

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 07 January 2022

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

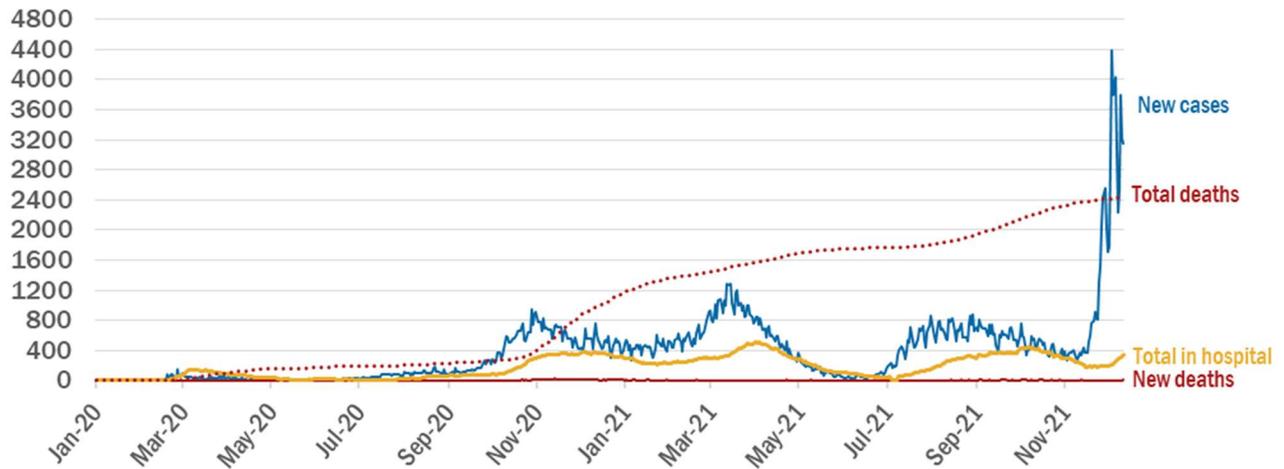
STATUS OF CASES IN BC ¹	As of Jan 6	As of Jan 7	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	273,731	276,875	3,144
Total active cases in BC	31,817	33,184	1,367
Currently in intensive care	90	93	3
Currently hospitalized	324	349	25
Total hospitalized to date	13,188	13,265	77
Total deaths in BC	2,430	2,439	9
Total recovered in BC	238,524	240,198	1,674
CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION¹	As of Jan 6	As of Jan 7	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	58,568	59,051	483
Fraser Health	134,278	135,694	1,416
Island Health	20,288	20,763	475
Interior Health	40,380	40,906	526
Northern Health	19,900	20,144	244
Out of Canada	317	317	0
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON ²	As of Jan 6	As of Jan 7	Change
Total confirmed cases	2,084	2,125	41
Total active cases	328	329	1
Total deaths	15	15	0
Total recovered	1,752	1,793	41
STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES³	As of Jan 5	As of Jan 6	Change
Total confirmed cases	56,428	57,344	916
Total active cases	3,404	3,927	523
Total hospitalized	2,473	2,472	-1
Total deaths	567	569	2
Total recovered	52,457	52,848	391
Total confirmed cases in BC	6,502	6,534	32

¹ BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

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

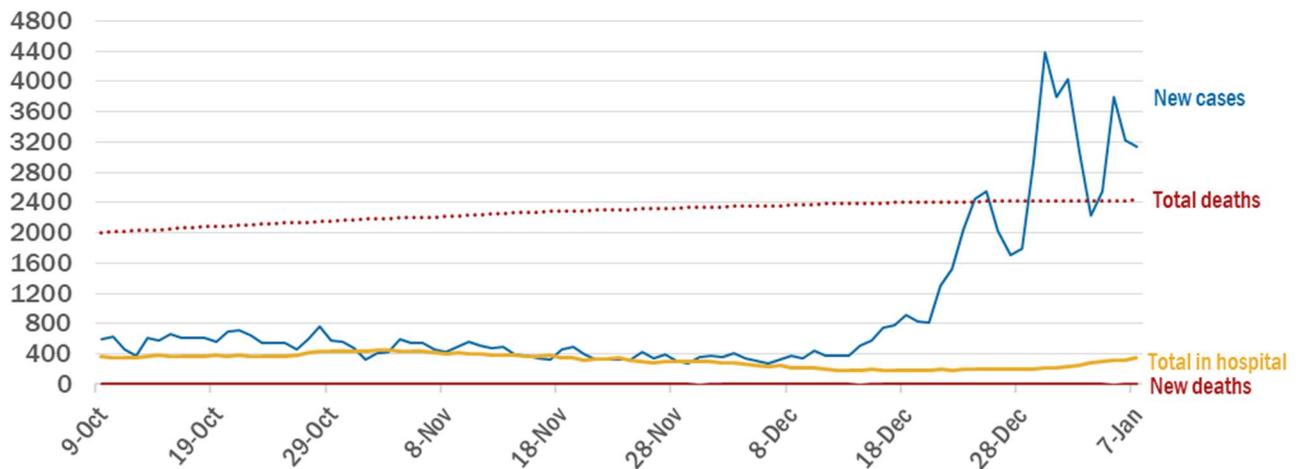
³ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

