

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 26 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

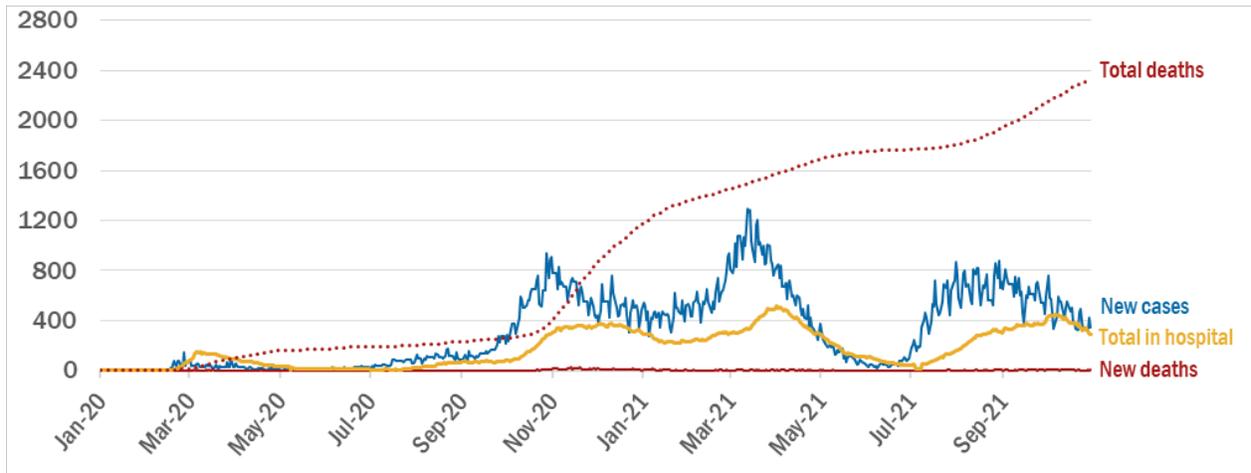
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN BC <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Nov 25</b>	<b>As of Nov 26</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	216,758	217,099	<b>341</b>
Total active cases in BC	3,061	3,035	<b>-26</b>
Currently in intensive care	112	115	<b>3</b>
Currently hospitalized	295	291	<b>-4</b>
Total hospitalized to date	12,214	12,239	<b>25</b>
Total deaths in BC	2,316	2,322	<b>6</b>
Total recovered in BC	211,202	211,577	<b>375</b>
<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Nov 25</b>	<b>As of Nov 26</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	44,756	44,821	<b>65</b>
Fraser Health	108,826	108,926	<b>100</b>
Island Health	12,349	12,417	<b>68</b>
Interior Health	33,168	33,245	<b>77</b>
Northern Health	17,359	17,390	<b>31</b>
Out of Canada	300	300	<b>0</b>
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Nov 25</b>	<b>As of Nov 26</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	1,469	1,475	<b>6</b>
Total active cases	114	99	<b>-15</b>
Total deaths	12	13	<b>1</b>
Total recovered	1,349	1,370	<b>21</b>
<b>STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Nov 23</b>	<b>As of Nov 25</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	49,693	49,913	<b>220</b>
Total active cases	1,023	965	<b>-58</b>
Total hospitalized	2,331	2,340	<b>9</b>
Total deaths	534	537	<b>3</b>
Total recovered	48,136	48,411	<b>275</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	5,953	5,976	<b>23</b>

