

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 24 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 BC¹	As of Dec 23	As of Dec 24	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	233,217	235,658	2,441
Total active cases in BC	8,739	10,415	1,676
Currently in intensive care	75	71	-4
Currently hospitalized	195	192	-3
Total hospitalized to date	12,734	12,746	12
Total deaths in BC	2,410	2,414	4
Total recovered in BC	221,872	222,604	732
CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION¹	As of Dec 23	As of Dec 24	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	49,585	50,552	967
Fraser Health	113,857	114,858	1,001
Island Health	15,392	15,611	219
Interior Health	35,683	35,871	188
Northern Health	18,396	18,462	66
Out of Canada	304	304	0
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON²	As of Dec 23	As of Dec 24	Change
Total confirmed cases	1,661	1,668	7
Total active cases	52	49	-3
Total deaths	14	14	0
Total recovered	1,602	1,609	7
STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES³	As of Dec 22	As of Dec 23	Change
Total confirmed cases	52,487	52,630	143
Total active cases	916	986	70
Total hospitalized	2,426	2,448	22
Total deaths	561	561	0
Total recovered	51,010	51,083	73
Total confirmed cases in BC	6,310	6,317	7

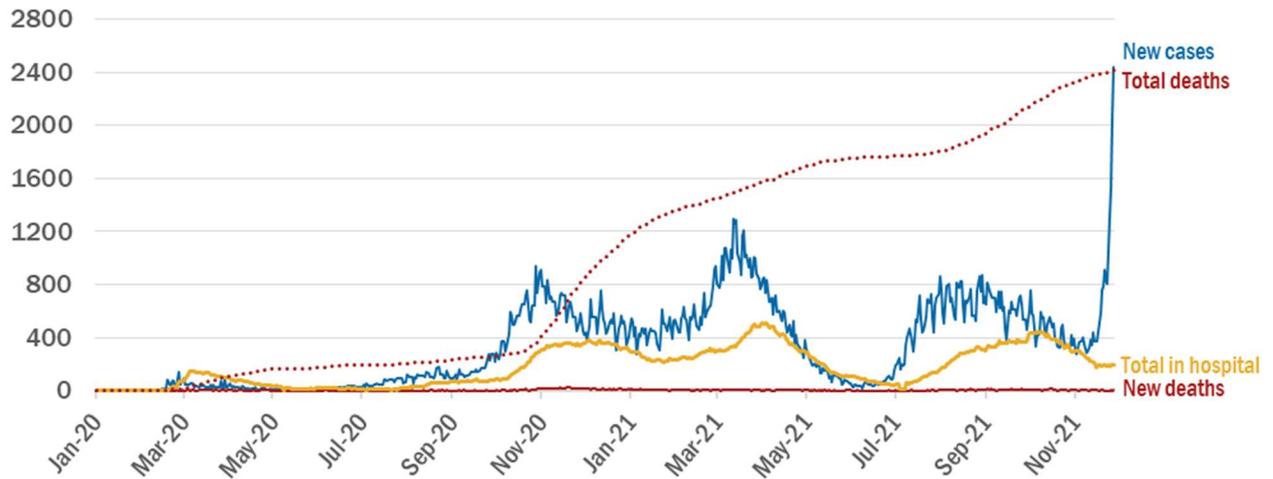
Note: The BC Ministry of Health will provide preliminary COVID-19 case counts on Dec. 27 and 28. Regular reporting will return on Wednesday, Dec. 29. The next update of Yukon case counts is scheduled for Dec. 29, 2021.

¹ BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

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

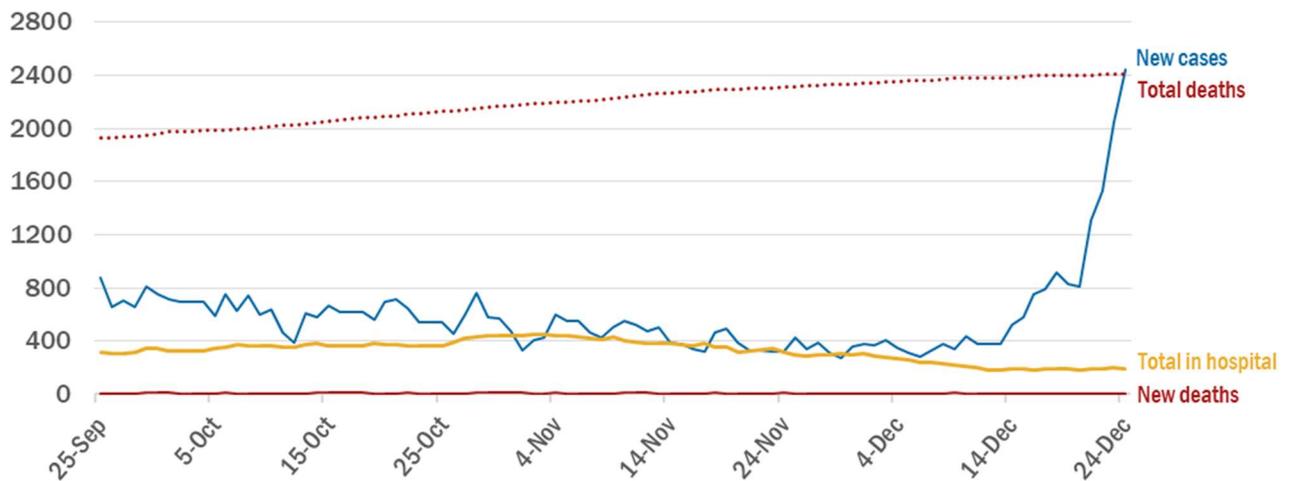
³ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

