

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 22 December 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

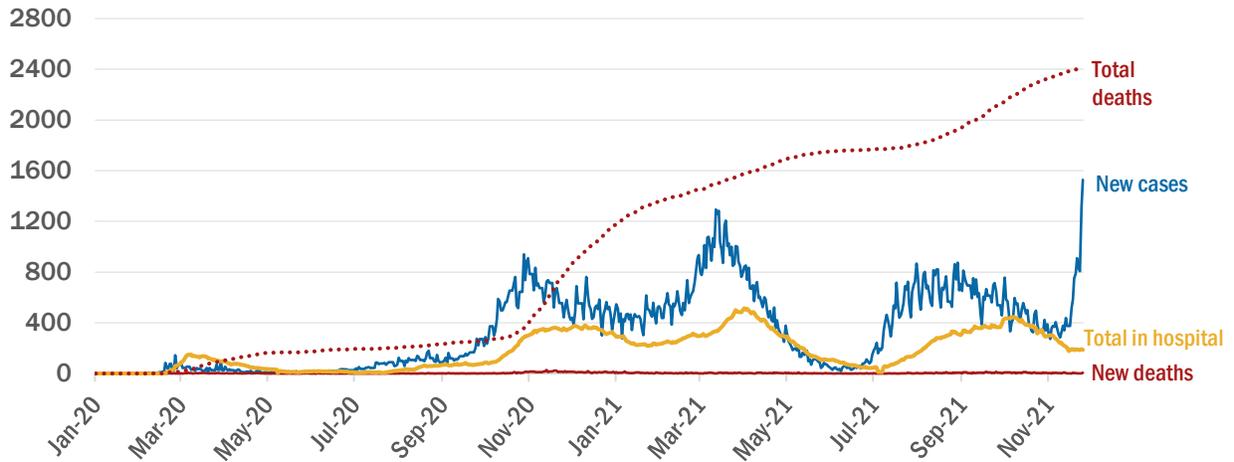
STATUS OF CASES IN BC ¹	As of Dec 21	As of Dec 22	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	229,643	231,171	1,528
Total active cases in BC	6,348	7,307	959
Currently in intensive care	76	71	-5
Currently hospitalized	192	187	-5
Total hospitalized to date	12,707	12,719	12
Total deaths in BC	2,403	2,409	6
Total recovered in BC	220,741	221,280	539
CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION¹	As of Dec 21	As of Dec 22	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	47,996	48,705	709
Fraser Health	112,644	113,116	472
Island Health	14,969	15,144	175
Interior Health	35,424	35,560	136
Northern Health	18,308	18,343	35
Out of Canada	302	303	1
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON ²	As of Dec 21	As of Dec 22	Change
Total confirmed cases	1,652	1,652	0
Total active cases	49	47	-2
Total deaths	14	14	0
Total recovered	1,593	1,595	2
STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES ³	As of Dec 20	As of Dec 21	Change
Total confirmed cases	52,160	52,263	103
Total active cases	873	837	-36
Total hospitalized	2,418	2,422	4
Total deaths	561	561	0
Total recovered	50,726	50,865	139
Total confirmed cases in BC	6,305	6,307	2

