

3 NATIONS COVID-19 UPDATE – 14 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

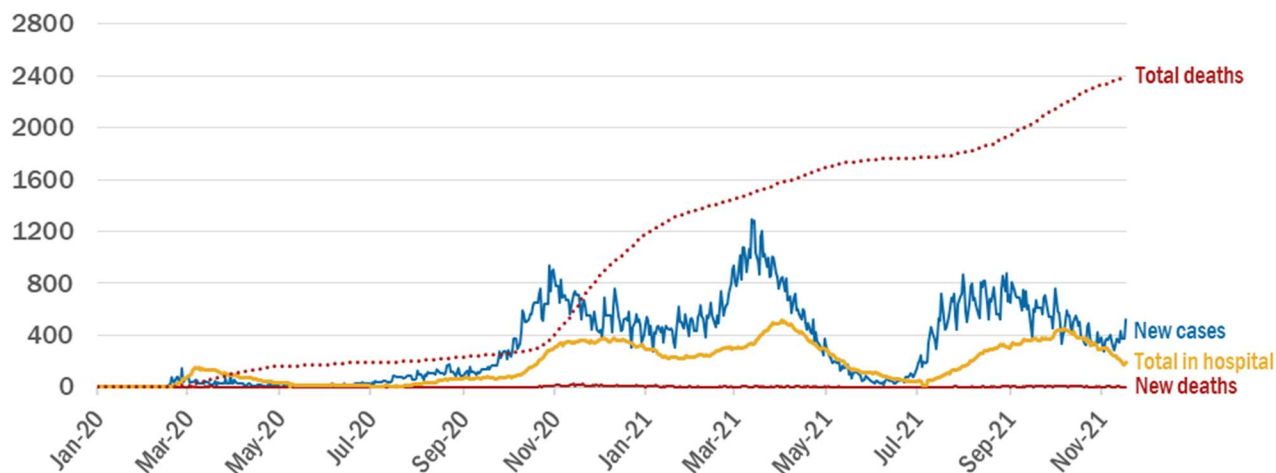
STATUS OF CASES IN BC ¹	As of Dec 13	As of Dec 14	Change
Total confirmed cases in BC	223,142	223,661	519
Total active cases in BC	2,949	3,171	222
Currently in intensive care	72	81	9
Currently hospitalized	185	191	6
Total hospitalized to date	12,557	12,565	8
Total deaths in BC	2,386	2,386	0
Total recovered in BC	217,705	218,001	296
CONFIRMED CASES BY BC REGION¹	As of Dec 13	As of Dec 14	Change
Vancouver Coastal Health	45,750	45,856	106
Fraser Health	110,648	110,758	110
Island Health	13,836	13,959	123
Interior Health	34,551	34,696	145
Northern Health	18,055	18,089	34
Out of Canada	302	303	1
STATUS OF CASES IN YUKON ²	As of Dec 13	As of Dec 14	Change
Total confirmed cases	1,597	1,602	5
Total active cases	53	56	3
Total deaths	14	14	0
Total recovered	1,537	1,541	4
STATUS OF FN RESERVE CASES³	As of Dec 10	As of Dec 13	Change
Total confirmed cases	51,294	51,505	211
Total active cases	868	871	3
Total hospitalized	2,378	2,380	2
Total deaths	549	550	1
Total recovered	49,877	50,084	207
Total confirmed cases in BC	6,209	6,230	21