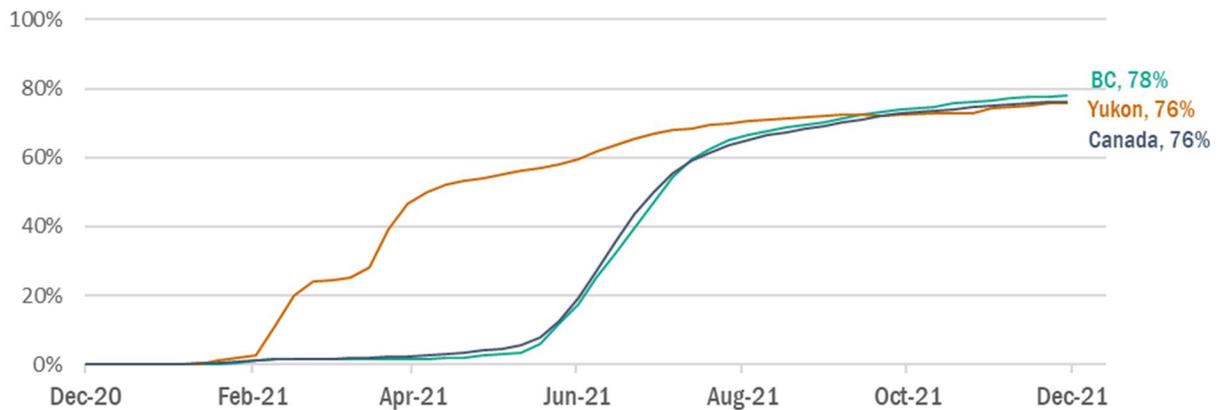


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



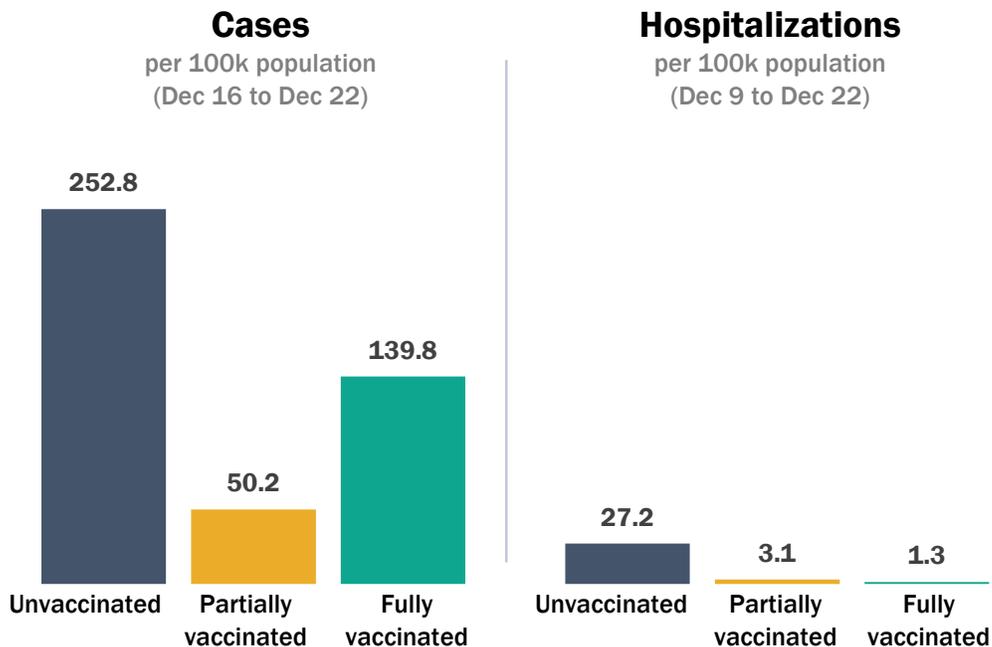
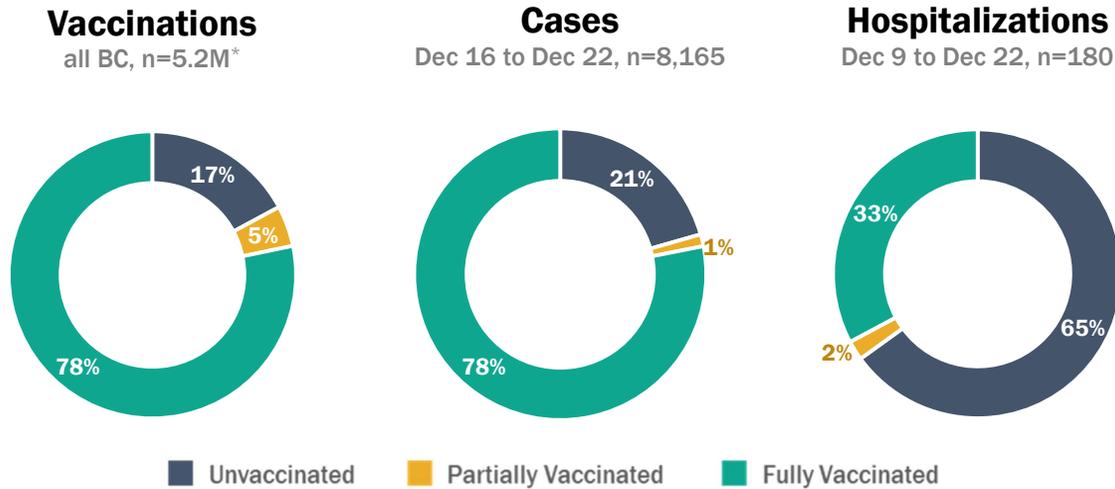
CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE⁴



