

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 19 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

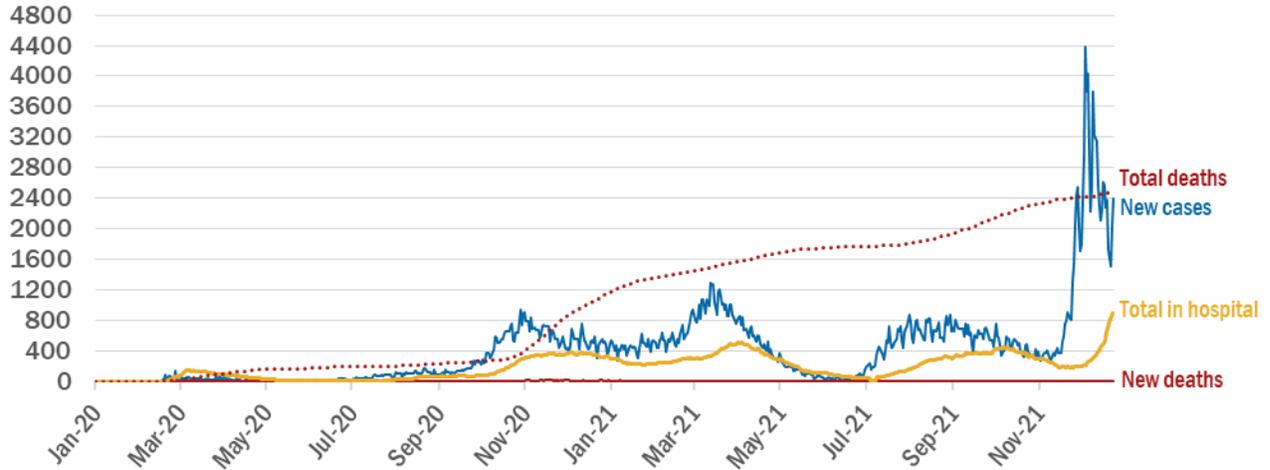
STATUS OF CASES IN BC ¹	As of Jan 18	As of Jan 19	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	301,178	303,565	2,387
Total active cases in BC	37,224	35,770	-1,454
Currently in intensive care	112	115	3
Currently hospitalized	854	895	41
Total hospitalized to date	14,366	14,479	113
Total deaths in BC	2,492	2,505	13
Total recovered in BC	258,417	262,591	4,174
CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION¹	As of Jan 18	As of Jan 19	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	63,668	64,155	487
Fraser Health	144,352	145,166	814
Island Health	24,666	24,941	275
Interior Health	45,822	46,372	550
Northern Health	22,336	22,596	260
Out of Canada	334	335	1
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON ²	As of Jan 18	As of Jan 19	Change
Total confirmed cases	2,747	2,782	35
Total active cases	306	298	-8
Total deaths	15	15	0
Total recovered	2,490	2,538	48
STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES ³	As of Jan 17	As of Jan 18	Change
Total confirmed cases	63,602	64,247	645
Total active cases	5,374	5,309	-65
Total hospitalized	2,533	2,539	6
Total deaths	584	585	1
Total recovered	57,644	58,353	709
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,059	7,072	13