¹ BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

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

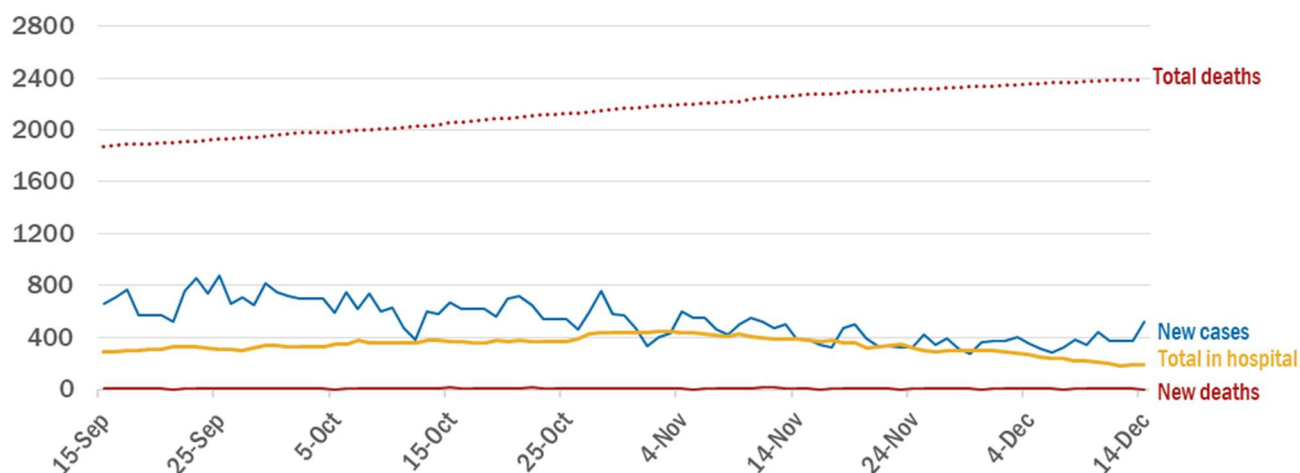
³ <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1598625105013/1598625167707>

COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN BC

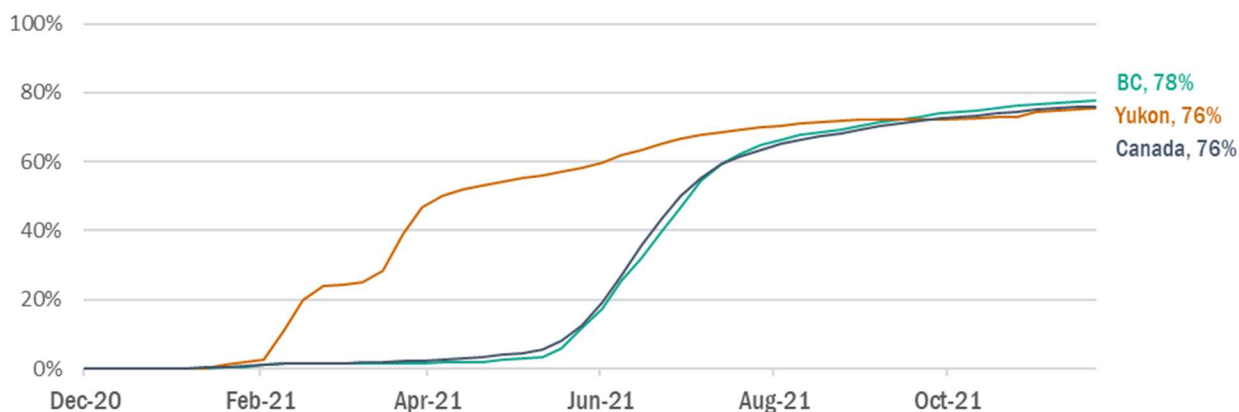


Note: Counts have been averaged where one number was reported for multi-day periods.