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

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

- From December 16 to December 22, 2021, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 21.9% of cases, and from December 9 to December 22, 2021, they accounted for 67.2% 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, Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, held a live press briefing on the spread of the Omicron variant in British Columbia and offered guidance for those experiencing symptoms and looking to get tested⁷. Highlights include the following:

High rates of transmission

- Omicron is spreading in a way that is very different from previous variants. It is more infectious than any other strain we've seen and replicates quickly.
- Omicron is spreading faster in those who are not yet vaccinated.

Aerosols have an important role in transmission

- Omicron is more likely to attach to the upper airways, which means very small amounts of the virus can lead to people getting infected.
- Smaller virus particles (aerosols) have an important role in spreading the virus.
- The virus can spread easily, especially during activities such as singing or talking closely indoors where ventilation is poor.

Shorter incubation period

- The incubation period, or time between exposure and being able to pass the virus on to others, is much shorter.
- Previous variants had an average incubation period of 5–7 days, whereas Omicron has an incubation period of just 2–3 days.
- It is possible to spread the virus to others before realizing you are infected.

Take precautions if sick

- **If you have any symptoms**, even if you think it's just a mild cold or flu, take precautions and **stay home and stay away from others**.
 - Those who are **fully vaccinated** must self-isolate for **seven days**.
 - Those who are vaccinated shed less virus and for a shorter period.
 - Those who are **not fully vaccinated** must self-isolate for **ten days**.

Notify close contacts if you have COVID

- The speed of transmission at this point means case and contact tracing cannot keep up.
- **Those with symptoms should notify their close contacts** (i.e. the people you've spent time with indoors, in close proximity, without wearing masks).
 - Close contacts should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
 - Unvaccinated close contacts should self-isolate and monitor for ten days.

Get tested only if symptomatic

- **Do not go to a testing centre unless you have symptoms**.
- Testing centres have reached capacity. Yesterday, over 20,000 PCR tests were performed, the maximum possible.
- Use the online BCCDC symptom checker to help determine whether you need to get a test.

⁷ <https://twitter.com/BCGovNews/status/1474439445554208769?s=20>

- Test centres need to preserve PCR tests for health care workers and vulnerable persons.
- Younger, vaccinated individuals with no other risk factors don't necessarily need a test.
- The testing centres are not appropriate for pre-travel screening.
- A negative test does not give you the green light to spend time with others.

Seek care if experiencing severe illness

- If you are seriously unwell, do not hesitate to seek care. If you're having difficulty breathing, experiencing chest pains, or can't drink anything, call 911.
- If you need advice or more information, call 811 or contact your health care provider.

Public health officials are monitoring illness severity

- It's currently unclear whether the Omicron variant of COVID-19 will cause severe illness. Public health officials are closely watching hospitalization rates and ICU cases in this province and around the world.
- There are some positive studies from Scotland and South Africa that are providing some hope. Studies seem to indicate that this is a milder illness in most cases. While we don't yet know whether that's the case for BC, public health officials are hopeful.

Booster rollout is underway

- Clinically vulnerable people and those over the age of 63 are currently being invited to book their booster shots.
- Twenty percent of the eligible population have received their booster shot to date.
- Public health officials are urging those who have received their invitation to book an appointment.

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

- No significant updates from the Government of Canada.

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