¹ BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

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

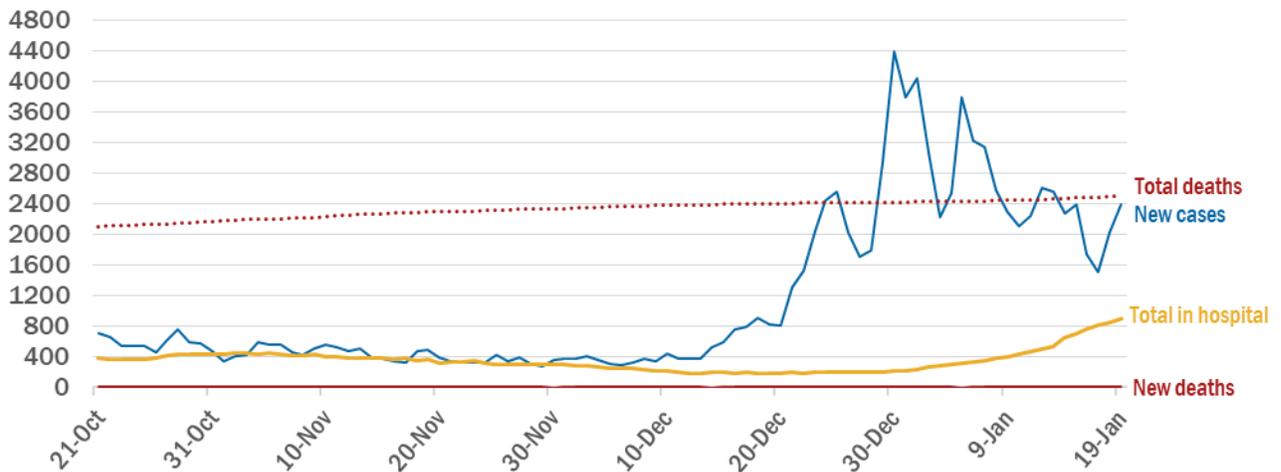
³ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

