

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 20 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

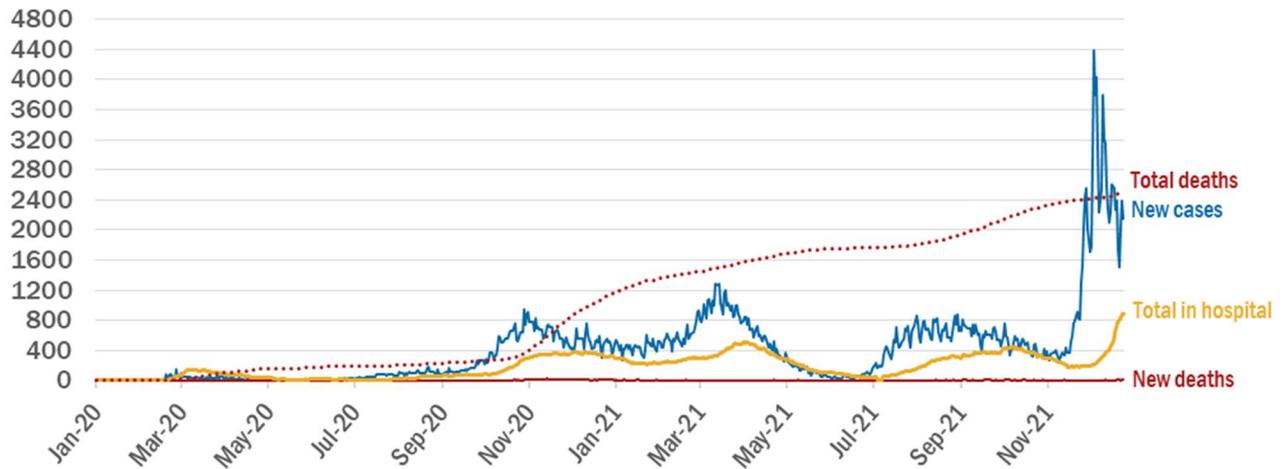
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN BC <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Jan 19</b>	<b>As of Jan 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	303,565	305,715	<b>2,150</b>
Total active cases in BC	35,770	34,835	<b>-935</b>
Currently in intensive care	115	119	<b>4</b>
Currently hospitalized	895	891	<b>-4</b>
Total hospitalized to date	14,479	14,637	<b>158</b>
Total deaths in BC	2,505	2,520	<b>15</b>
Total recovered in BC	262,591	265,765	<b>3,174</b>
<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Jan 19</b>	<b>As of Jan 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	64,155	64,609	<b>454</b>
Fraser Health	145,166	145,742	<b>576</b>
Island Health	24,941	25,295	<b>354</b>
Interior Health	46,372	46,935	<b>563</b>
Northern Health	22,596	22,799	<b>203</b>
Out of Canada	335	335	<b>0</b>
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Jan 19</b>	<b>As of Jan 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	2,782	2,820	<b>38</b>
Total active cases	298	284	<b>-14</b>
Total deaths	15	15	<b>0</b>
Total recovered	2,538	2,592	<b>54</b>
<b>STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Jan 18</b>	<b>As of Jan 19</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	64,247	65,076	<b>829</b>
Total active cases	5,309	5,097	<b>-212</b>
Total hospitalized	2,539	2,544	<b>5</b>
Total deaths	585	588	<b>3</b>
Total recovered	58,353	59,389	<b>1,036</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	7,072	7,099	<b>17</b>

