

# COVID-19

## REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

## JUNE 24, 2020

### NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES

- There are 162 active cases of COVID-19 in BC.
- The provincial state of emergency has been extended through the end of the day on July 7, 2020.
- The Province is taking the next step in BC's Restart Plan with a gradual transition to Phase 3, including the safe and respectful return of travel and tourism within the province.
- In the East Kootenay Health Service Area (HSA), there have been no new cases between June 8th and June 21st. Since January, there have been a total of 18 positive cases in the East Kootenay.
- Dr. Henry released the latest modelling yesterday and it shows that BC is currently at about 65% of the pre-COVID activities and contacts, which is right at the threshold of where new growth could occur. To maintain epidemic control, physical distancing, self-isolation for those who feel sick, and a continued focus on hygiene measures are critical.
- Compared to the rest of Canada and other countries, BC continues to have very low rates of confirmed cases per million of population.
- The BC Centre for Disease Control is working with other jurisdictions to develop a method to test waste water for COVID-19 RNA sequences. Their research could become an early detection tool in our communities.
- As we have relaxed distancing measures, strong contact tracing in BC has provided a buffer against renewed growth of cases and will continue to be an important part of BC's strategy in the weeks and months to come.

#### Links:

- COVID-19 Update: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0205-001165>
- Phase 3 of BC Restart Plan: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0033-001159>
- Slides on Latest Modelling: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/2020-06-23-Modelling-Technical-Briefing.pdf>
- YouTube Link to News Conference on Latest Modelling: <https://youtu.be/rqP6XqyilCs>

### Current Situation in BC

(as of 3:00pm PDT June 24, 2020)

#### Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC (since January): 2,849
- New cases since June 23: 14
- Hospitalized cases: 14
- Intensive Care: 7
- COVID-19 related deaths: 171
- Recovered: 2,516
- Long term care/assisted living homes affected: 6
- Acute-care unit outbreaks: 1

#### Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 963 (3 new)
- Fraser Health: 1,491 (11 new)
- Island Health: 131 (no new)
- Interior Health: 199 (no new)
- Northern Health: 65 (no new)

#### News release:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0205-001165>

### FEDERAL COVID-19 CASE STATISTICS

- As of 7:00 pm MDT June 23, 2,482,869 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Canada. Of those, 101,963 have tested positive, 64,704 people have recovered and there have been 8,454 deaths.
- The number of positive cases in Quebec and Ontario is starting to level off.

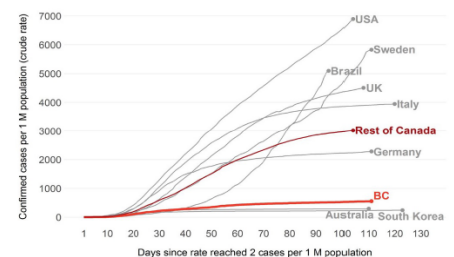
Link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

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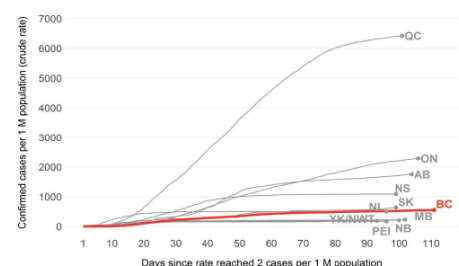
June 23 was the 100<sup>th</sup> briefing by Dr. Henry & Minister Dix

### CASE RATE COMPARISON

**International Case Rates Comparison:**  
Cumulative diagnosed COVID-19 case rates by select countries vs BC and rest of Canada.