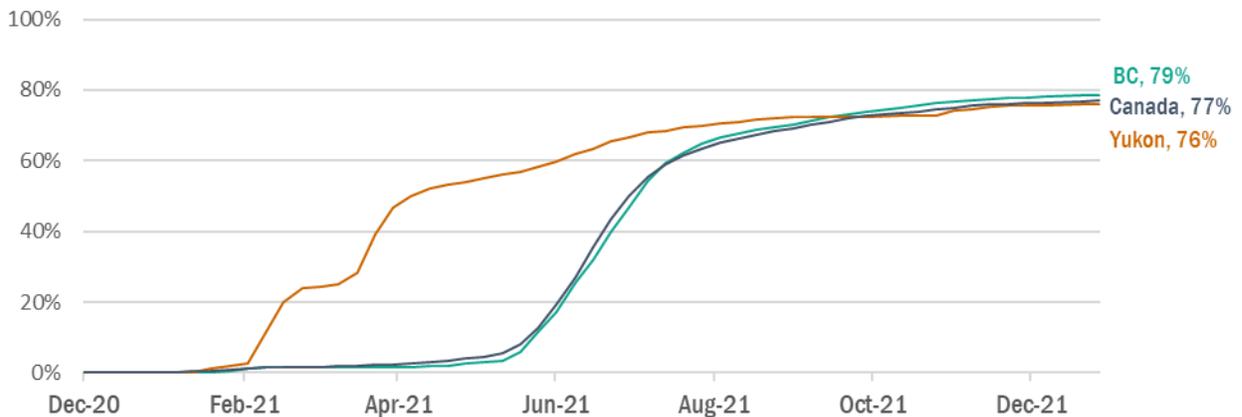


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



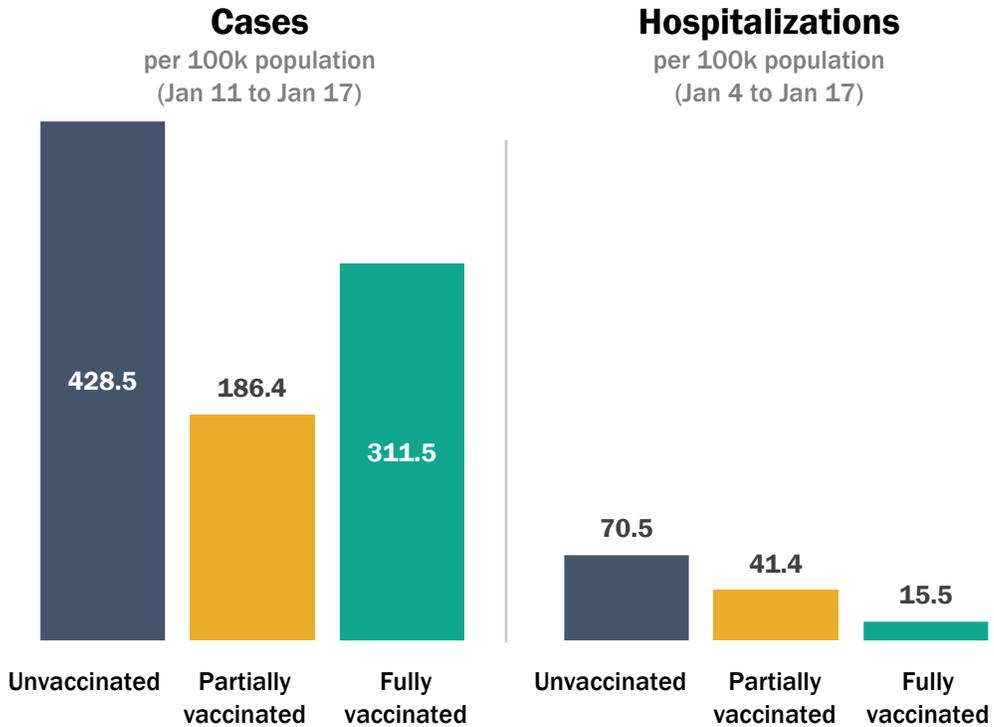
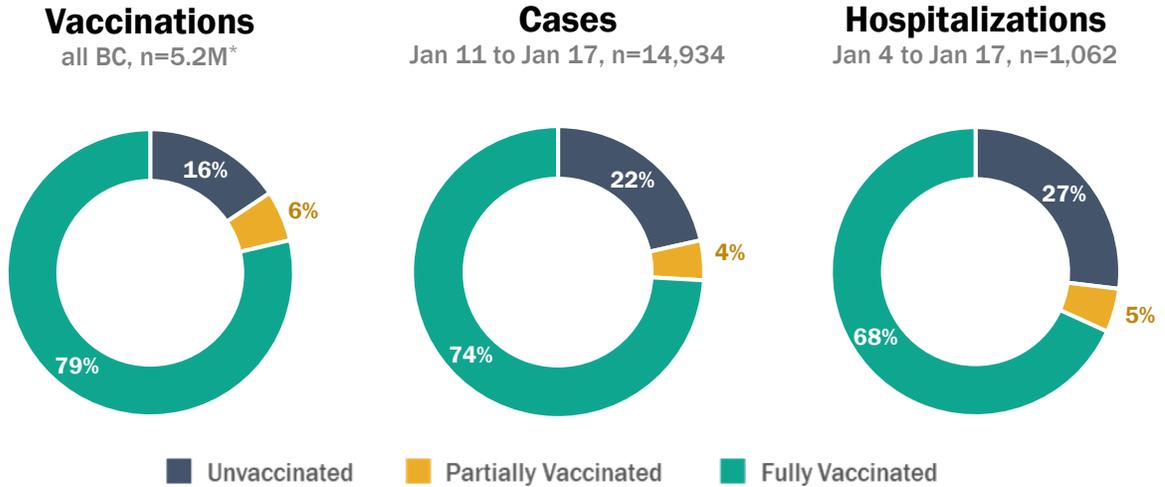
CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE⁴



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

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

- From January 11, 2022, to January 17, 2022, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 25.9% of cases, and from January 4 to January 17, they accounted for 31.8% 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

- Yesterday, Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, held a press conference regarding updates to the COVID-19 provincial health orders.⁷ Highlights include the following:
 - The current provincial health order on Gatherings and Events will be extended until February 26, 2022.
 - The restrictions of this order include:
 - Closures of bars and nightclubs.
 - Restaurant limitations.
 - 50% capacity of people in public venues, including theatres and stadiums.
 - The restrictions will be reassessed prior to February 26, 2022, and amendments or an extension will be made, as required.
 - Effective January 20, 2022, gyms, and exercise facilities for both individual and group fitness may reopen with strict COVID-19 Safety Plans and proof of vaccination requirements. The COVID-19 Safety Plans must include:
 - Capacity limitations based on 7m² per person, up to a maximum of 25 people per square.
 - Enhanced ventilation requirements and no fan or heater use.
 - Mask requirements, except during exercise.
 - On Monday, a new provincial health order was announced that requires COVID-19 vaccination status reporting for school staff members.
 - This new order will help medical health officers to identify which schools are at the highest risk of an outbreak.
 - Additional information on this new order will be provided in the coming weeks.
- Today, the Government of British Columbia announced \$3.7 million in funding to Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) to support with Indigenous tourism recovery.⁸
 - This funding will ensure ITBC can support stakeholders and First Nations with training programs to assist businesses in developing marketable tourism products and will allow for the purchase of new digital marketing tools.

