

## 3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 30 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

<b>STATUS OF CASES IN BC <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 29</b>	<b>As of Dec 30</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	246,671	251,054	<b>4,383</b>
Total active cases in BC	16,014	17,357	<b>1,343</b>
Currently in intensive care	66	66	<b>0</b>
Currently hospitalized	206	211	<b>5</b>
Total hospitalized to date	12,853	12,866	<b>13</b>
Total deaths in BC	2,419	2,420	<b>1</b>
Total recovered in BC	227,780	230,784	<b>3,004</b>
<b>CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 29</b>	<b>As of Dec 30</b>	<b>Change</b>
Vancouver Coastal Health	53,002	53,979	<b>977</b>
Fraser Health	120,421	122,740	<b>2,319</b>
Island Health	16,940	17,400	<b>460</b>
Interior Health	37,226	37,727	<b>501</b>
Northern Health	18,777	18,899	<b>122</b>
Out of Canada	305	309	<b>4</b>
<b>STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 29</b>	<b>As of Dec 30</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total confirmed cases	1,695	1,729	<b>34</b>
Total active cases	49	82	<b>33</b>
Total deaths	14	14	<b>0</b>
Total recovered	1,641	1,647	<b>6</b>
<b>STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>As of Dec 29</b>	<b>As of Dec 30</b>	<b>Change*</b>
Total confirmed cases	53,155	53,352	<b>197</b>
Total active cases	1,136	1,268	<b>132</b>
Total hospitalized	2,455	2,457	<b>2</b>
Total deaths	562	560	<b>-2</b>
Total recovered	51,429	51,524	<b>95</b>
Total confirmed cases in BC	6,321	6,356	<b>35</b>

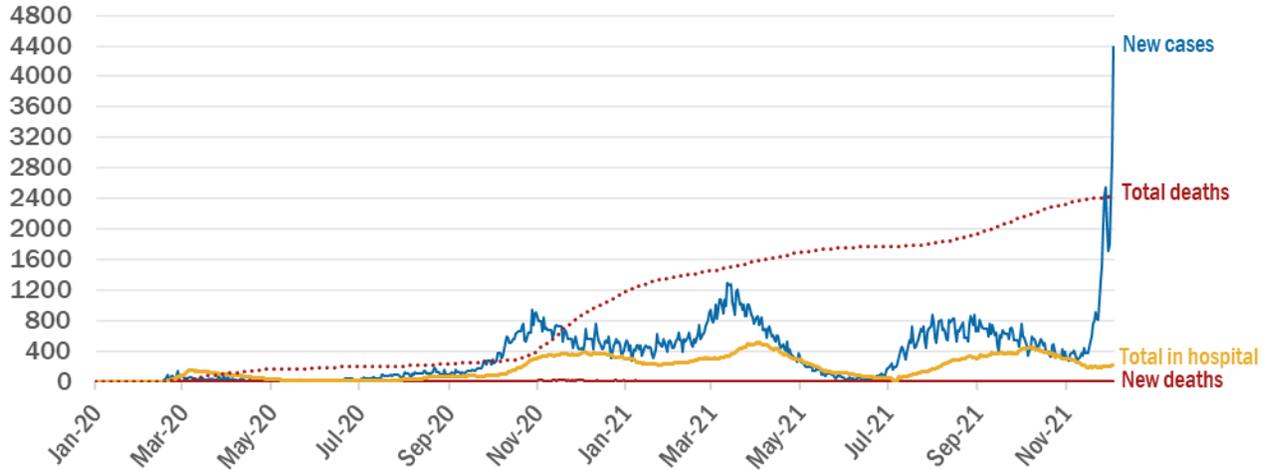
\* Due to a data correction, the number of total deaths has been reduced by two.