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



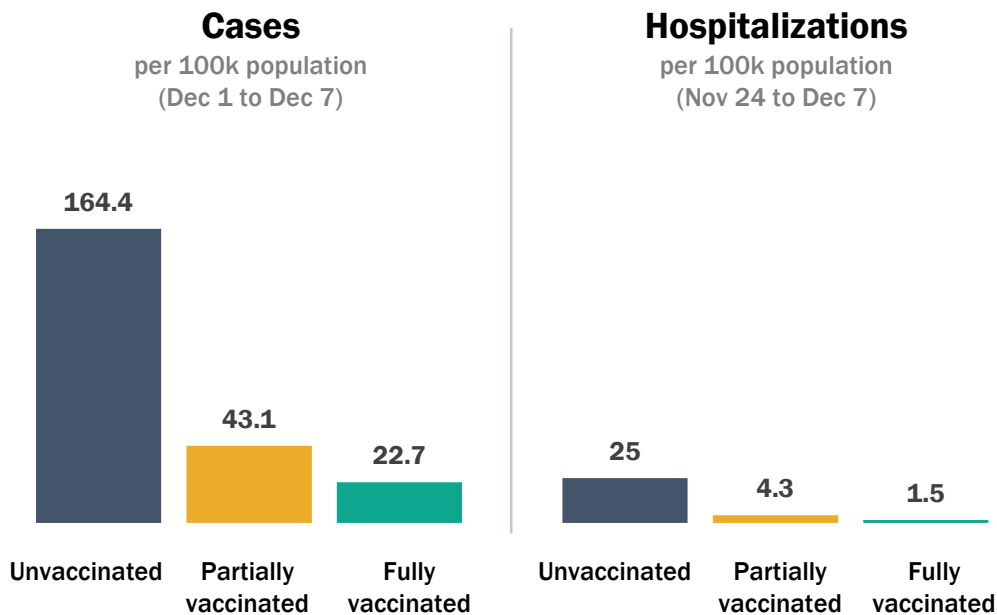
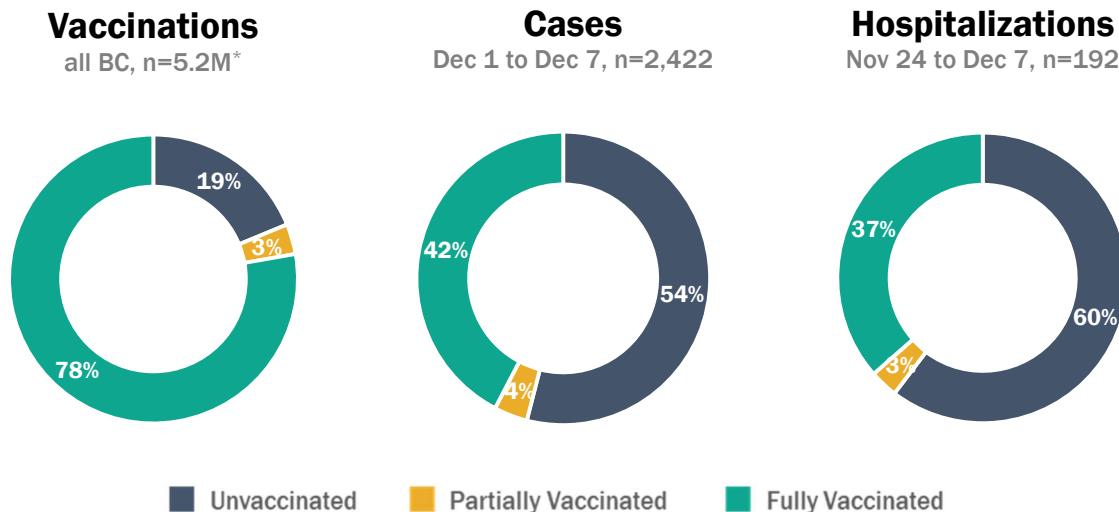
CUMULATIVE % OF PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE⁴



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

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

- From December 1 to December 7, 2021, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 57.7% of cases, and from November 24 to December 7, 2021, they accounted for 63.5% of hospitalizations.^{5,6}



Note: Due to a delayed refresh in data, the update on cases and hospitalizations by vaccination status is not available today.