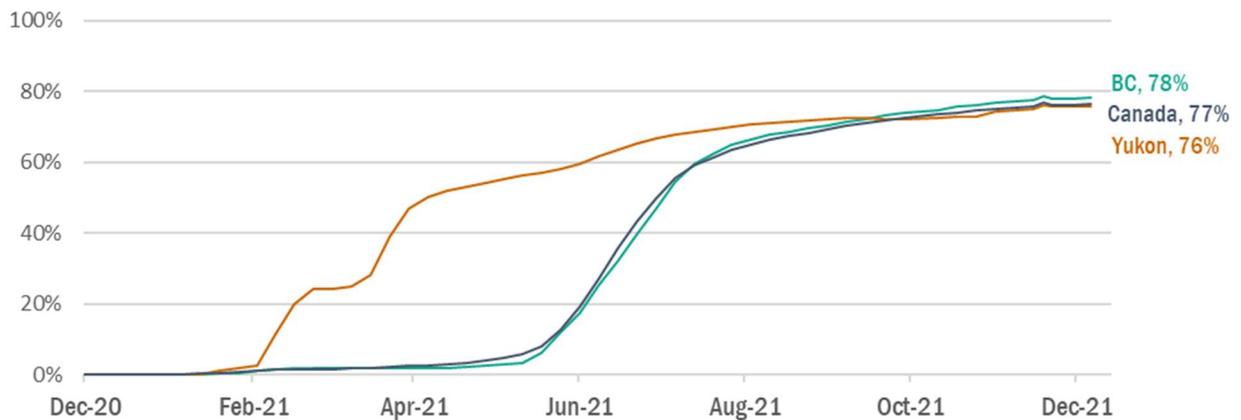


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



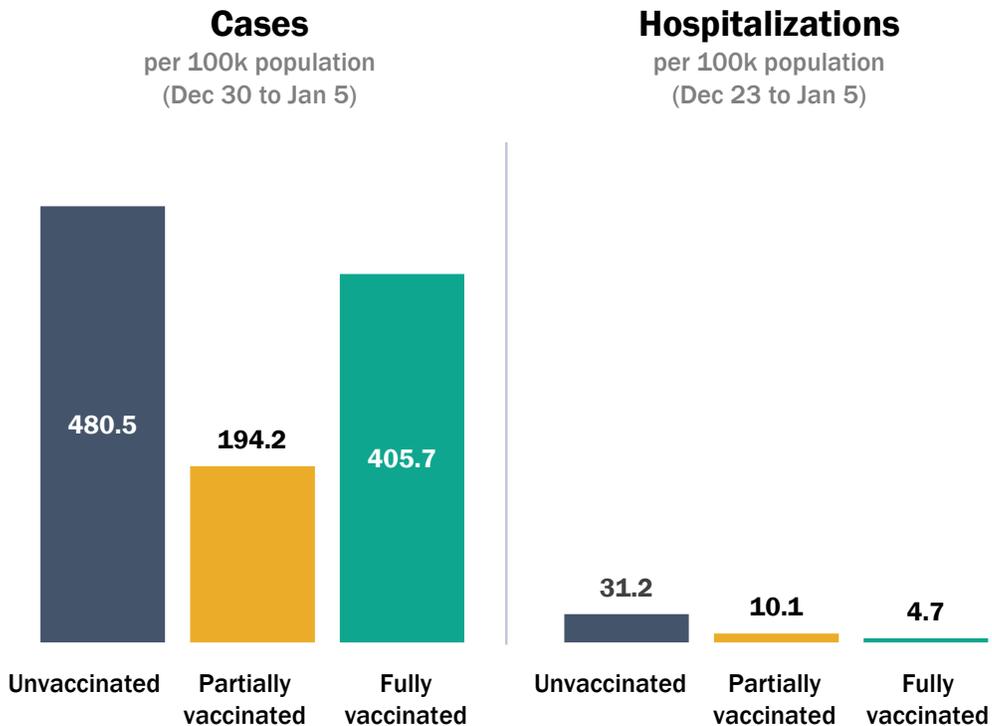
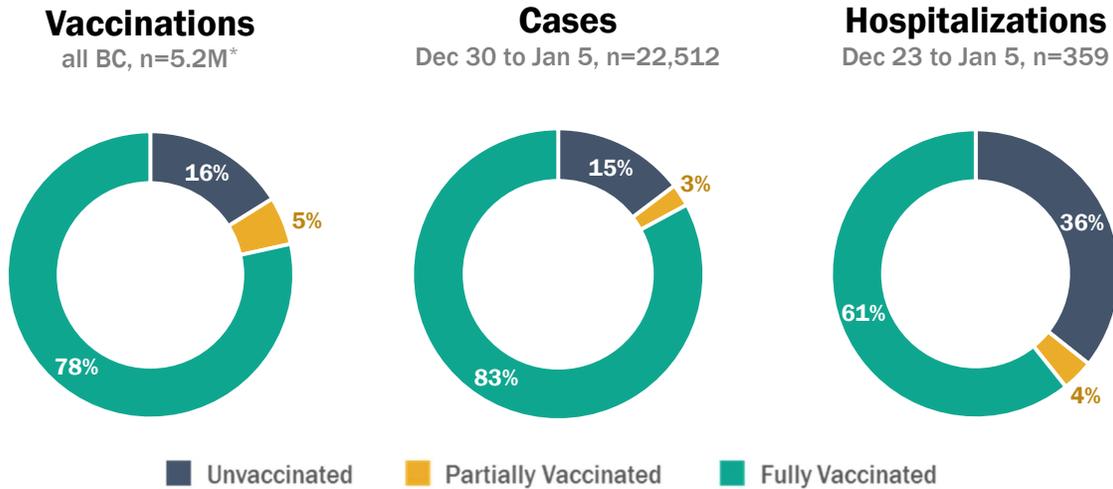
CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE⁴