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

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

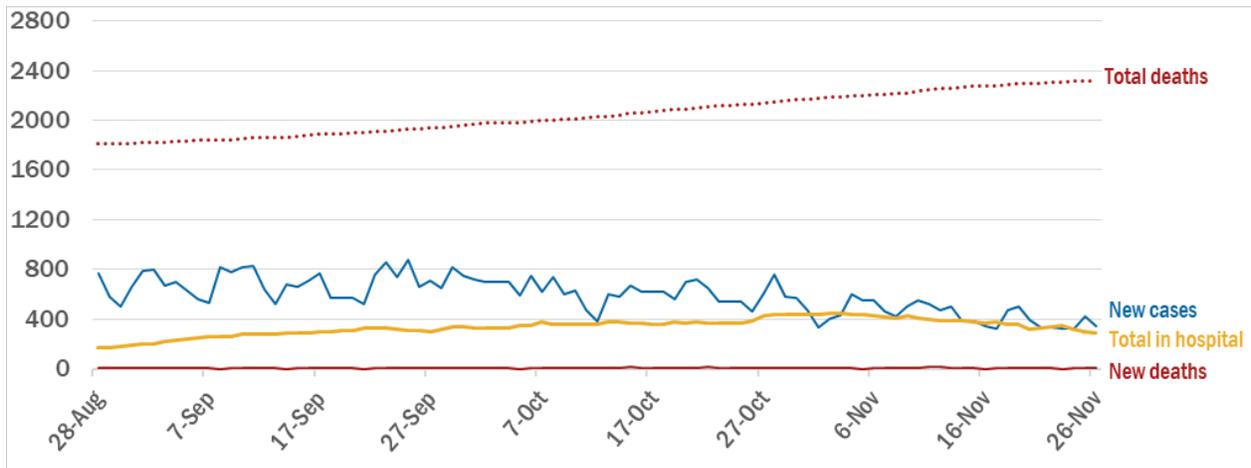
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

### COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

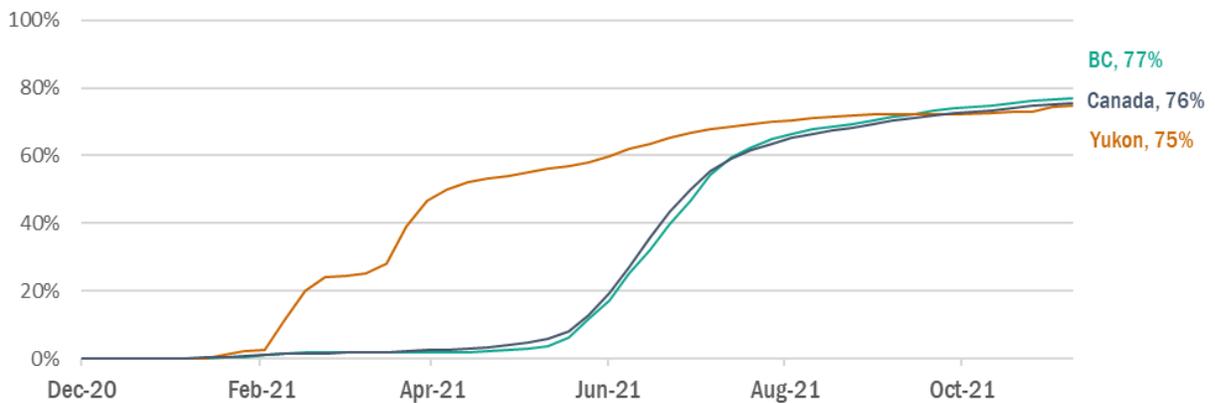


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



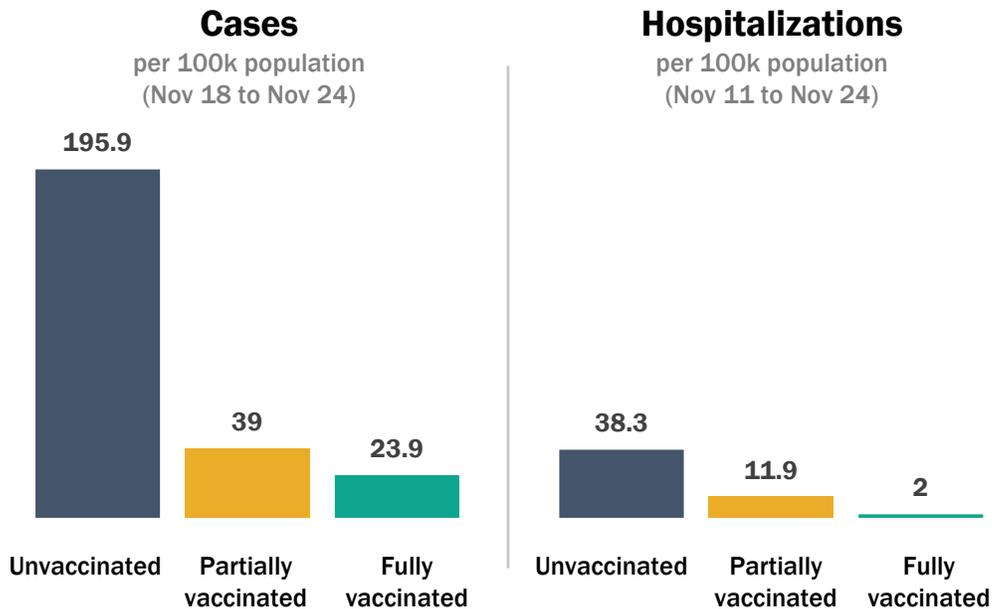
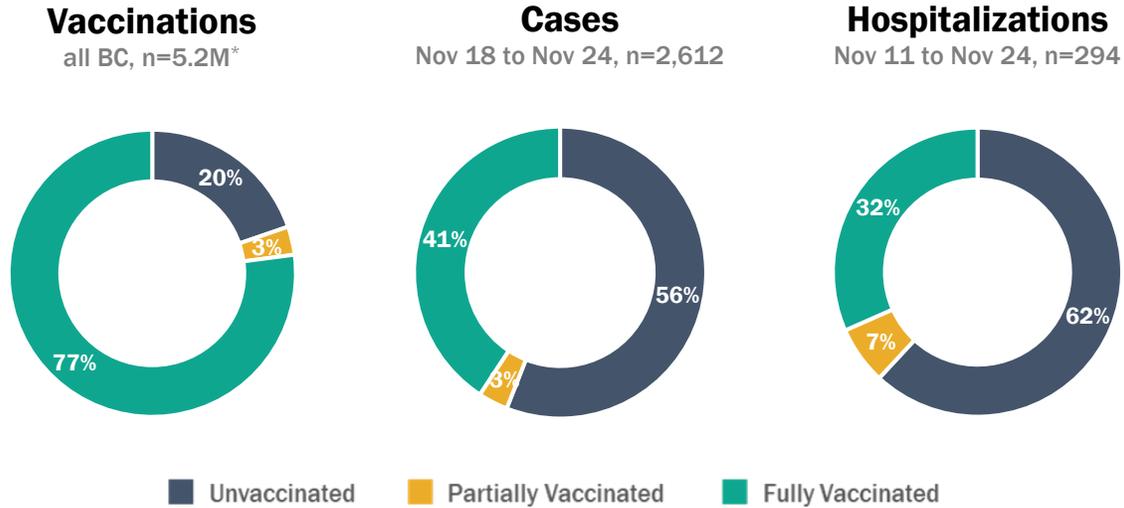
### CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE<sup>4</sup>



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

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

- From November 18 to November 24, 2021, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 59.2% of cases, and from November 11 to November 24, 2021, they accounted for 68.4% 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

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, issued a statement regarding a new COVID-19 variant of concern (VOC).<sup>7</sup> Details include the following:
  - “We support the measures taken today by the federal government in response to the newly identified variant of concern, Omicron.”
    - “We do not yet know the impact this new VOC will have on transmission or of severity of illness, but taking this immediate precautionary action is prudent.”
    - “We will continue to closely monitor developments around the world.”
  - “At this time, there is no evidence that this variant has been introduced into British Columbia.”
    - “The BC Centre for Disease Control’s public health lab has sequenced over 90,000 virus isolates in B.C. and will continue to use whole genome sequencing to monitor for all variants circulating in B.C., including this new VOC Omicron.”

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates today from the Yukon Government.

**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, the Government of Canada announced travel restrictions resulting from the detection of a new COVID-19 variant in southern Africa.<sup>8</sup> Details include the following:
  - Authorities in South Africa have confirmed a new COVID-19 variant, known as Omicron.
  - The epidemiological significance of this variant is still being assessed.
  - It is considered unusual in that it has a very high number of mutations in two key areas of the virus’ spike protein.
    - This could signify a potential for increased transmissibility of the virus.
    - The variant may also impact our body's natural immunity, as well as potentially reduce immunity offered by vaccines.
  - Provincial laboratories across Canada have been alerted to this new variant and have searched for possible detections.
    - There are no indications of the variant’s presence in Canada.
  - The emergence of new variants is unfortunately not unexpected.
  - The concerns raised by this variant further underscore the need to be vigilant.

