

## NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 19 November 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 Nov 18</b>	<b>As of Nov 19</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	214,150	214,636	<b>497</b>
Total active cases in BC	3,345	3,420	<b>75</b>
Currently in intensive care	110	109	<b>-1</b>
Currently hospitalized	355	358	<b>3</b>
Total hospitalized to date	12,025	12,052	<b>27</b>
Total deaths in BC	2,290	2,293	<b>3</b>
Total recovered in BC	208,284	208,702	<b>418</b>
<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Nov 18</b>	<b>As of Nov 19</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	44,417	44,481	<b>64</b>
Fraser Health	108,001	108,139	<b>138</b>
Island Health	11,978	12,049	<b>71</b>
Interior Health	32,539	32,685	<b>146</b>
Northern Health	16,915	16,993	<b>78</b>
Out of Canada	300	289	<b>-11*</b>
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Nov 18</b>	<b>As of Nov 19</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	1,349	1,381	<b>32</b>
Total active cases	166	171	<b>5</b>
Total deaths	12	12	<b>0</b>
Total recovered	1,183	1,217	<b>34</b>
<b>STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Nov 17</b>	<b>As of Nov 18</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	49,075	49,191	<b>116</b>
Total active cases	1,073	1,086	<b>13</b>
Total hospitalized	2,291	2,305	<b>14</b>
Total deaths	527	528	<b>1</b>
Total recovered	47,475	47,577	<b>102</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	5,854	5,865	<b>11</b>

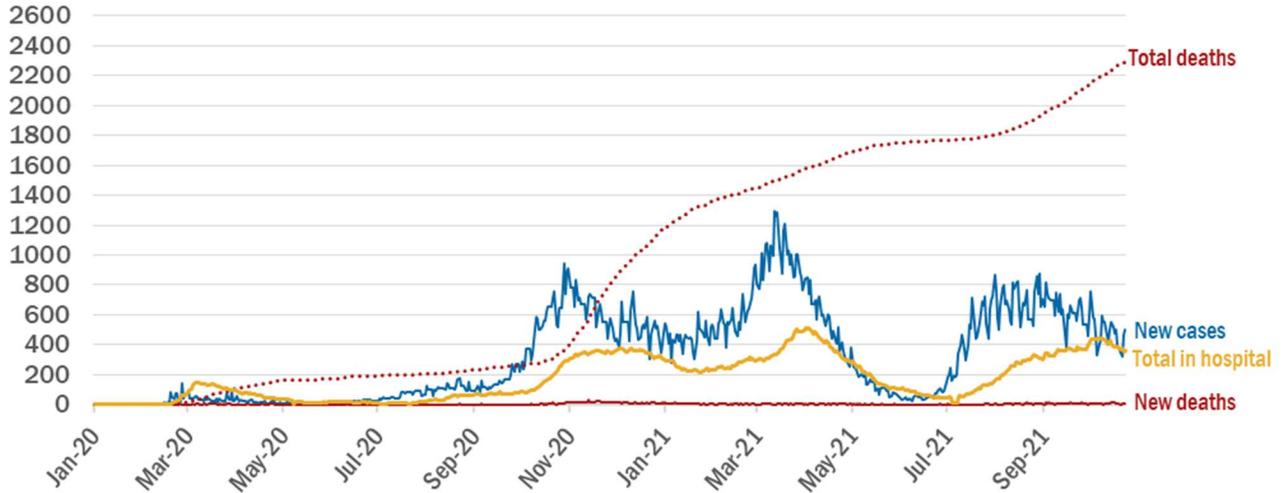
<sup>1</sup> BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

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

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

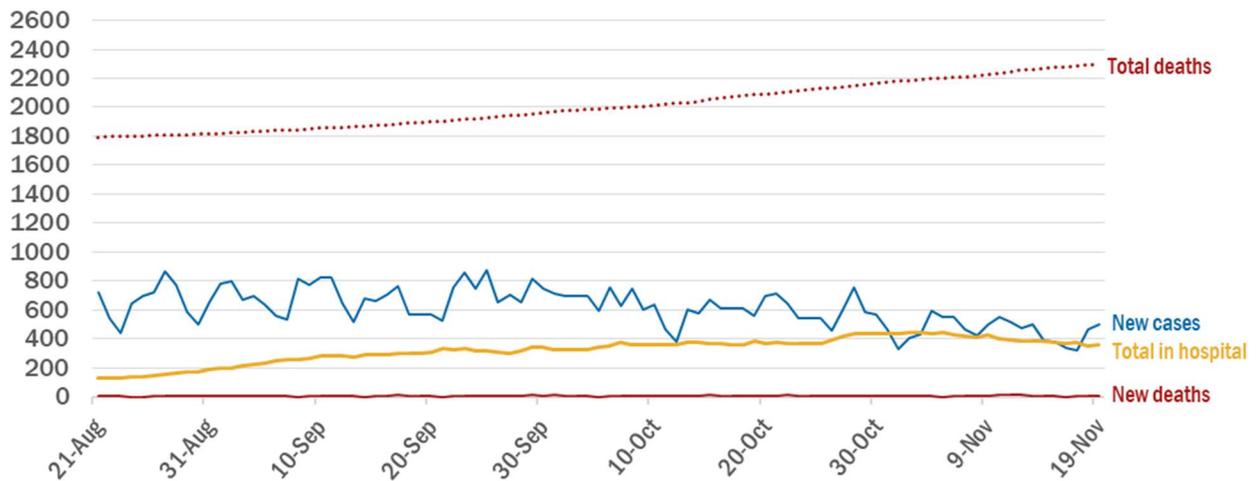
\* A data adjustment by the BCCDC has resulted in a decrease in the total confirmed cases Out of Canada.

### COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

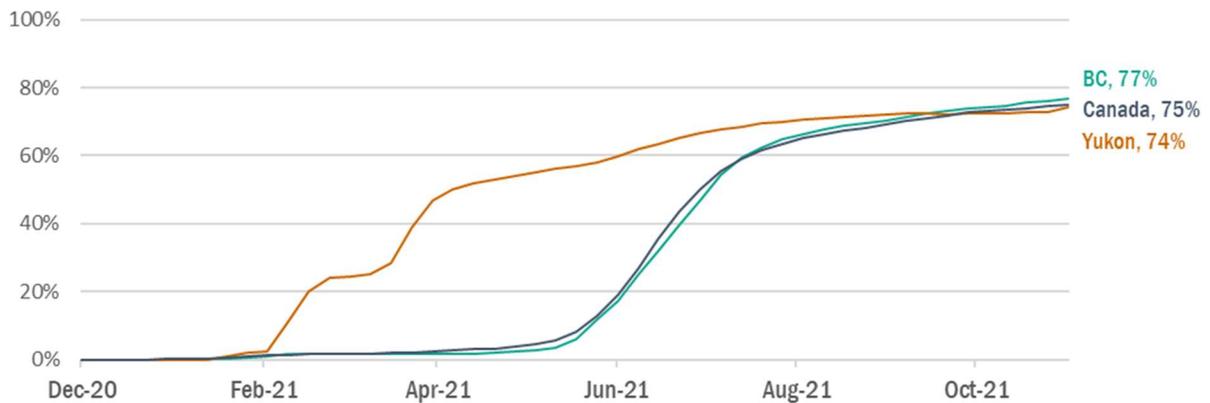


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



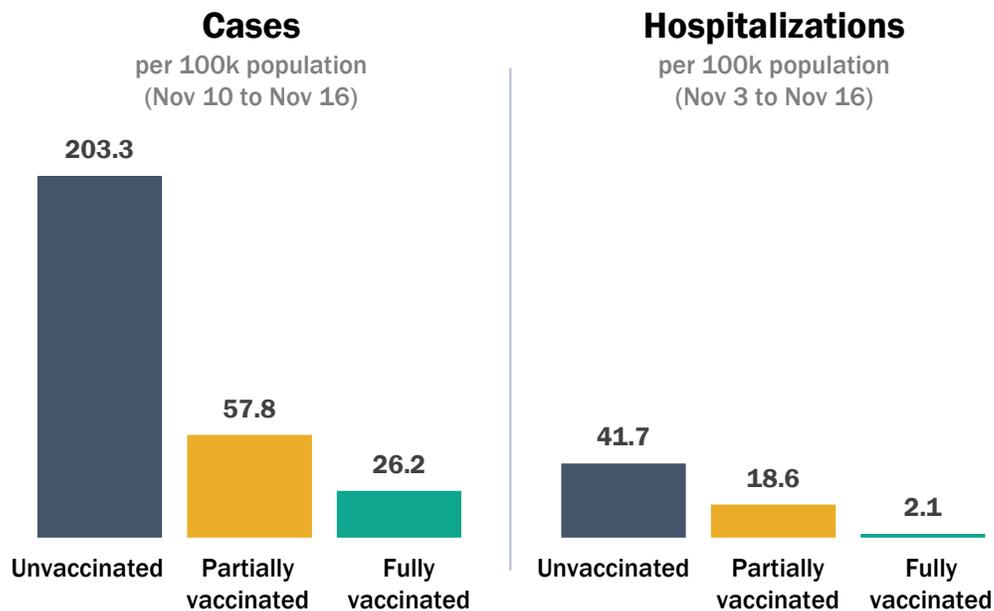
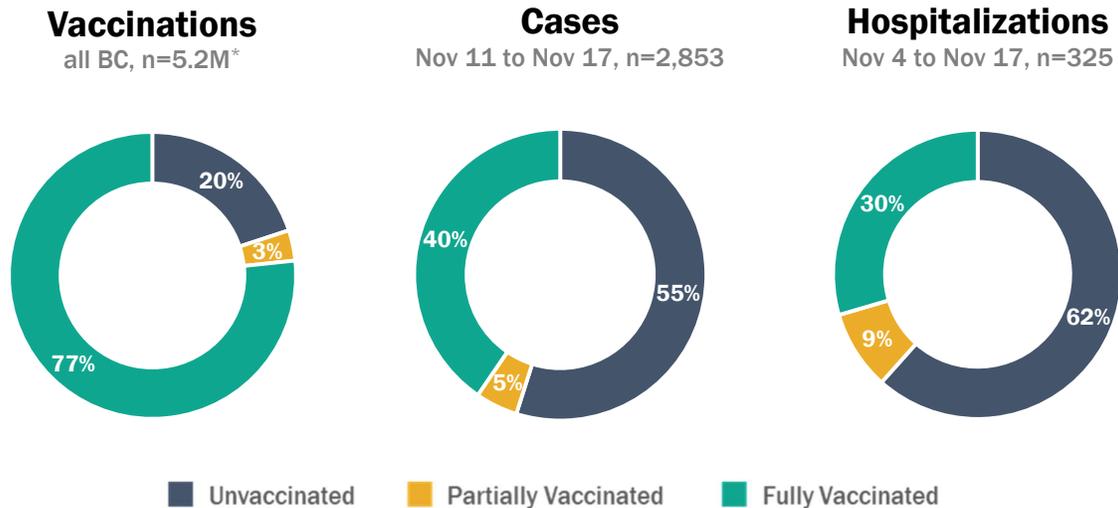
### CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE<sup>4</sup>