¹ BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

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

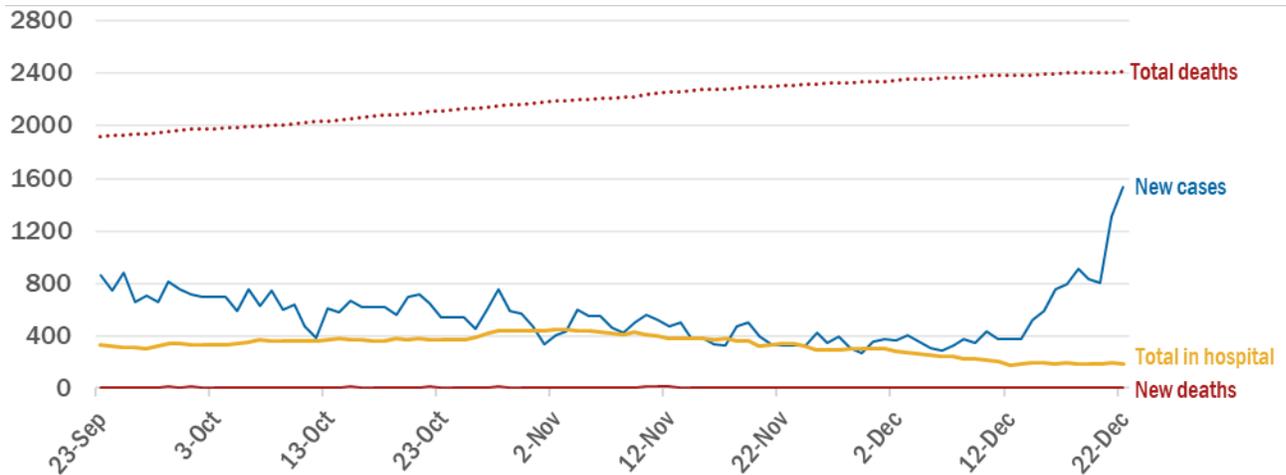
³ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