<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0212-002270>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3J9sAzFduA>

- **Five different measures are being announced and implemented immediately:**
  - Foreign nationals that have travelled through southern Africa in the last 14 days will be banned from entering Canada.
    - The region of southern Africa includes seven different countries:
      - South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Eswatini, and Namibia.
  - All travellers that have arrived in Canada in the last 14 days are being asked to quarantine now, to go for a COVID-19 test, and to stay in isolation until they receive a negative test result.
  - Canadians and permanent residents, and those with the right of entry into Canada, will be tested on arrival.
    - They will quarantine in an approved hotel until they receive a negative test result.
    - Upon receipt of a negative test result, they will be permitted to leave and begin quarantine in a safe and appropriate manner.
    - They will be tested once more on the eighth day.
  - Global Affairs Canada will be issuing a travel advisory asking all Canadians not to travel to southern Africa for the time being.
  - Canadians returning from southern Africa who need to transit through other countries will need to be tested in the last transit country before they can re-enter the country.
    - There are currently no direct flights to Canada from this region.
- Today, Employment and Social Development Canada issued a statement on new legislation introduced to both support sick leave and to protect health care workers.<sup>9</sup> Details include the following:
  - New legislation would provide ten days of paid sick leave per year to workers in the federally regulated private sector.
    - The government will be engaging in consultations with federally regulated employers and workers towards the implementation of this legislation.
    - The government will convene provinces, territories and other interested stakeholders to develop a national action plan to legislate paid sick leave across the country, while respecting provincial/territorial jurisdiction and clearly recognizing the unique needs of small business owners.
  - The legislation would also amend the Criminal Code to enhance protections for health care workers and to ensure everyone has safe and unobstructed access to health services.
    - Health care workers and those who assist them must be able to perform their duties without fear of threats or intimidation.
    - Everyone must be able to access medical care safely.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/11/healthcare-workers-and-sick-days-news-release.html>

- Individuals who use fear to stop a health care worker or those who assist them from performing their duties, or who prevent a person from obtaining health services, could be charged with the proposed new offence.
  - If found guilty, individuals could be subject to a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.
- Today, the Public Health Agency of Canada issued a statement on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant, recently pregnant and breastfeeding people.<sup>10</sup> Details include the following:
    - “One key group that appears to have lower uptake of COVID-19 vaccines is people who are pregnant.”
    - “This is particularly concerning because there is growing evidence that pregnant people and their babies are at increased risk of severe illness due to COVID-19.”
    - “This can result in hospitalization, intensive care admission and tragically may lead to death.”
    - “As well, COVID-19 infection is associated with increased risk of complications during pregnancy such as preterm birth, stillbirth, low-birth weight, and caesarean birth.”
    - Babies under one year of age are more likely than older children to develop serious illness with COVID-19.
    - Unvaccinated parents are at higher risk of infecting those around them, including their babies.
    - Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy triggers the development of antibodies against the virus.
      - These antibodies can pass through the umbilical cord to the fetus, offering a level of protection.
      - Likewise, research shows that breastmilk of people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 has antibodies.
      - More research is needed to determine the level of protection provided to babies as a result of vaccination during pregnancy and breastfeeding.
    - “Many parents or hopeful parents are understandably anxious about possible risks for their baby, in both the short and longer term.”
      - “Experts agree that there is no evidence to suggest any adverse pregnancy or neonatal outcomes associated with COVID-19 vaccination.”
      - “Moreover, there is no evidence of fertility problems due to any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines.”
      - “Recently, rumours and disinformation have been spreading on social media regarding increased risk of stillbirths in Canada with vaccination.”
      - “These rumours are completely without merit and have been unequivocally discredited by health authorities in the implicated health regions.”

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

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/11/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada---importance-of-covid-19-vaccination-in-pregnant-recently-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-people.html>