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpviJgHoW9E>

⁸ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022TACS0002-000079>

- Today, the Government of British Columbia made an announcement regarding COVID-19 Closure Relief Grants.⁹ Highlights include the following:
 - “The province is extending the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant and doubling supports for eligible businesses that have been ordered to remain temporarily closed through public health measures until Feb. 16, 2022.”
 - “Businesses that were directed to remain temporarily closed on Jan. 18, 2022, through public health orders are now eligible for up to \$20,000 in total funding, based on staffing levels at the time of closure.”
 - “Eligible businesses include:
 - Bars, nightclubs, and lounges that do not serve full meals.
 - Event venues that had to close due to cancellations.”
 - “Eligible fitness facilities that were ordered closed on Dec. 22, 2021, but can now reopen, will receive the original four-week temporary-closure grant of up to \$10,000 based on staffing levels at the time of closure.”
 - “Businesses that have applied for a COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant do not need to reapply.”

- Today, the First Nations Health Authority released a statement regarding vaccine booster shots.¹⁰ Highlights include the following:
 - “Doctors at the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) are calling on Indigenous people to get a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine as the best way to protect themselves against the rapidly spreading Omicron variant of the virus.”
 - “The immune response to vaccines may wane over time and as new variants evolve. That has happened with the COVID-19 vaccines; however, research shows that booster doses can help combat that decline in protection.”
 - “FNHA is concerned that fewer than 30 per cent of First Nations people in B.C. have received a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.”
 - “The provincial immunization registration system sends direct invitations to book appointments when people are eligible, however the system does not have the contact information for many of the First Nations people who received their vaccinations from an FNHA-sponsored community clinic.”
 - “In these cases, people who had their second dose more than six months ago should contact Immunize BC if they haven't been contacted.”

⁹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022JERI0004-000075>

¹⁰ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/boosters-best-way-to-boost-protection-against-omicron>

- Today, the First Nations Health Authority released a statement regarding the severity of the Omicron variant.¹¹ Highlights include the following:
 - “While evidence suggests the Omicron variant is less likely to cause severe illness than previous COVID-19 strains, the numbers show that the variant's overall impact is anything but mild because it is several times more contagious than other strains.”
 - “Even if a smaller proportion of infected people need medical attention, the sheer volume of cases is putting our health system under severe pressure. Hospitals in many regions – including BC – have been forced to postpone surgeries to free up beds and staff for the influx of COVID-19 patients.”
 - “Omicron's reputation for being mild has caused some people to let down their guard.”
 - “Being fully vaccinated – with a booster dose when eligible – reduces the severity of a COVID-19 case for most people but there are no guarantees. There is also the risk of developing long COVID-19 – even in young, otherwise healthy people.”

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- No significant updates from the Government of Yukon.

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos held a press conference regarding the Government of Canada’s response to COVID-19 pandemic.¹² Highlights include the following:
 - Canada has pre-purchased one million treatments of PAXLOVID, an antiviral treatment for COVID-19, and the first shipment of 30,000 has arrived and will be distributed to each province and territory on a per capita basis.
 - Another shipment of 120,000 treatments is expected to arrive in February and March.
 - While the PAXLOVID announcement is welcome news, it does not overshadow the fact that our hospitals are overwhelmed with cases of COVID-19.
 - Based on the recent Government of Canada’s modelling, it is expected that Omicron cases will continue to surge nationally.
 - We are monitoring for and expecting a peak in the coming weeks.

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

¹¹ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/omicron-the-myth-of-mildness-thats-putting-people-and-health-systems-at-risk>

¹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJBoESg593I>