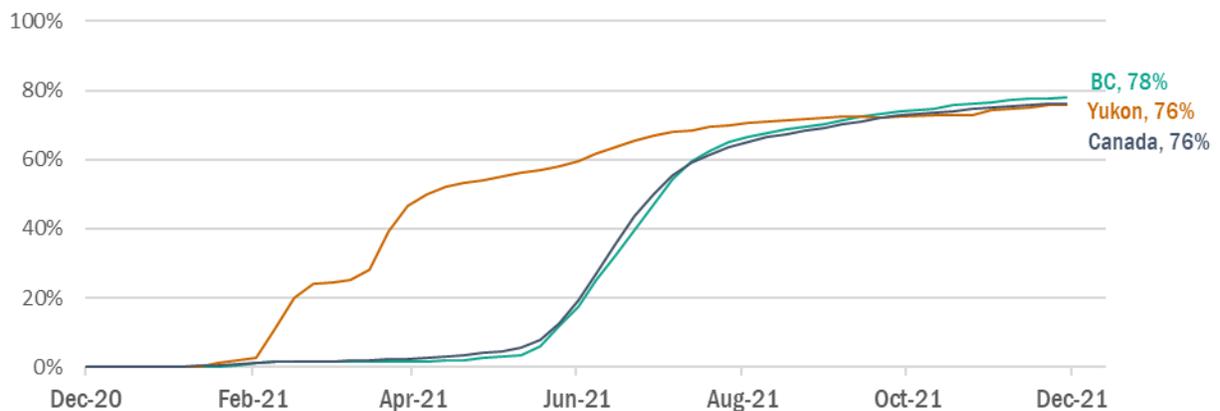


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



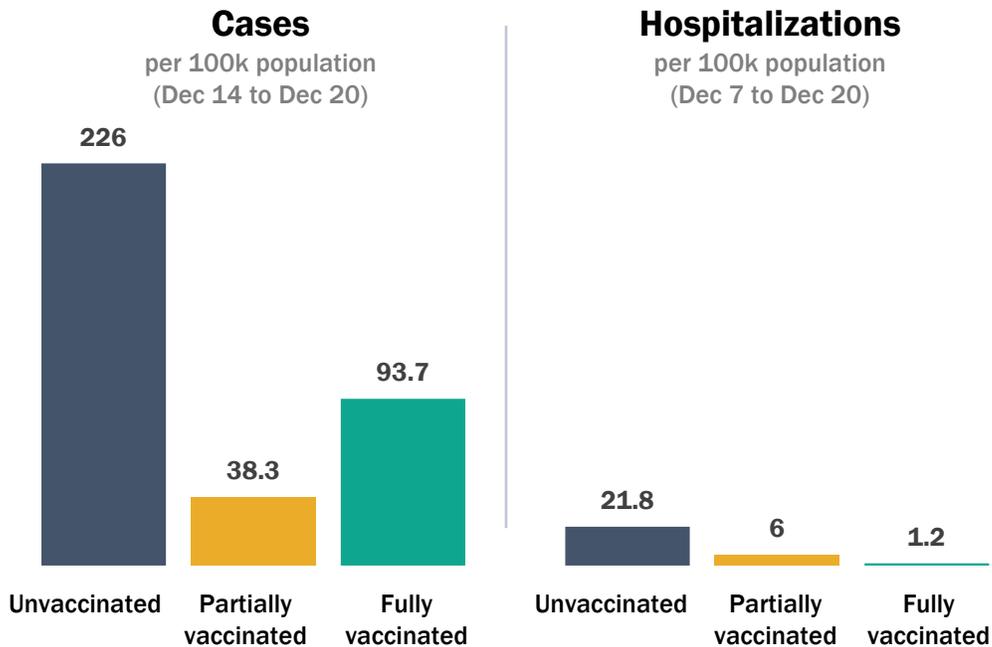
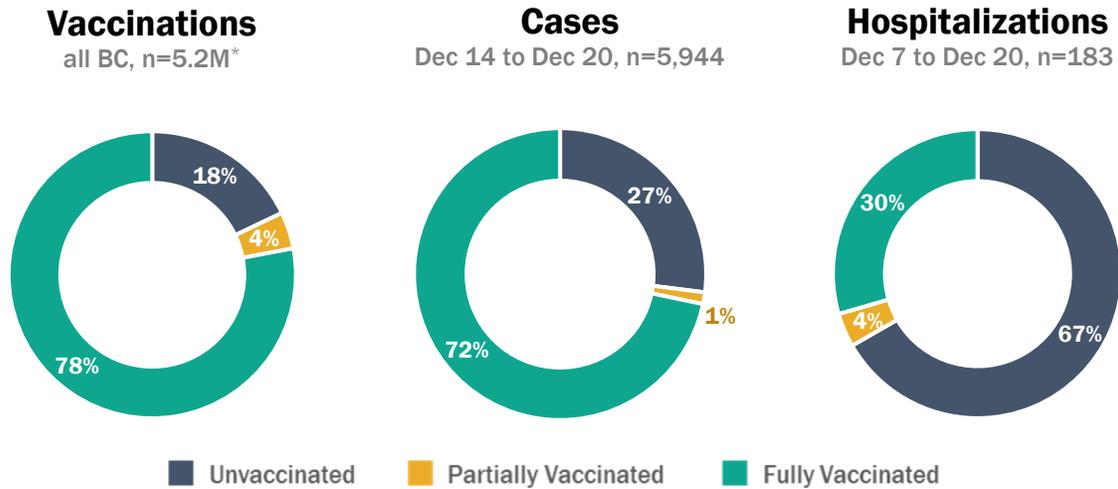
CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE⁴



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

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

- From December 14 to December 20, 2021, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 28.3% of cases, and from December 7 to December 20, 2021, they accounted for 70.5% of hospitalizations.^{5,6}



⁵ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/>

⁶ 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, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) released additional information regarding the December 21st provincial health officer announcement on the rollout of rapid antigen tests.⁷ Highlights include the following:
 - “As the Omicron variant surges across the country, the BC government plans to expand its inventory and distribution of rapid COVID-19 tests that can be used for self-testing by individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.”
 - “Approximately 700,000 of the kits will go to testing sites across the province for people who have symptoms of COVID-19. Starting in late December, the remaining rapid tests will go to people living or working in settings with higher risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission. These settings include long-term care facilities, health-care workers, and rural, remote, and Indigenous communities where access to health care is limited.”
 - “The rapid tests are also called point-of-care tests because they are portable, rapid, and provide results at the point of testing usually within 15 to 20 minutes. However, they are generally less accurate at detecting COVID-19 infection than standard testing.”
 - “BC Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said the rapid self-tests are an added layer of protection to other testing programs. Many First Nations communities have access to rapid tests that provide results of similar quality to lab-based tests for people with COVID-19 symptoms. These include GenX, IDNow and other testing platforms.”
 - “Health officials say rapid testing is only one tool to combat the newest pandemic wave, and that health recommendations should still be followed. These include getting vaccinated, wearing medical masks, and staying home when ill as other winter respiratory viruses, such as influenza, can also cause severe illness.”
 - “The FNHA is working with provincial and community partners to implement the new rapid test program in First Nations communities and will provide further information as it becomes available.”