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

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

- From December 30, 2021, to January 5, 2022, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 17.1% of cases, and from December 23 to January 5, they accounted for 39.3% 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, Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, held a press conference on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the restart of in-person learning.⁷ Highlights include the following:
 - The Omicron variant continues to spread very rapidly across the province.
 - With a short incubation period, British Columbians are reminded that staying home while sick, wearing a mask, maintaining adequate distance between others, frequent hand washing, small gatherings, and getting vaccinated are important measures to protect yourself and others.
 - **Businesses should begin reactivating their COVID-19 safety plans;** a public health order will be issued requiring all businesses to have COVID-19 safety plans.
 - WorkSafe BC has also reactivated their supports to businesses to assist in addressing questions employers may have.
 - While PCR testing remains the most accurate, the province will be expanding rapid antigen testing in key settings, such as long-term care and education, as previously announced in December.
 - Preparations for the safe return to in-person learning in K-12 schools continues; all children who are eligible are encouraged to get vaccinated.
 - **Students in grades K-12 will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 10, 2022.**
 - Additional safety measures will be in place, which include:
 - Temporary shifts to at-home learning for students where a school is closed as a result of an outbreak;
 - Provision of three-layer disposable masks to students and staff that need a mask;
 - Staggered break times to reduce crowding;
 - Transitioning to virtual assemblies and staff meetings; and,
 - Restricting visitors to schools.
 - Students will receive a refresh on proper mask wearing and safety plans when they return next week.
 - **Students are reminded to complete a daily health check** before they go to school each day and to **stay home if they have any symptoms.**
 - Individual case management and contact tracing in school settings is no longer considered an effective tool in tracking and managing cases in schools.
 - Moving forward, attendance rates for schools will be monitored closely.
 - Where attendance drops below the typical rate for this time of year, public health officials will investigate the causes and may provide rapid tests to understand the situation at that school.