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 state of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.⁷ Highlights include the following:
 - There remains a significant amount of uncertainty relating to the effects of the Omicron variant.
 - Cases of the Omicron variant have been detected in all five health authorities of the province.
 - As per Dr. Henry, “we have transmission in the community now and we are learning more and more from the global community about what that means.”
 - The province has confirmed 44 cases of the variant, and it is expected that additional cases will be identified.
 - Cases continue to be connected to recent travel, including recent cases that are associated with travel to the United States.
 - Seven cases are in individuals who are unvaccinated.
 - Of those who have tested positive for the Omicron variant, none have yet been hospitalized.
 - There are direct correlations between the rate of vaccination in communities and the rate of transmission.
 - While there continues to be noticeable challenges regarding cases and health system impacts in Northern BC, particularly the Peace Region, rates in Northern Health have dramatically decreased in the previous few weeks.
 - Since the beginning of the pandemic, age has been identified as the most important risk factor; a trend that continues.
 - As a result, the focus of the booster program has been on those over 70 years old.
 - Health care workers are now also beginning to receive their booster vaccines.
 - To support the booster campaign rollout, pharmacies are being brought onboard to assist with mass administration of the vaccines.
 - Getting vaccinated continues to offer a significant layer of protection against severe illness caused by COVID-19, including the variants that have emerged.
- Today, the Government of British Columbia reported that actions are being taken to confirm vaccination status and to ensure the accuracy of vaccine records.⁸ Details include the following:
 - “People are required to be fully vaccinated with a completed series of a Health Canada-approved vaccine (i.e., both doses of a two-dose series or one dose of Janssen) to receive a BC Vaccine Card or federal proof of vaccination.”
 - “Letters will be mailed to 1,715 people who have submitted their personal vaccine record(s) into the Provincial Immunization Registry without success, encouraging them to get vaccinated at the earliest opportunity.”

⁷ Live Press Briefing, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1Of0L5AFZI&list=PLbER4Sxdn0R5jvMRXJo7tEVE2W_SFcTC

⁸ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/25960>

- “Records entered into the registry are reviewed using strict processes to prevent fraud and to ensure that people who are entered into the provincial system have been vaccinated.”
- “Records that are submitted and are suspected to be fraudulent are being reported to law enforcement.”
- “The Provincial Health Services Authority will continue to work with the small number of British Columbians that have been vaccinated and are experiencing difficulty having their record entered into the registry.”
- Today, Dr. Helena Swinkels, Senior Medical Officer with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), provided guidance on safe social gatherings over the winter holidays.⁹ Guidance includes the following:
 - “The COVID-19 virus is not yet done with us and the chance of becoming infected and passing it to others—especially indoors – still exists.”
 - “Planning ahead can help ensure social interactions are as COVID-19-safe as possible for you and all your loved ones, including those who may not yet be vaccinated.”
 - “A first step in planning is to make sure you are aware of current provincial, regional, and community health regulations and restrictions.”
 - “In planning your gathering, ensuring everyone aged five and older has received their vaccines, including a booster dose for those who qualify, is one of the best ways to lower the odds of the virus passing to you or people you care about.”
 - “Wearing a mask in indoor settings – even when these are not required – is also going to be important this holiday season.”
 - Consider “keeping gatherings small, even if this means having separate events over a couple of evenings.”
 - “If both vaccinated and unvaccinated guests will be invited, make sure all guests attending are aware so they can make their own decisions about attending.”
 - “Consider holding an event outdoors on the land.”
 - “Note that the heavier and deeper breathing that comes with exercise, laughter, and singing can increase risk of spreading COVID-19, so wearing masks even outside can still be important.”
 - “Guests may feel more comfortable by using medical masks with better breathability.”
 - “Keep gatherings small and allow enough space for people to keep apart from those not in their social circle should they wish.”
 - “For indoor events, cracking windows open to let in fresh air can additionally decrease risk.”
 - “It’s reasonable to ask those who are unvaccinated—or even all guests—to wear a mask when not eating to prevent not only COVID-19, but other respiratory viruses that are now circulating.”

⁹ <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/keep-covid-19-out-of-your-winter-holiday-plans>

- “Food is always an integral part of any holiday event, but this year, it's important to avoid buffet-style meals and to set up distanced seating so people are safer when removing their masks to eat.”
- “If one of your invitees is not feeling well, ask that they stay home – and promise to include them in a future event when they're feeling better. Let them know you care about them and ensure they know how to get tested for COVID-19 if they're experiencing symptoms.”

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

- Today, Dr. Catherine Elliott, acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued a statement recommending that Yukoners avoid non-essential international travel and also cautioned against domestic travel.¹⁰ Details include the following:
 - The Government of Yukon is advising “Yukoners to follow federal guidance prior to any travel outside Canada.”
 - “This guidance has recently changed due to the Omicron variant and is updated regularly.”
 - “Many countries around the world are experiencing community transmission so it is important to follow the federal travel advice.”
 - “Caution is also advised for those planning to travel within Canada due to early community transmission of Omicron within some regions of Canada.”
 - Dr. Elliott stated: “many Yukoners are looking forward to travelling over the coming holidays. While I recognize modifying your travel plans would be disappointing, taking this action now will protect yourself and those around you from the spread of this variant. I urge those who are most vulnerable, not fully vaccinated, have a chronic disease or are older to exercise extra caution in the coming weeks. And everyone needs to continue practising the Safe 6, wearing a mask and getting vaccinated no matter your plans this holiday season.”