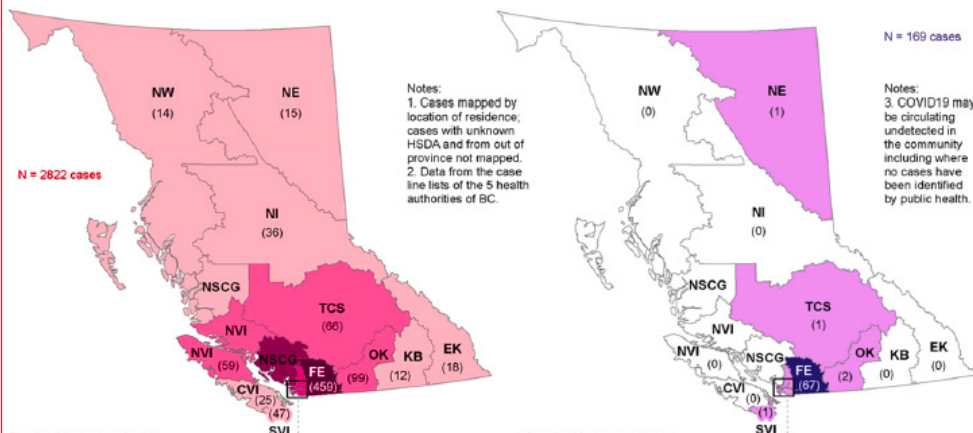


**National Case Rates Comparison:**  
Cumulative diagnosed COVID-19 case rates by Canadian provinces.



### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 IN BC

Cumulative total: cases reported January 1 to June 21, 2020      Past 14 days: cases reported June 8 to 21, 2020



All municipalities within the region have activated Emergency Operations Centres through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre. The regional district, municipalities and First Nations communities are working in this integrated model to coordinate and communicate throughout this pandemic response.

## CURRENT COVID-19 STATUS IN BC

### Emergency Status

- Public Health Emergency declared, effective March 17, 2020.
- Provincial State of Emergency declared, effective until July 7, 2020 (updates come in 2 week increments).
- BC Restart Plan is currently in Phase 3 of 4.

### Physical Distancing Orders

- No gatherings of more than 50 people.
- You may now carefully expand your “social bubble” (i.e. allowing hugs between households if they agree to be in each others’ bubbles), keeping in mind that every person added impacts everyone in the bubble.
- Gather in small groups of no more than six people, but continue to maintain your physical distance between social bubbles.
- Outdoor gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings.
- Self-isolate if you are sick, even if it is not COVID-19.
- Non-medical masks may be worn when keeping physical distance isn’t possible to help keep those around you safe.
- Enhanced quarantine compliance procedures are in place for travellers entering the country.

### Health Care

- COVID-19 testing criteria changes regularly. Take the online self-assessment tool or call 8-1-1 if you have symptoms to check whether you should be tested.
- Choose virtual health care services whenever available.
- Physician notes are NOT required for prescription refills by pharmacists.
- Workers and volunteers in long-term care may no longer work at multiple facilities.
- Elective surgeries and procedures have restarted with new surgical renewal plan in place.

### Government Services

- BC Service Centres will stay open, but the first hour of service is dedicated to seniors and other vulnerable people. You can also call for service: 1-800-663-7867.
- In-Person Canada Service Centres are now closed. Apply for benefits online.
- BC211 is available to match volunteers with seniors in need of help with groceries, etc. Call 2-1-1 or visit <http://www.bc211.ca>

### Recreation & Outdoors

- Restrictions on open burning activities in effect. Visit [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca) and click on bans/restrictions to learn more.
- Most municipal parks and playgrounds are open.
- BC Parks have re-opened for day-use and camping (BC residents only at this time). Check <http://bcparks.ca> for the current status of your park before you go.
- National parks, historic sites, and campsites are re-opening. Check online before you go.

### Labour & Businesses

- All employers must have a Workplace COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- Employers cannot require a doctor’s note or testing for people to stay home from work.

### Labour & Businesses - Continued

- Commercial landlords who are eligible for the CECRA are restricted from evicting their eligible commercial tenants.
- Companies looking to offer support or supplies to help with the fight against COVID-19 can do so through the COVID-19 Supplier Hub.
- Workers may take unpaid, job-protected leave if they are unable to work for reasons relating to COVID-19, retroactive to Jan 27, 2020.