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

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

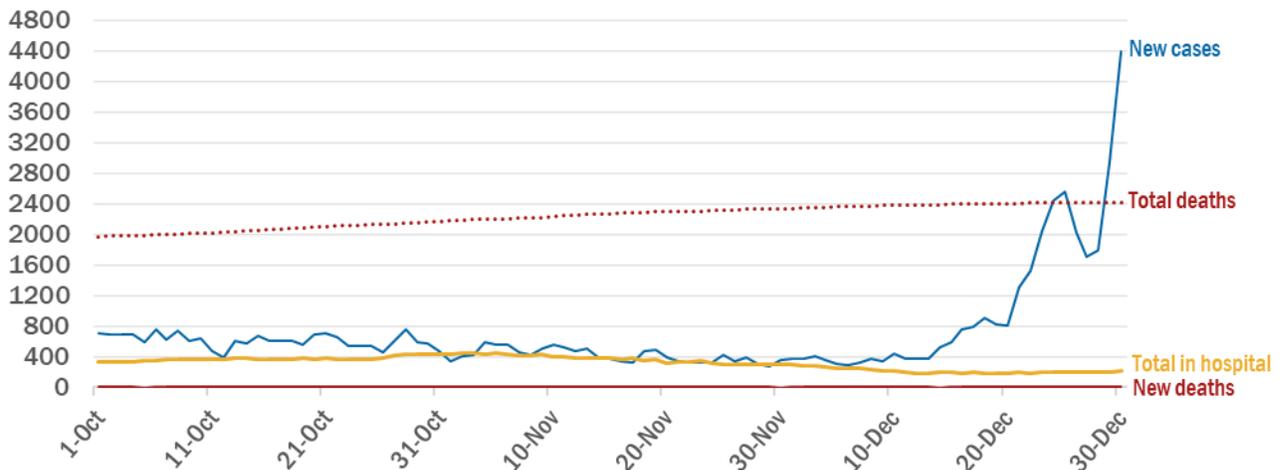
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

### COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

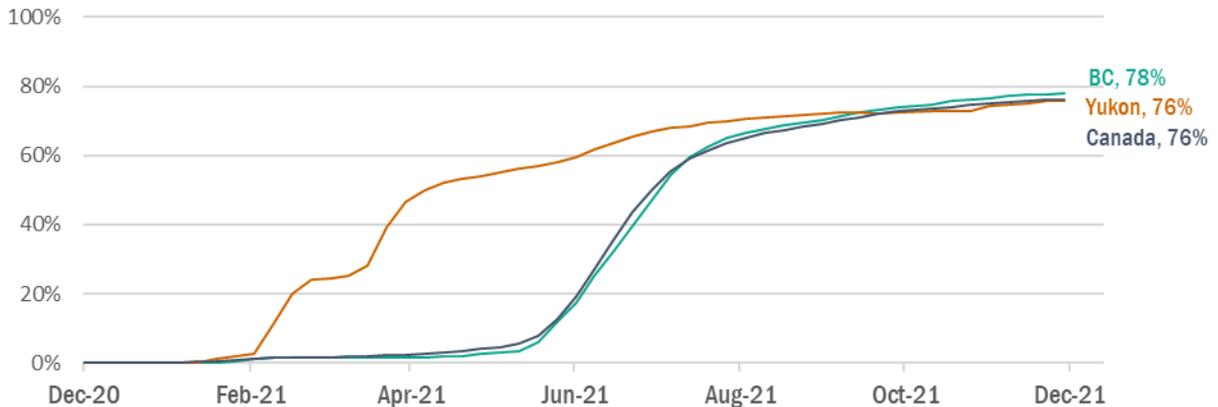


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



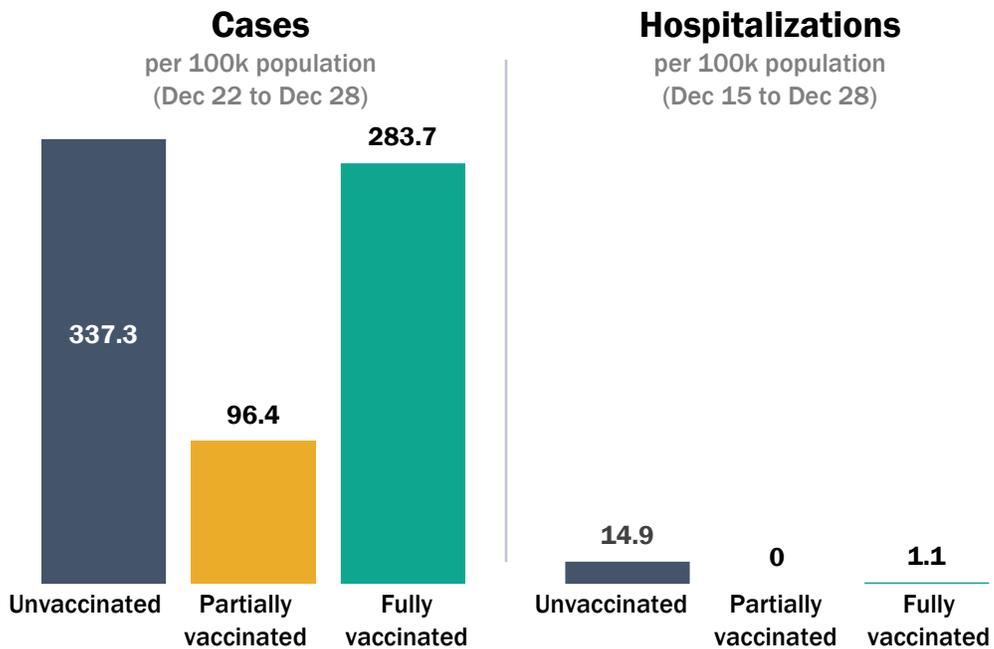
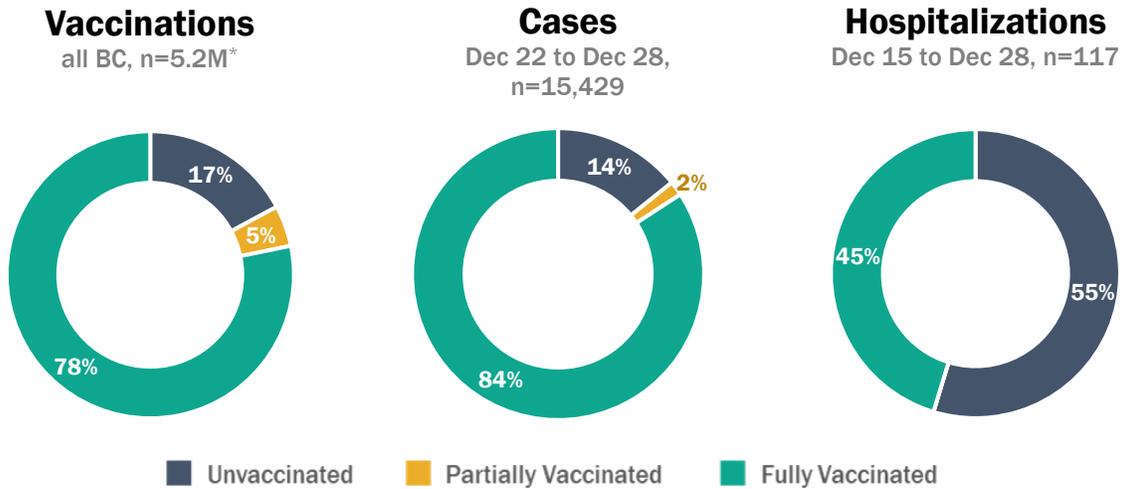
### CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE<sup>4</sup>



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

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

- From December 22 to December 28, 2021, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 15.8% of cases, and from December 15 to December 28, 2021, they accounted for 54.7% 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

- Yesterday, the Government of British Columbia announced a delayed return to school this January.<sup>7</sup> Highlights are as follows:
  - A full return to school for students in kindergarten to Grade 12 will be delayed until Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - Staff will return on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - This extension will provide public health and school officials additional time to adapt to the impacts of the Omicron variant, and to implement enhanced safety plans.
  - During this time, schools will be open for limited numbers of students in particular need.
    - Districts will be communicating out to families about how this process will work.
  - “K-12 schools must reinforce existing safety measures, including:
    - Using all available space to maximize space between people:
      - For example, different common space, classroom and learning environment configurations (e.g., avoid face-to-face seating arrangements where possible).
    - Everyone able to wear a mask.
    - Doing daily health checks, and staying home when sick.”
  - “K-12 public and independent schools must also implement enhanced safety measures, such as:
    - Implement strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times.
    - Hold school gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, etc.) virtually. If they must be in-person, limit the number of people to no more than 50% operating capacity.
    - Hold staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development activities) virtually whenever possible.
    - Limit visitors to those who are supporting activities that directly benefit student learning and well-being (e.g., teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.).
    - Pause extracurricular sports tournaments.”
  - The guidelines build on existing protocols that have succeeded in minimizing the spread of the virus in schools.
  - B.C.’s existing supply of rapid tests will continue to be used at schools where there has been exposure events and outbreaks.
    - When new federal shipments of take-home rapid tests arrive in mid-January, their use will be scaled up with 500,000 tests deployed as needed to support the safe continuation of in-person learning.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0079-002460>

- Today, the Government of British Columbia released a statement regarding the start of five paid sick days starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>8</sup> Highlights are as follows:
  - “Employers and workers throughout B.C. are reminded that, as of Jan. 1, 2022, eligible employees are entitled to a minimum of five paid sick days each year if they have worked at the organization for at least 90 days.”
  - “More than one million workers could immediately benefit as B.C. becomes the first province in Canada to legislate this level of paid time off for workers who fall ill.”
  - “This new workplace protection applies to all workers covered by the Employment Standards Act, including part-time workers.”