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

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

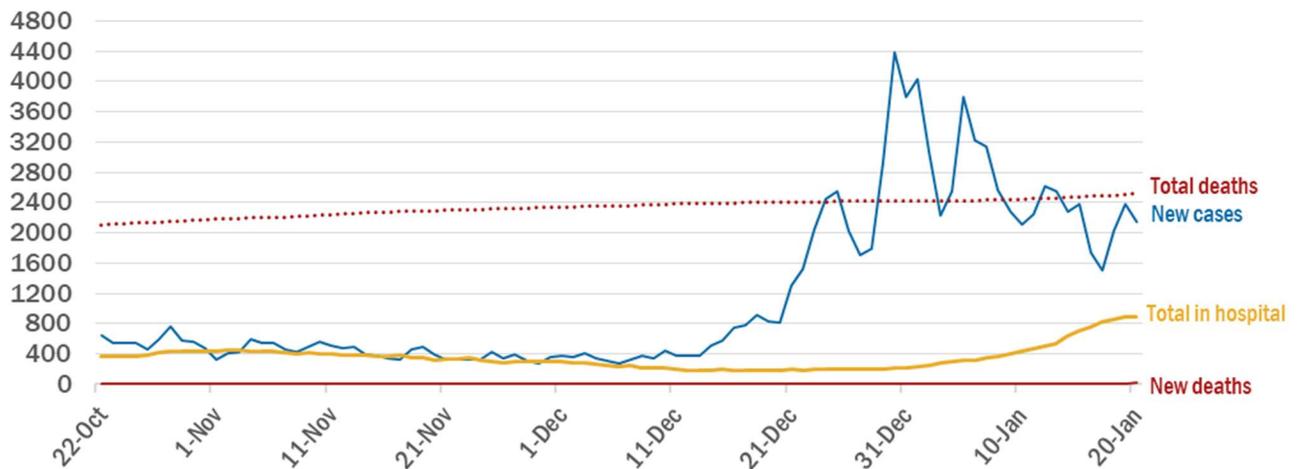
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

### COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

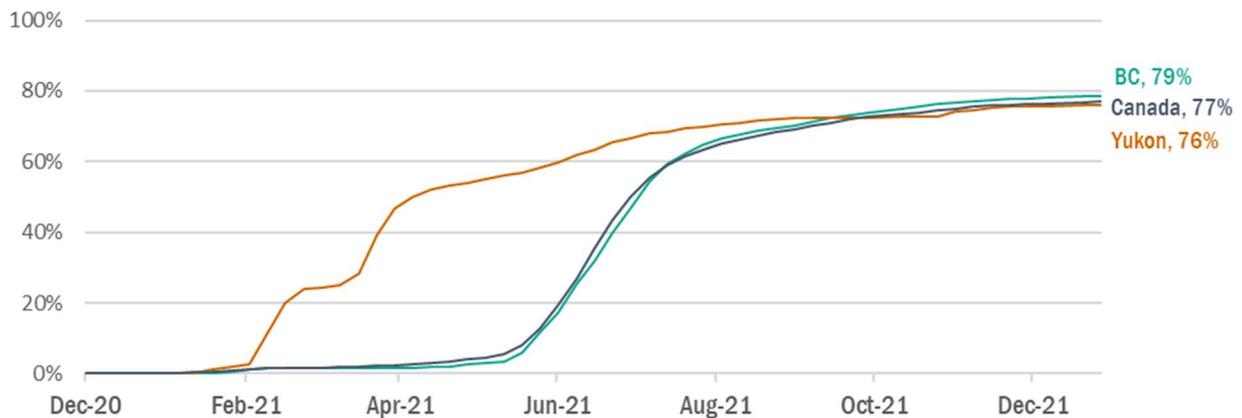


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



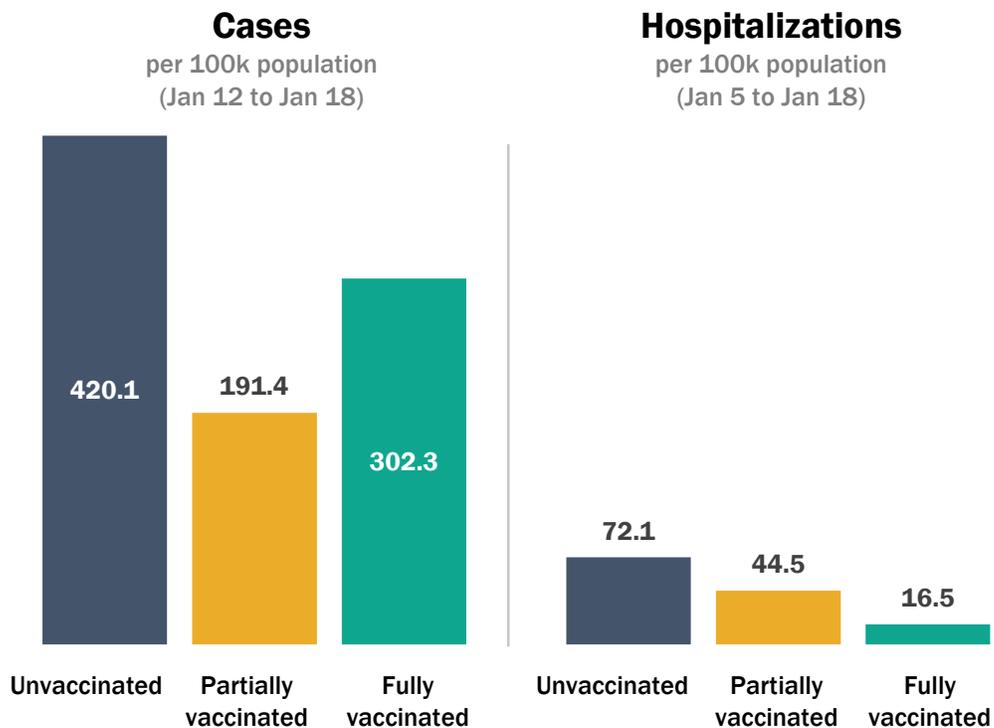
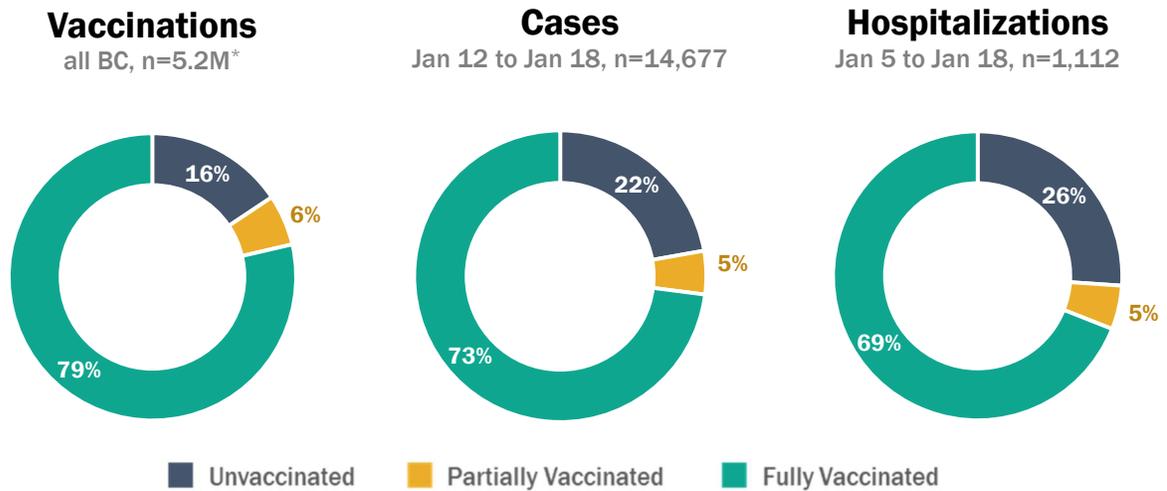
### CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE<sup>4</sup>