### Travel & Borders

- Avoid all non-essential travel.
- All Canadian borders are closed to non-essential travellers. Travellers must not show any signs of illness and are required to carry out a mandatory 14-day Quarantine.
- Travellers entering the country must self-isolate for fourteen days.
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms will be actively refused boarding onto all aircraft and trains, including for travel within Canada.
- Temperature screening is now required at all airports as well as at points of departure for those travelling inbound into Canada.
- Canadians currently abroad are advised to return to Canada. Call 1-613-996-8885 or email [sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca) for assistance.
- Reduction in service at Canadian land border crossings in effect.
- All international flights (including from the USA) entering British Columbia will be restricted to YVR only.

### A REMINDER ABOUT TESTING

Anyone with COVID-19 like symptoms, even if they are mild, can be tested. The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. Contact your family doctor if you are experiencing symptoms. Testing is also available at testing centres in Cranbrook, Sparwood, and Golden:

<https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/testing-information/>

### NON-MEDICAL / CLOTH FACE MASKS

While not required, wearing a non-medical or cloth mask is recommended where physical distancing is challenging (such as at the grocery store). Some businesses (such as salons or dental offices) require the use of non-medical masks.



Homemade or cloth masks should be cleaned and changed often: To clean a homemade cloth mask, wash it using the directions on the original material (for example, if the mask was made from t-shirt material, follow the washing instructions for a t-shirt). Warmer water is better. Dry the mask completely (in the dryer on a warm/hot setting if possible).

For more information, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca>.

### Helpful video links:

- How to safely wear a cloth face mask: <https://youtu.be/yLuEwwGhBxI>
- Tips on how to make a cloth face mask: [https://youtu.be/e5btJ0\\_KTU8](https://youtu.be/e5btJ0_KTU8)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACILITY UPDATES:****REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY:****Open:**

- Regional Parks, playgrounds
- Transfer Stations and Landfills

**Closed:**

- Regional District Offices
- Eddie Mountain Memorial Arena
- Firehalls closed to public

**DISTRICT OF ELKFORD:****Open:**

- District Office
- Community & Visitors Centres
- Library
- Parks & Outdoor Spaces

**Closed:**

- Pool
- Arena
- Public Washrooms

**DISTRICT OF SPARWOOD:****Open:**

- District Office
- All outdoor facilities (tennis, pickleball, skatepark, spraypark, basketball, bikepark)
- Fitness Room (rec ctr)

**Closed:**

- Public works
- Fire halls

**CITY OF FERNIE:****Open:**

- City Hall
- City parks and trails
- Playgrounds at Rotary Park, 10th Ave, and Ridgemont Park
- Outdoor facilities (basketball, pickleball, tennis courts, ball diamonds, disc golf)
- Rail Yard Off-Leash Dog Park
- Skate Park and Bike Park (Closed 9pm)
- Downtown and Rotary Washrooms (Open 8a-8p daily)

**Closed:**

- Prentice Park Washrooms
- Spray Park
- Off-Leash designation in the Annex Dog Park
- All indoor recreation facilities
- Aquatic Centre

**CITY OF CRANBROOK:****Open:**

- City Hall
- Parks, playgrounds, trails, greenspaces
- Public washrooms
- Outdoor facilities (tennis, pickleball, skatepark, spraypark, basketball, bikepark, disc golf, McKinnon park basketball)
- Idlewild Arena

**Closed:**

- Western Financial Place
- Aquatic Centre
- Kinsmen & Memorial Arenas

**CITY OF KIMBERLEY:****Open:**

- City Hall
- Playgrounds
- Public Washrooms
- Parks and picnic areas
- Tennis, basketball courts, skatepark
- Sports fields

**Closed:**

- Aquatic Centre

**VILLAGE OF CANAL FLATS:****Open:**

- Village Office
- Outdoor spaces

**RADIUM HOT SPRINGS:****Open:**

- Playgrounds
- Trails
- Outdoor sports fields/facilities

**Closed:**

- Village Office

**INVERMERE:****Open:**

- District Office
- All parks, trails and open spaces
- All outdoor facilities (tennis, pickleball, skatepark, basketball, sports fields, spray park/splash pad)
- Kinsmen Beach
- Public Boat Launch
- Public washrooms
- Playgrounds, play structures and outdoor fitness equipment