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, the Government of Yukon released a statement regarding community transmission of the Omicron variant and the introduction of new recommendations.<sup>9</sup> Highlights are as follows:
  - “A significant increase in active cases of COVID-19 is an early sign of community transmission of the variant of concern, Omicron, in the Yukon.”
  - “This variant is highly transmissible and we are seeing spread in household gatherings, workplaces and organized events and among vaccinated and unvaccinated people.”
  - “To limit the spread of Omicron, beginning immediately, it is strongly recommended that all close contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 isolate for seven days if the close contact has not received their booster shot.”
    - “A close contact is anyone who was within six feet (two metres) for a combined total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period while someone is in their infectious period.”
    - “Following the seven-day period of isolation, if no symptoms present, those contacts may leave isolation but should continue self-monitoring for seven more days because they may start experiencing symptoms of Omicron in that second seven-day period.”
  - “It is also strongly recommended that people who are fully vaccinated with a booster should avoid close contact with a confirmed case.”

**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, the Government of Canada announced applications are open for the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB).<sup>10</sup> Highlights are as follows:
  - The expanded access to the CWLB is now in effect and Canadians in designated regions affected by lockdowns or qualifying capacity restrictions can apply for the benefit.

<sup>8</sup> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021LBR0078-002458>

<sup>9</sup> <https://yukon.ca/en/news/early-sign-community-transmission-omicron-variant-yukon-new-recommendations-introduced>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2021/12/the-government-of-canada-launches-applications-for-the-expanded-canada-worker-lockdown-benefit.html>

- Currently, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut are included in the list of designated lockdown regions.
  - This list will be updated as provincial or territorial governments introduce changes to public health restrictions.
- New regulations will expand the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit to include workers in regions where provincial or territorial governments have introduced or acknowledged capacity restrictions of 50% or more.
- This benefit will provide \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are directly affected by a COVID-19-related public health lockdown, and who have lost 50% or more of their income as a result.
- Affected Canadian workers in newly designated lockdown regions can apply for the benefit today.
- Payments will be retroactive to December 19, 2021.
- To be eligible for the CWLB, you must meet the eligibility criteria which includes, but is not limited to:
  - You earned at least \$5,000 in 2020, 2021, or in the 12 months leading up to the day you apply for the benefit;
  - You filed a 2020 tax return;
  - A region where you work or provide a service is designated as a COVID-19 lockdown region during the application period;
  - A designated COVID-19 lockdown in your region resulted in one of the following during the application period:
    - you lost your job and are unemployed
    - you are self-employed but unable to continue your work
    - you are employed or self-employed but had a reduction of at least 50% in your average weekly income as compared to the previous year.
- These updated regulations will apply from December 19, 2021, to February 12, 2022.
- “Individuals who tried to apply for the CWLB prior to noon of December 30<sup>th</sup> in regions not yet designated as eligible by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) have been asked to call the CRA at 1-800-959-8281 to speak to an agent to finalize their application.”
- Today, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada released a COVID-19 statement.<sup>11</sup> Highlights are as follows:
  - “The number of cases associated with the Omicron variant of concern has further accelerated around the world and in Canada.”
  - “Accumulating data continue to demonstrate that Omicron is the most highly transmissible variant to date and that prior immunity, either from vaccination with a two-dose primary series or previous infection, does not offer good protection against infection.”

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/12/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-december-30-2021.html>

- “There may be some protection against severe disease after two doses, but this remains uncertain.”
- “Importantly, getting a booster dose when eligible, with either the Pfizer Comirnaty or Moderna Spikevax mRNA vaccines, is expected to help restore protection that may have waned since the second dose.”
- “Omicron is quickly displacing Delta and is now the dominant variant in several jurisdictions.”
- “Although the situation is not the same everywhere, the Omicron variant spreads extremely quickly and the local situation can rapidly get out of hand, so increased vigilance is needed across Canada now and in the coming weeks.”
- “Accordingly, I am urging all Canadians to continue to reduce their contacts as much as possible.”
- “While there is still uncertainty regarding the severity profile of Omicron variant cases, the continued rapid increase in Omicron cases is expected to add an additional strain on the healthcare system, impacting many areas of the country over the coming weeks.”
- “Currently, hospitalisation and critical care admission trends are increasing in several jurisdictions.”
- “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.”
- “The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create stress and anxiety for many Canadians, particularly those who do not have ready access to their regular support networks.
  - Through the Wellness Together Canada online portal, people of all ages across the country can access immediate, free and confidential mental health and substance use supports, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”