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

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

- From January 12, 2022, to January 18, 2022, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 27.0% of cases, and from January 5 to January 18, they accounted for 31.0% 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, the Government of British Columbia provided an update on distribution of rapid test kits for symptomatic school staff.<sup>7</sup> Details include the following:
  - “This week, 200,000 rapid antigen test kits are being shipped to the kindergarten-to-Grade 12 (K-12) sector for use by staff, teachers and administrators with symptoms of COVID-19.”
    - “Rapid antigen tests are an additional tool that can be used to support the continuity of learning in schools with the aim to reduce transmission of COVID-19.”
  - “The number of teaching and non-teaching staff will determine the number of tests received by each school district, independent schools and First Nation schools.”
    - “In B.C., there are approximately 86,700 public school employees, 16,000 employees of independent schools and 1,000 employees in First Nation schools.”
  - “The Ministry of Health and the Office of the Public Health Officer continue to direct how rapid antigen tests are best used as part of the provincial pandemic response, including if additional tests will be deployed for use in the K-12 sector.”
  - “The allocation of test kits for the K-12 sector was received from Artron Laboratories Inc., a Burnaby-based company, and is in addition to supplies provided to medical health officers in health authorities that will continue to be used to investigate clusters and outbreaks in schools.”
  - “The Ministry of Education continues to engage with experts on ventilation and work with school districts to improve ventilation systems, including the deployment of HEPA filters in classrooms that do not have access to mechanical ventilation systems.”
    - “Since the beginning of the pandemic, B.C. has invested \$114.5 million to assist school districts in upgrading ventilation in thousands of classrooms across the province.”
    - “Additional funding to support further ventilation improvements and upgrades in K-12 public schools will soon be made available.”
- Today, Northern Health (NH) announced that regional Public Health Orders are being lifted, while provincial COVID-19 restrictions remain in effect.<sup>8</sup> Details include the following:
  - NH “is aligning public health orders for Gatherings and Events with COVID-19 restrictions for the rest of BC.”
  - “The current NH Gatherings and Events COVID-19 Order has been in place since December 24, 2021, as NH and provincial public health officials have continually evaluated rates of COVID-19 activity, and the impact on health care resources.”
  - “The north continues to see increases in the number of new COVID cases, while rates of serious illness and hospitalizations have not increased beyond levels seen elsewhere in the province.”

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<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/26122>

<sup>8</sup> <https://stories.northernhealth.ca/news/nh-regional-public-health-orders-lifted-provincial-covid-19-restrictions-apply>

- “NH Medical Health Officers have assessed that the BC-wide measures announced and updated at the provincial level this week, will help to limit the impacts of the current Omicron-driven rates of COVID-19 on northern communities and health care resources.”
- “Public health are continuing to continue to closely monitor COVID-19 activity and health care system impacts, along with regional immunization coverage rates.”
- “While NH-specific measures are repealed effective January 20, 2022 – **all current Provincial Public Health Orders and restrictions, including PHO orders on masks in public indoor settings, on gatherings and events, and on restaurants, pubs, bars and nightclubs continue to be in effect and enforced in the Northern Health region.**”
- “Vaccination continues to be the best line of defence against COVID-19. There are ongoing vaccine clinic opportunities throughout the region, including for newly-eligible 5 to 11 year olds.”

Today, Northern Health (NH) issued a statement updating guidelines on when to get a COVID-19 test, as well as outlining rapid test availability at NH test collection centres.<sup>9</sup> Details include the following:

#### **Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidelines**

- “As COVID-19 activity increases across B.C., guidance for when to get a COVID-19 test has been updated.”
- “A COVID-19 test is **not recommended** if:
  - You have no symptoms, even if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive; and/or,
  - You are fully vaccinated (two doses), experiencing mild symptoms and can manage your illness at home. Self-isolate for five days. Notify your close contacts so they can self-monitor for symptoms.”
- “A COVID-19 test is **recommended** if:
  - You have symptoms;
  - You are at higher risk of severe illness; and/or,
  - You identify with a high risk setting – such as health care workers, first responders, residents of congregate settings, or live in a remote or rural community.”
- “If you feel unwell and are unsure about your symptoms, contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.”

#### **COVID-19 Rapid Tests at NH Test Collection Centres**

- “Rapid COVID-19 tests are available at Northern Health testing centres, and may be provided to individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and according to risk factors.”
- “Those seeking testing by filling out the NH COVID-19 Test Booking Form, or calling the Northern Health Virtual Primary & Community Care Clinic, will be directed to a testing centre for either PCR testing, or to pick up a rapid test for home use based on their symptoms and risk factors.”
  - “Availability of rapid tests may be limited at times, depending on supply.”