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 released the Economic and Fiscal Update for 2021. As part of this update, the Department of Finance shared measures the Government of Canada has and continues to take in the fight against COVID-19.¹¹ Highlights include the following:
 - “Canada’s best economic policy continues to be finishing the fight against COVID-19. Millions of Canadians have been doing their part by getting vaccinated, following public health guidelines, and delivering essential services.”
 - “The government continues to carefully monitor variants of concern, including the Omicron variant, and continues to make investments in vaccines, booster shots, therapeutics, and rapid tests.”
 - Federal programs and supports that have been announced, or are proposed include:

¹⁰ <https://yukon.ca/en/news/yukoners-recommended-avoid-all-international-non-essential-travel-cautioned-against-domestic-travel>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/12/protecting-our-recovery-by-finishing-the-fight-against-covid-19.html>

- **Free Booster Shots**

- “On December 3, 2021, Canada’s National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) officially recommended that all adults in Canada receive a booster dose of an authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccine six months or more after their first two doses.”
- “The government is ensuring that third doses and booster shots are free for all Canadians, as was the case with first and second doses.”

- **Vaccines for Children**

- “Nearly 3 million Pfizer pediatric doses have been delivered to all provinces and territories, which is enough for all eligible children to receive their first dose. Pediatric vaccine campaigns are rolling out across the country.”
- “Manufacturers also have vaccines in clinical trials for children of various age ranges, including less than five years of age, and are expected to seek regulatory approval in the coming months.”

- **Rapid Tests**

- “Access to rapid tests is an important tool for breaking chains of transmission — including against emerging variants of concern — and protecting those around us.”
- “New screening programs in schools and workplaces are being implemented across the country as Canadians work hard to keep each other safe.”
- “The government proposes to provide \$1.7 billion to Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada to continue supporting provinces and territories in securing the rapid testing supplies they need to keep Canadians safe and healthy, including through expanded school and workplace testing programs.”
 - “This funding would also support the procurement of additional rapid test kits for distribution to Canadians.”

- **COVID-19 Therapeutics**

- “Although vaccination remains the most effective defence against COVID-19, new treatments, including antiviral drugs, can protect COVID-19 patients from being hospitalized, and can save lives.”
- “Recently, Merck and Pfizer submitted results from their clinical trials to Health Canada, seeking approval for use. The Public Health Agency of Canada is also monitoring several other promising therapeutics that could contribute to finishing the fight against COVID-19.”

- **Support for Proof of Vaccination**

- “The federal government is committed to a national proof of vaccination standard and is working with every province and territory to develop a standard proof of vaccination.”

- **Making Travel Safer**

- “To protect the safety of travellers and workers, the government took action to put in place a requirement that:
 - All travellers now departing from Canadian airports, on VIA Rail and Rocky Mountaineer trains, or on cruise ships (or non-essential passenger vessels

on voyages of 24 hours or more) must be fully vaccinated, with very limited exceptions.

- All employers in the federally regulated air, rail, and marine transportation sectors must establish vaccination policies that ensure employees are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.”
- **Paid Sick Leave for Workers**
 - “On November 26, 2021, the government introduced Bill C-3 to amend the Canada Labour Code to provide 10 days of paid sick leave per year to workers in the federally regulated private sector, covering almost one million workers.”
 - “The government will consult with federally regulated employers and workers on implementation of this legislation.”
- **Clean and Healthy Indoor Air**
 - “Proper ventilation makes indoor air healthier and safer, helping reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.”
 - The government is proposing new programs to provide funding to improve ventilation in small businesses and schools, while expanding funding for the community building ventilation program, that is administered by Infrastructure Canada, through next year.

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