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>

⁷ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/rollout-of-covid-19-rapid-testing-kits-expanded-in-bc>

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, issued a statement regarding the spread of COVID-19, particularly the Omicron variant, throughout Canada.⁸ Highlights include the following:
 - “In less than a week, we've seen a rapid acceleration of epidemic activity in locations across Canada. While Delta is still spreading in many areas, Omicron is increasingly responsible for rapidly rising case counts.”
 - “Compared to a national average of over 5,000 new cases being reported daily by the end of last week, there were over 11,300 new cases yesterday alone. Modelling shows that by the beginning of January, we could have a very high number of cases, which underscores the need to act urgently to reduce the acceleration.”
 - “Because we are especially worried about the potential impact of a sudden and strong surge on the healthcare system, we are urging all Canadians to do what they can to help mitigate this.”
 - “Currently, we still need many more people to increase their protection with COVID-19 vaccines. Over 7 million eligible Canadians need a first or second dose of their primary series, and many more are eligible to get a booster dose to help restore protection that may have waned since their second dose.
 - “Booster doses of either Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines should be prioritised for certain groups, such as healthcare workers and those at highest risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults and people with high-risk medical conditions.”
- Today, Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance announced that the Government of Canada intends to temporarily expand access to key COVID-19 Emergency Programs to ensure workers and businesses have support during new public health restrictions.⁹
 - If passed, the following expansions will be in effect between December 19th to February 12, 2022.
 - **The Local Lockdown Program** will be expanded to include employers subject to capacity limiting restrictions of 50 percent or more. The current month revenue threshold will also be reduced to 25 percent.
 - **The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit** will be expanded to include workers in regions where provincial or territorial governments have introduced capacity limiting restrictions of 50 percent or more.

⁸ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/12/remarks-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-on-december-22-2021.html>

⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/12/government-temporarily-expands-access-to-lockdown-program-and-worker-lockdown-benefit.html>

- Today, the Canada Border Services Agency issued the following reminder¹⁰ regarding the border measures and travel advisory that are in place, as of December 21st:
 - Unless specifically exempted, all travellers must take a pre-entry COVID-19 molecular test before arriving in Canada, regardless of duration outside of Canada.
 - Antigen tests, often called “rapid tests” and not accepted.
 - The pre-entry test must be performed in a country other than Canada within 72 hours of arrival at a land border or within 72 hours of a scheduled flight departure.
 - Tests taken in Canada are no longer accepted.
 - Travellers must either have a negative pre-entry COVID-19 molecular test result no more than 72 hours before arriving in Canada or a previous positive result between 14 and 180 days before departure to Canada.
 - In British Columbia, the following fully vaccinated B.C. residents will **not** have to take a pre-entry COVID-19 molecular test before coming back into Canada:
 - Residents who must travel to the United States by land to access or purchase goods or services and are absent from Canada for no more than 24 hours.
 - Unvaccinated children under 12 years of age entering with fully vaccinated parents, stepparents, guardians, or tutor.
 - People with contraindication to vaccination.
 - Essential workers crossing the border for commercial purposes.
 - The Government of Canada continues to advise all Canadians to avoid non-essential travel outside of Canada at this time.
- Today, Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced additional funding of \$30 million to the Emergency Food Security Fund to address the increased demand of food banks and local food organizations, as a result of COVID-19.¹¹
 - Funding will be distributed between the following organizations to support the purchase and distribution of food and other necessities and hiring of additional personnel to meet the emergency needs of communities:
 - Food Banks Canada
 - Second Harvest
 - Breakfast Club of Canada
 - Community Food Centres Canada
 - The Salvation Army
 - La Tablee des Chefs

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

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2021/12/travel-advisory-limited-exceptions-to-border-measures-in-british-columbia.html>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/12/minister-bibeau-announces-an-extra-30-million-to-help-vulnerable-people-in-canada-access-food.html>