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<sup>9</sup> <https://stories.northernhealth.ca/news/when-get-covid-19-test-updated-guidelines>

- “If a rapid COVID-19 test indicates a positive result, you must continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance included in the test package, including how to self-report a positive result.”
- Today, Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care, released a statement on new COVID-19 guidance for childcare settings that was announced by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC).<sup>10</sup> Highlights include the following:
  - “COVID-19 continues to challenge us all, and we recognize that the child care sector is working hard to keep children and families safe during these difficult times.”
  - “We also know that they have been looking for public-health guidance about how best to address concerns related to the Omicron variant. As the situation continues to evolve, we are committed to providing updated information as it becomes available.”
  - “The COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings were updated by the BCCDC on January 19, 2022. The updated guidance was sent to the child care providers via email yesterday evening.”
  - “To provide greater clarity to the sector, the ministry will host a virtual discussion with Dr. Bonnie Henry and a panel of public-health professionals, who will address questions that have arisen from child care providers and parents.”
  - “The information session will take place on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, and will enable parents and child care providers to hear directly from public-health officials.”

## **SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY**

- Today, Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Health and Social Services, declared a substance use health emergency “following a drastic increase in overdose related deaths in the territory.”<sup>11</sup> Details include the following:
  - The Government of Yukon “has **declared a substance use health emergency** following a drastic increase in overdose related deaths in the territory” and “is working closely with partners to advance a range of harm reduction initiatives in response to the emergency.”
  - “A number of initiatives will be underway including:
    - A new territory-wide public awareness and education campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in Yukon communities;
    - Expanding drug testing and safe supply to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse;
    - Enhancing the Yukon government’s supervised consumption site to support those who use inhalants;
    - Increasing on-the-land treatment options in the territory;
    - Working with Blood Ties Four Directions to extend the hours of operation of the outreach van, which provides mobile fentanyl testing and enhanced supports to marginalized individuals; and

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<sup>10</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/26121>

<sup>11</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/substance-use-health-emergency-declared-yukon>

- Developing a new Opioid Action Plan to build on the success of the territory's first Action Plan in 2018."
- "In partnership with Yukon First Nations, the Yukon government will host phase one of a mental health summit in February."
  - "This summit will bring together leaders, partners and those with lived experience from across the territory to focus efforts to address substance use, the opioid crisis and suicide prevention and identify collaborative solutions to support communities."

## **SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

- Today, Indigenous Services Canada announced that \$125 million in COVID-19 public health funding will be made directly available to First Nations communities.<sup>12</sup> Details include the following:
  - "As the Omicron variant continues to be identified in communities across the country, Indigenous Services Canada and all partners are working to ensure that appropriate public health measures are in place to prevent and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks."
  - "With this new variant and its speed of infection, the department has heard from Chiefs and communities of the need for quicker access to financial resources both to prepare and implement additional public health measures, as well as to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks."
  - "The transfer of funding across the country has already started and will continue over the next couple of weeks to all First Nations, self-governing and modern treaty holders."
  - "It is being allocated using the Indigenous Community Support Fund methodology and includes an allocation to the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia."
  - "The allocation and its temporary implementation criteria also include careful consideration of needs for remote and isolated First Nations."
  - "This funding can be used by First Nations to support community surge capacity in response to COVID-19."
  - "This may include, but is not limited to, continued administration of COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, implementation of rapid testing, surge infrastructure, surge staff and resources, food security to support self-isolation and supports to update, review and activate pandemic response plans."
  - "Additionally, if and when needed, Indigenous communities and organizations can continue to request funding from the Indigenous Community Support Fund, and for First Nations, the contingency needs-based public health funding."
  - "Indigenous Services Canada staff across the country, including Regional Medical Officers of Health, remain available to assist First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and organizations should they require immediate assistance with an outbreak, or supports such as temporary infrastructure, rapid testing or PPE."

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

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2022/01/indigenous-services-canada-flowing-125m-in-covid-19-public-health-funding-directly-to-first-nations-communities.html>