**FIRST NATIONS GOVERNMENT/  
FACILITY UPDATES:**

- **Aqam:** The administration office is closed to public, but appointments are being accepted. Inquiries can still be made by phone.
- **Akisqnuk:** The administration office is currently closed to the public; however, they are working to re-open soon. Inquiries can still be made by phone.
- **Ktunaxa Nation Council Government Building:** Closed to public.
- **Tobacco Plains:** Administration office is closed to public. Inquiries can still be made by phone.
- **Shuswap:** The Administration office is closed to the public. Inquiries can still be made by phone.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES:**

- **School District #5** - School District offices are closed to the public. All school playgrounds are open.
- **School District #6** - School District #6 offices are open to the public. All school playgrounds are open.

## KOOCANUSA AREA CAMPING, ORV USE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE



The provincial order restricting overnight camping and limiting use of motorized / off-road vehicles to designated roads throughout the entire Kootenay Recreation Strategy area **remains in effect**.

**These restrictions apply to** all users (including residents) on **all crown land** within the strategy area.

Although overnight camping is prohibited on Crown land in this area, people may still use **designated roads and trails** on a day-use basis as long as they adhere to physical distancing guidelines and other restrictions, including Motor Vehicle Act and ORV Act, that may be in place.

To view map: <http://www.rdek.bc.ca/web/EmergencyInfo/KoocanusaRecStrategyMap.pdf>

Private and Recreation Sites and Trails BC campground are **not** included in the order and **are** permitted to be open.

### CATEGORY 2 OPEN BURNING

Cat. 2 open burning will be temporarily allowed throughout the Southeast Fire Centre. The easing of the restrictions began at 1:00pm Tues. June 22.



## PARKS CANADA UPDATES

Beginning June 22, 2020, Parks Canada opened some front country campgrounds in a limited capacity and additional visitor information services in Banff, Yoho and Kootenay national parks.

Beginning Thursday, June 25, visitor information services will be offered outdoors at the Lake Louise and Yoho visitor centres. Information services will be available from 9 am to 7 pm daily (weather dependent).

Visitor information services are also available outdoors at the Banff Visitor Centre in the Town of Banff.

Visitor information services will be limited to trip-planning advice. No merchandise will be sold at information kiosks until further notice.

Backcountry campgrounds will also begin to open as conditions in the backcountry allow.

At this time, new camping reservations are not available. Details on when reservations will resume on the Parks Canada Reservation System will be made available soon.

Additional camping facilities may be reopened as determined by capacity and public health guidelines. Please visit each park's website for a list of facilities and their status.

## BE ALERT AND BE INFORMED IN CASE OF EVACUATION

Residents are urged to sign up for the Evacuation Notification System (ENS) to be notified of evacuation alerts or orders by phone (cell or landline) or text. It's free and easy to sign up for the ENS system (you just have to make sure to enter at least one East Kootenay address in order to complete the sign up process). To learn more, visit: [https://www.rdek.bc.ca/departments/emergencyservices/emergencyinfo/evacuation\\_notification\\_system/](https://www.rdek.bc.ca/departments/emergencyservices/emergencyinfo/evacuation_notification_system/)

**Note:** Email notifications are provided via the RDEK's email groups. If you haven't signed up, visit [www.rdek.bc.ca](http://www.rdek.bc.ca) and click on "Sign Up for Community Updates" link.

**BE ALERT.**

**REGISTER NOW,**  
to receive local evacuation alerts.

### Link to BC Restart Plan:

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>

### Important Phone Numbers:

- **1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319)**. The line is for non-health COVID-19 information.
- **811** - for health related information on COVID-19
- **211** - seniors looking for resources or help (or volunteers willing to help), can call 211 or visit: <http://www.bc211.ca/>
- **Crisis Line: 1.888.353.2273**
- **Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868**

### Online Links:

- **COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool & App** - use this online tool to complete a self-assessment & get updates.
- **BC Centre for Disease Control** - includes information on their testing protocols.
- **Interior Health** - links to the latest Interior Health information.
- **COVID-19 Dashboard** - most up-to-date COVID-19 statistics for BC
- **Province of BC Information Hub** - links to Provincial supports for non-health information