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

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

- From November 11 to November 17, 2021, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 59.5% of cases, and from November 4 to November 17, 2021, they accounted for 70.4% of hospitalizations.<sup>5,6</sup>



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

<sup>6</sup> As more people get vaccinated and there are fewer unvaccinated people, the % of cases among vaccinated people is expected to increase.

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

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Yesterday, Northern Health announced the extension of regional public health orders:<sup>7</sup>
  - “Northern Health (NH) is maintaining current regional public health orders covering most of the NH region, in response to sustained rates of COVID-19 activity and the impact on health care resources.”
  - At this time, NH Medical Health Officers have determined there remains a need for regional public health measures to limit transmission, reduce case counts, and reduce rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in the north.
  - The ‘Northern Health Gatherings and Events COVID-19 Order’ was originally implemented October 14, 2021, with an expiry date of midnight, November 19.
    - “Effective midnight, November 18, the Order expiry date has been removed, and current measures will remain in effect pending further assessment of the region’s COVID-19 status.”
  - While immunization rates continue to increase in larger centres across the north, some parts of the region still have some of the lowest vaccination rates in B.C.
- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, issued a statement regarding Health Canada’s approval of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine for children aged five to eleven:<sup>8</sup>
  - “British Columbia welcomes the news that Health Canada has approved Pfizer’s COVID-19 pediatric vaccine for children aged five to eleven.”
  - “We look forward to making the pediatric vaccine available for 360,000 young British Columbians as soon as possible.”
  - “As we have seen over the past 20 months, the pandemic has had a tremendous impact on children and families and has led to significant disruptions to important social activities and school.”
  - “Health Canada’s approval of the vaccine for children is another important step that will help protect children from COVID-19 and help us safely get back to many important activities.”
  - “We encourage B.C. parents and guardians to register their children to get vaccinated at [www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca](http://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca) – or by calling 1 833 838-2323 toll-free.”
  - “Already, more than 75,000 children have been registered for their vaccine and are on the list to be contacted to book an appointment and get their COVID-19 pediatric vaccine.”
  - British Columbia will have enough vaccine for every child aged five to eleven.
  - We will be ready to start welcoming children to clinics throughout the province soon after we receive our supply of pediatric vaccines from the Government of Canada.
  - “We will share detailed information early next week about B.C.’s plan for vaccines for children five to eleven.”

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://stories.northernhealth.ca/news/nh-regional-public-health-orders-extended>

<sup>8</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0204-002205>

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Government of Yukon.