⁷ Live Press Conference

- Today, Northern Health issued an information bulletin seeking qualified healthcare providers.⁸ Details include the following:
 - “Northern Health is appreciative of all the assistance we have received to date from health care providers in the North supporting our COVID-19 immunization clinics.”
 - “This support has been an integral component of Northern Health’s COVID-19 response, administering vaccine doses to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 on our communities and health care system.”
 - “Northern Health is **seeking more qualified health care workers to provide COVID-19 immunizations and support our current booster campaign** efforts throughout the region.”
 - “Qualified health care providers include a number of occupations (e.g. midwives, practicing and non-practicing physicians, practicing nurses, retired nurses, nursing students, dentists, and emergency responders).”
 - “A full list of who is qualified under current PHO orders is on the Government of British Columbia website.”
 - “If you are qualified, interested, and available to assist with our continuing immunization efforts we encourage you to reach out to us at pandemicresponse@northernhealth.ca.”
 - “We will review all expressions of interests and contact you if your availability aligns with clinic opportunities. COVID-19 education and clinic orientation provided.”
- Today, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) issued a statement reminding individuals to keep guard against the Omicron variant.⁹ Details include the following:
 - “The World Health Organization has warned against describing the symptoms of the COVID-19 pandemic's latest highly infectious Omicron variant as being “mild,” saying the variant is killing people around the world.”
 - “Simply put, **COVID-19—regardless of the variant—is not a mild illness like the common cold.**”
 - “Omicron is still dangerous to human health and passes more easily to others than previous variants, even among people who have had both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.”
 - “With more people calling in sick there are increased work absences - including essential workers and health care staff - extended school closures; cancelled surgeries, backlogs of medical procedures, and other waitlists.”
 - “These disruptions put lives at risk and have an impact on everyone, even those who have never had COVID-19.”
 - “If there is a silver lining, it's that data shows that ongoing immunization efforts are working. People who have completed their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines (two doses of the mRNA vaccines) are better protected from severe illness and hospitalization than those who are unvaccinated. Booster doses further improve protection.”

⁸ <https://stories.northernhealth.ca/news/call-out-qualified-health-care-providers>

⁹ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/keep-your-guard-up-against-the-dangerous-omicron-variant>

- “Continued vigilance against COVID-19 by following all recommended public health measures is crucial for slowing the spread of Omicron and containing and ending the pandemic:
 - Get vaccinated with your primary series and your booster dose when it is offered.
 - Vaccinate your kids (all children aged five years and older are eligible).
 - Stay home if you're feeling sick (even if feeling mildly ill).
 - Reduce your number of contacts
 - Follow testing guidelines (not everyone needs to be tested right now).
 - Wash your hands.
 - Wear a mask in public spaces.
 - Maintain a physical distance with other people.”

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, Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, released a statement on the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada.¹⁰ Highlights include the following:
 - “The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) continues to monitor COVID-19 epidemiological indicators to quickly detect, understand and communicate emerging issues of concern.”
 - “Currently, COVID-19 epidemic activity is accelerating rapidly as exponential growth of Omicron, which is now the predominant strain, continues across Canada.”
 - “Although evidence from ongoing surveillance and recent studies indicates that the risk of hospitalisation is lower for Omicron compared to Delta, the sudden acceleration of Omicron and enormous volume of cases is expected to add an additional strain on the healthcare system.”
 - “This is both because of increased hospital admissions and high numbers of illness and absenteeism among health care workers, which is expected to impact many areas of the country over the coming weeks.”
 - “Keeping infection rates down remains key to mitigating the rise in severe illness trends as much as possible over the coming weeks.”
 - “Immunization for all those who are eligible, but are yet to receive their primary series, remains a top priority.”

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2022/01/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-january-7-2022.html>

- “Although uncertainties remain, evidence suggests that while two doses of vaccine may not provide good protection against getting infected, a two-dose primary series still provides good protection against hospitalisation.”
- “Encouragingly, the latest evidence indicates that a third dose improves protection against both infection and hospitalisation due to the Omicron variant.”
- “Booster doses are particularly important for certain groups, such as healthcare workers and those at highest risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults, people with high-risk medical conditions and people in and from Indigenous communities.”
 - “Either Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty or Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are effective as booster so please feel confident in accepting whichever vaccine is offered to you.”
- “While COVID-19 is still circulating in Canada and internationally, a vaccine plus approach continues to be essential to the pandemic response in Canada.”
 - “This includes layering vaccination with timed and targeted public health measures and individual protective practices such as **staying home/self-isolating** if you have symptoms; **getting tested** if symptomatic and/or as recommended; being aware of risks associated with different settings; following local public health advice and consistently **maintaining individual precautions**.”
 - “In particular, properly wearing a **well-fitted and well-constructed face mask** when in public or private spaces with others outside of your immediate household, **avoiding crowding**, and getting the best **ventilation** possible in indoor spaces, are layers of protection that can reduce your risk in all settings.”
 - “As well, given the significant risks and uncertainties associated with rapidly expanding spread of the Omicron variant, Canadians are **advised to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada at this time**; if you must travel, be aware of current and rapidly evolving requirements for visiting other countries and for returning to Canada.”

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