer will also release a monthly report that will inform British Columbians about the virus and how it effects school-aged children.
 - Regional medical health officers will continue to work with school districts to recommend any additional regional measures, as required.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, Dr. Catherine Elliott, the Yukon's acting Chief Medical Officer of Health issues a COVID-19 outbreak declaration in Ghùch Tiâ Community School in Carcross.⁸ Details include the following:
 - An outbreak has been declared at Ghùch Tiâ Community School in Carcross and classes impacted are the Kindergarten class (K-4) and the Grade 1/2/3 split.
 - Students, teachers and staff linked to these classes are all directed to get tested, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Investigation into the transmission of recent cases in the community indicates a link to the classes at the school.
 - Students and staff were directed earlier this week to self-isolate but are now being directed to get tested. Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) has provided information to affected classes.
 - Participants and attendees at two community events, which took place in the school, have also received notification from YCDC.
 - These events were the Carcross Tagish First Nations Youth Night on Wednesday, September 22, and the Carcross Recreation Activities – Judo event, also on Wednesday, September 22.
 - “With the declaration of another school outbreak, I want to emphasize a few important points. Until we have a vaccine for children, the best way to protect them is for the youth and adults around them to get vaccinated. This prevents infection. Once symptoms occur, you can only tell if it's COVID-19 by getting tested – so get tested. If you test positive, you will be advised on the next steps in how to protect yourself and others will be able to know if they may have been exposed. We are now living with COVID-19 in Yukon, and it will take all of us taking these steps to keep the impact on ourselves, our communities and our healthcare system to a minimum.” – Dr. Catherine Elliott.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, issued a statement regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Canada.⁹ Highlights include the following:

⁷ Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0059-001880>

⁸ Source: <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/latest-updates-covid-19/chief-medical-officer-of-health-covid-19-updates>

⁹ Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/10/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-october-1-2021.html>

- This week, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released updated guidance recommending an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty or Moderna Spikevax) booster dose be given to residents in long-term care and seniors in other congregate settings who have already received a complete two-dose primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Boosting immunity levels in these individuals who are at higher risk of exposure and serious illness will help to maintain their protection against infection and severe outcomes.
- NACI is also advising that COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines.
- This means that COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered with other important vaccines and this will make it easier for people to get their influenza vaccine this fall as well as catch up with other routine vaccines that may have been delayed during the pandemic.
- Updated surveillance data show ongoing regional variation in disease activity, but overall, epidemic growth appears to be stabilising nationally.
 - Unfortunately, lagging severity trends are still rising nationally, with recent hospitalisation and critical care admissions primarily involving unvaccinated people.
 - This continued trend together with prolonged hospital stays is putting a heavy strain on local healthcare resources, particularly where infection rates are high and vaccination rates are low.
 - It is hoped that maintaining strengthened control measures in heavily impacted areas will begin to reduce severe illness trends and ease the strain on the health system in the weeks to come.
- During this fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, infections and severe outcomes have several key features:
 - Nationally, the highly contagious Delta Variant of Concern (VOC), accounts for the majority of recently reported cases, is associated with increased severity, and may reduce the effectiveness of vaccines;
 - Most reported cases, hospitalisations and deaths are occurring among unvaccinated people;
 - Virus spread in areas with low vaccination coverage presents an ongoing risk for emergence of and replacement by new VOCs, including a risk of VOCs with the ability to evade vaccine protection.
- Regardless of which SARS-CoV-2 variant is predominating in an area, we know that vaccination, in combination with public health and individual measures, continue to work to reduce disease spread and severe outcomes
 - In recent weeks (August 15 – September 11, 2021):
 - The average weekly rate of new COVID-19 cases in unvaccinated people was 10 times higher than in the fully vaccinated.
 - The average weekly rate of hospitalized cases in unvaccinated people was 38 times higher compared to fully vaccinated people.

- Today, the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health in Canada provided an update on COVID-19 vaccines and the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis.¹⁰ Highlights include the following:
 - Vaccination continues to be one of the most effective ways to protect our families, communities, and ourselves against COVID-19, including those not eligible for vaccine, and to preserve capacity of our health systems and all vaccines authorized for use in Canada are assessed for safety, efficacy and quality by Health Canada.
 - Over 56 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to date, and more than 27 million individuals in Canada are now fully vaccinated, with serious side effects remaining rare (0.008% of all doses administered).
 - As part of the careful monitoring of these vaccines, reports of rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the heart) after immunization with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines continue to be reported in Canada and around the world.
 - Cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis related to vaccines occur more often in adolescents and adults under 30 years of age, more often in males than in females, more often after a second dose of an mRNA vaccine than after a first dose and most occur within seven days of vaccination.
 - Vaccine safety surveillance data in Canada also suggest relatively higher rates of myocarditis and/or pericarditis reported after Spikevax (Moderna) vaccination compared to Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech).
 - While follow-up is ongoing, the available data indicate that the majority of affected individuals, even if hospitalized, experience relatively mild illness, respond well to conservative treatment, and recover quickly.
 - It is also important to consider that the risk of cardiac complications, including myocarditis, has been shown to be substantially increased following SARS-CoV-2 infection, and that it is higher following infection than after vaccination.
 - Observational studies, including those from Canada, continue to show that both approved mRNA vaccines result in high vaccine effectiveness, particularly against severe disease.
 - The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), in considering the rare risks and known benefits of COVID-19 vaccines, continues to recommend vaccination with either mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for people 12 years of age and over, given the proven benefits of the vaccines in preventing severe illness and death.
 - The benefits of vaccination are clear. Evidence continues to show that vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19, including against variants of concern.

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

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/10/statement-from-the-council-of-chief-medical-officers-of-health-ccmoh-update-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-the-risk-of-myocarditis-and-pericarditis.html>