**Note:** COVID-19 public exposure notices can be found at the following locations:

<https://bit.ly/NorthernHealthExposures> and <https://bit.ly/YukonExposures>

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Health Canada approved the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine for children ages five to eleven:<sup>9</sup>
  - This is the first vaccine authorized in Canada to prevent COVID-19 in younger children and is another key step in Canada's fight against COVID-19.
  - Our assessment included a review of new clinical trial data that built on earlier lab data from clinical trials in adults and adolescents and real world data on the use of hundreds of millions of doses worldwide.
    - The trials followed approximately 4,600 children five to eleven years of age.
    - 3,100 received the vaccine and 1,500 received a placebo.
    - The study used a two-dose vaccine regimen given three weeks apart but with a slightly different formulation than the one authorized for adults.
    - The dose of mRNA is also smaller at 10 micrograms rather than 30 micrograms.
  - To determine whether the vaccine is effective, we looked at the immune response in children aged five to eleven compared to the response in adolescents and young adults sixteen to twenty-five years of age, and the immune responses were comparable.
  - Safety data was evaluated for 1,518 vaccine and 750 placebo participants of whom the vast majority, or over 95 percent, had a safety follow-up of at least three months after the second dose.
    - The trial also evaluated safety data from an additional 1,591 vaccine and 788 placebo participants with a median follow-up of two and a half weeks after the second dose.
  - The main average events reported were similar to those in adolescents and young adults but were less frequent, except for redness and swelling at the injection site, which was slightly higher.
    - Other adverse events reported included fatigue and headache.
    - Most reactions were mild to moderate in severity and resolved quickly on their own.
    - Among the 3,100 vaccine recipients, four reports of serious adverse events were ultimately determined to be unrelated to vaccination.
    - There were no reports of myocarditis, pericarditis or severe allergic reactions.

---

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_PcXoASd5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_PcXoASd5s)

- After a thorough and independent scientific review of the evidence, the department has determined that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the potential risks in this younger age group.
- As with all authorized COVID-19 vaccines, Health Canada has issued terms and conditions on the manufacturer requiring it to closely monitor any emerging safety issues, including any cases of myocarditis or pericarditis.
- Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada will continue to work with the provinces and territories, the manufacturer, and regulators around the world to monitor the safety of the vaccine.
- To date, no new safety issues have emerged from the use of Comirnaty in children five to eleven years of age in the United States, where over two and a half million children have received their first dose.
- This authorization comes at a critical time in the pandemic.
  - Over the course of the third and the fourth waves, incident rates have been increasing among children less than twelve years of age who, until now, have not been eligible for vaccination.
  - While children are less likely to experience complications, they can still get very sick.
  - Although the risk of severe illness is lower in children than in adults, rarely some children go on to develop multi-inflammatory syndrome in children, which has a very high risk of requiring hospitalization.
  - Emerging data also suggests that children with COVID-19, regardless of the severity, can develop “Long COVID” or “Post-COVID” symptoms that may continue for months.
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is recommending a complete two-dose series may be offered to children in this age group who do not have contraindications to the vaccine.
  - NACI is also recommending a dosing interval of eight weeks or more between the first and second dose.
- The data for the new, lower dose pediatric formulation shows that the 10 microgram dose works very well at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in children aged five to eleven years, with an estimated efficacy of 90.7 percent.
- Following excellent uptake of the 30 microgram dose among older children aged twelve to seventeen years, there has been a notable reduction in infection rates and outbreak-associated cases in that age group.
  - As such, it is hoped that the new pediatric programs will have similar success in younger children and contribute to increased population coverage overall.

- Today, the Government of Canada announced the elimination of COVID-19 testing for air and land crossings of less than 72 hours, as well as changing requirements for foreign travellers:<sup>10</sup>
  - As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, fully vaccinated Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and persons registered under the Indian Act, who take short trips outside of the country for 72 hours or less will no longer be required to complete a molecular COVID-19 test before re-entering Canada.
    - Travellers who are outside of Canada for more than 72 hours will still need to present proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken 72 hours or less before arriving in Canada.
    - This change does not apply to foreign nationals, including international students and foreign workers residing in Canada.
    - This change will apply to trips both by land and air.
    - In recognition of unique needs of remote communities, the vaccination requirement will continue to include specific accommodations for travellers to and from remote communities.
  - Entry requirements for American citizens are being re-evaluated and any changes will be communicated at a later date.
  - Canada is expanding the list of vaccines travellers may have received in order to be considered fully vaccinated for travel to and within Canada.
    - As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, this list will include vaccines from Sinopharm, Sinovac and COVAXIN, matching the World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing.
  - Starting November 30<sup>th</sup>, given the greater availability of vaccines worldwide, Canada will be reducing the number of entry exemptions for adults who are not fully vaccinated.
    - As of January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, some groups of travellers, who are currently exempt from entry requirements, will only be allowed to enter the country if they are fully vaccinated. These groups include:
      - Individuals travelling to reunite with family (excluding unvaccinated children eighteen years old or younger)
      - Professional and amateur athletes
      - International students over eighteen years old
      - Most temporary foreign workers
      - Essential service providers
      - Cross-border essential workers, including truck drivers
    - Anyone who qualifies for an exemption will continue to be subject to entry requirements, such as testing before and after entry, and quarantine.

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

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6p\\_AzQIKiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6p_AzQIKiM)